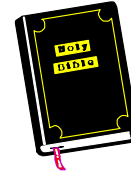


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

## CHURCH ATTENANCE AND DAILY LIVING

I once heard a man say he went to church once a month to keep out of hell. He may not have been altogether serious, yet his saying implied the idea that many people have — that going to church gives them favor with God, apart from any benefit they may receive from the services. It is about like the notion that making the sign of the cross, or keeping a Bible on the parlor table, will protect from evil and harm.

Under a similar misconception, many believe they will get to heaven because they have held, as a mere conception of the mind, the belief that Jesus is the Christ. And still others, who ought to know better, cherish the illusion that they will be admitted into heaven on the ground that they have gone two steps further and added repentance and baptism to their faith — and there stopped.

Years ago I was troubled with the idea that millions of people would be sent to heaven, and other millions be sent to hell, just because the former had been baptized and the latter had not. I could not see the justice of making such a tremendous difference in their future destinies on such a slight basis. But I remember also that my mind was greatly relieved by some teaching of David Lipscomb on that subject. This teaching — now mixed with some of my own — was to the effect that God does not arbitrarily send anyone to either place, but each responsible person "sends" himself to his final destination by the kind of life he chooses to live.

We believe certain things to be true because the Bible teaches them. We can turn that statement around and say with truth that the Bible teaches certain things because they are true. For example, it is true in human experience that a certain way of living leads to (comparative) contentment and happiness, while a different way of living leads to discontent and unhappiness. These results are sure to follow in each case: No one can escape the consequences of an ill-spent life, nor can anyone obtain the rewards of a well-spent life without living such a life.

One thing, however, that we learn from the Bible and accept by faith is that God, knowing the great evil that men bring upon themselves and others by their ways of living, has pointed out to men the wrong way and the right way, and the consequences sure to follow in each case. Furthermore, in His mercy and love He has given man every incentive, encouragement, and help to induce him to turn away from the wrong way and walk in the right one. He does not propose to save man from the consequences of the wrong life.

— (Continued on page 3)

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RECORDS 4/20/2008

SERMONS 4/27/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 55  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 90  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 57  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 62  
CONTRIBUTION: \$2270

AM: Jerry Manning  
PM: Jerry Manning

**“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men”  
- Colossians 3:23**

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*

[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

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### SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study  
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly  
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study  
Office Phone (803) 794-5320  
*Nursery provided*

*Bible Classes for all ages*

### LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Lamar Reeves** is recovering from successful double hip replacement surgery. He's in quite a bit of pain, but is improving steadily. Remember him in your prayers, not only for his physical well being, but also as he continues to struggle with a very difficult home situation.
- **Jeanette Reeves** continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- **John Rinehart's** grandfather passed away in Texas.
- **Leslie Ellison, Carolyn Stidham's** daughter, has a tumor on her kidney. Surgery is scheduled for the April 30th.
- **Judy Nixon** is in the Lexington Medical Center.
- **Marcella Klieves** wasn't feeling well Sunday.
- **Lynn Manning's** mom, **Lorraine Welsh**, is in the hospital in New York for tests.
- Remember all these and **Dianne and Tiffany Dillard** as they slowly adjust to the loss of Paul, and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

**"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." - Acts 14:22**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **Gospel Meeting Planning session for all**, after the Sunday evening assembly.
- **YOUTH LOCKIN!** Fri-Sat June 6,7 at Thompson Georgia. **Jerry and Lynn Manning** will be chaperones but would welcome any other adults who could help.
- The **youth** are meeting on a regular basis at the building, Mondays at 7 pm to work on murals for our upcoming VBS.
- **Ladies** work on the **visual aids** every **Tuesday** 7:00 pm, at the building.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.

**"Whatsoever thy hand findest to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, wither thou goest" - Ecclesiastes 9:10**

**Choose the Strait Gate in 2008**

<b><u>NT BOOKS (27):</u></b>	<b>1 Corinthians</b>	<b>2 Thessalonians</b>	<b>1 Peter</b>
<b>Matthew</b>	<b>2 Corinthians</b>	<b>1 Timothy</b>	<b>2 Peter</b>
<b>Mark</b>	<b>Galatians</b>	<b>2 Timothy</b>	<b>1 John</b>
<b>Luke</b>	<b>Ephesians</b>	<b>Titus</b>	<b>2 John</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>Philippians</b>	<b>Philemon</b>	<b>3 John</b>
<b>Acts</b>	<b>Colossians</b>	<b>Hebrews</b>	<b>Jude</b>
<b>Romans</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians</b>	<b>James</b>	<b>Revelation</b>

## **CHURCH ATTENANCE AND DAILY LIVING—(cont. from page 1)**

The only way He can save man is to get him to find the right way and walk therein; for, "**whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap**" (Gal. 6:7). Under these circumstances, if anyone refuses God's proffered mercy and walks in his own way, then he cannot blame God for the plight in which he finds himself.

The right way of living, of course, is the life which Jesus Himself lived and taught — a life of self-denial and service in behalf of others. "**If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me**" (Matt. 16:24). The only entrance into this life is through faith, repentance, and baptism; and the only way to continue this life is through the means which God has appointed in the church. Any one who neglects these means is not even trying to live a life of self-denial and service. The blessings offered men in the gospel are not so much things that God will do for men as that they are the certain results or consequences of their way of living. These blessings are gifts of God, but men can obtain them only through the means which God has appointed. A loaf of bread is a gift of God, but men can obtain this gift only through the orderly processes of sowing, reaping, milling, and cooking.

God does not — I may even say cannot — hand out His gifts directly to men apart from a life of self-denial and service — a life of "faith which worketh by love." When He would give men the gift of fruit, such as apples or peaches, He does not bring the fully ripened fruit and hang it upon the barren branches of the trees.

The "good news" of Christ brings its gracious influence to bear upon the hearts of men. Their minds become filled with new objects of thought, new ideas and ideals, new attitudes toward life. The whole current of their thoughts, feelings, imaginations, desires, and purposes is changed. They have been "born again" and are made "new creatures." The tree has been made good, and henceforth the fruit will be good. And this bearing of fruit not only brings happiness to others, but brings the greatest possible happiness to the one bearing the fruit.

In one respect, living a life of self-denial and service may be compared to playing some game — tennis, for instance. In such a game, the players do not look upon the playing as a disagreeable task to be done for the sake of some external reward, but they expect their enjoyment from the playing itself. While the exercise lasts, the enjoyment lasts. When the game ends, the enjoyment ends.

Just so does happiness come from living a life of self-denial and service. And it is reasonable to suppose that if anyone finds his happiness in such a life here on earth, he will continue such a life with such a result in the world to come. But if he does not live such a life now, he will never do so later, and there is no hope of happiness for him either here or hereafter.

**"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" - Matthew 7:21**

**- E. G. Sewell, 1830-1924, Gospel Preacher, Tennessee**