

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

DEATH OFFERS HOPE

To some that statement is a shock. Most people feel there is no hope in death, but notice what the apostle Paul said in First Thessalonians 4:13, “**But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**” Unlike the world which has no hope, the Christian has a lively hope — a hope built upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead:

“**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**” - 1 Peter 1:3

In First Corinthians 15:55-57, the apostle Paul again enlightens us as to death. In this passage, Paul teaches us that there is victory over death of which the faithful will be a part. He said, “**O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

It is through death that we gain the victory! Heaven is not ours until we pass from life unto death. We cannot be with the Lord until we are raised, and we cannot be raised until we die. Therefore, death offers hope because through death we gain life eternal. It is with these thoughts Paul said, “**Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**” (1 Thess. 4:18).

Death sometimes catches us off guard and shocks us back to reality as to what is really important. We can all be thankful that certain incidents happen in life that help us to keep a proper perspective on life and on death. These incidents help us deal with the cold reality of death. Yes, they come as a shock, but with God's help and instruction, we are able to deal with them trusting in Him to carry us through.

- **Chuck Northrop**, minister Mayflower church of Christ, Arkansas

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

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RECORDS 2/1/2009

SERMONS 2/8/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 51
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 95
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 48
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 58
CONTRIBUTION: \$2254

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning

EVERLASTING
CRUCIFY

“Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.” - 1 Peter 4:19

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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
2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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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, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Marcella Klieves** came forward Sunday requesting the prayers of the church.
- **Carolyn Lee's** cataract surgery will be on 2/5 and she needs a ride.
- **Jean Boyd** is to have surgery on her other shoulder some time in February.
- We have many that are ill and especially need our prayers: **Ron Banks** (whose back surgery was less successful than hoped for), **Marilyn Brooks** (who was in the hospital but is home now), **Margaret Herring**, **Carolyn Lee**, **Beryl Parks**, **Anna Porter**, **Ruth Raines**, **Lamar Reeves**, **Carolyn Stidham**.
- Remember our brothers **Lamar Reeves** and **Darius Silbawa** who we have not been able to contact recently.
- **Jeanette Reeves** continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- Remember all these and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

**"There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee:
neither is there any rock like our God." - 1 Samuel 2:2**

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- We are all greatly stunned and saddened at the sudden passing of our beloved brother in Christ, **Gerald Boyd** Tuesday. He suffered a stroke in his sleep Tuesday morning, and passed away Tuesday evening, never regaining consciousness. Gerald, a former deacon in the church here, was a pillar in the congregation, always with a smile and a kind, encouraging word. He will be sorely missed, but our grief is tempered by the sure knowledge that he is at peace with our Lord in paradise. The funeral, and interment, is to be at 1 PM Friday, 2/6/2009 at Southlawn on Dunbar road. Remember the family, and the church, and all that were so close to him here in your prayers.
- We are saddened also at the passing of **Bobby Giles**, who succumbed to liver failure. Bobby was a member here a few years ago before moving to Boiling Springs.
- And sorrow upon sorrow, we learned that **Margie Banks** mother passed away while they were in Ohio at the passing of Margie's aunt.

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ:” - 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- We rejoice that **Don and Marcella Klieves** have a new grandson, Matthew Aiden Jackson Alverson. Baby and parents Angela and Mike Alverson are all doing well.

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Ladies Bible Class**, Tuesday evening 2/10, studying chapter 2.
- **Pantry Items needed!** We regularly give quite a bit away to those in need. Pop top lids are good, and things that don't need cooking or preparation, such as Lance cracker/cookie packs, canned fruit, Vienna sausages, beanie-weenies, etc.
- **Ladies Day**, Augusta Road church of Christ Saturday 2/14/2009, 10am-2pm.
- **Bible Bowl**, Saturday Feb 28 at the St. Andrews Road church of Christ.
- **Carolina Men's Fellowship**, Saturday March 14, 2009., sponsored by the Charlotte Avenue church, meeting at the Goldsboro church of Christ in Fort Mill.
- **DEBATE!** COLUMBIA, S.C. - **Kyle Butt**, gospel preacher and staff member of Apologetics Press, and **Dan Barker**, co-president of Freedom from Religion Foundation, will debate the existence of God Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009. The discussion will be held in the university's Russell House Ballroom at 7 p.m. Barker will affirm, "I know the God of the Bible does not exist," and Butt will argue, "I know the God of the Bible exists."

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 2/8—A 2/15—B 2/22—C 3/1—D

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DEATH MUST BE PREPARED FOR

Life is actually a preparation for death. Jesus said, "**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal**" (Matt. 6:19-20).

The things of this world will be consumed in a fervent heat (2 Pet. 3:10), but we will live on — "**they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation**" (John 5:29). Since we will live on, we must prepare for death. We prepare for death by obeying God in becoming a Christian and by obeying Him in faithful living. We become a Christian by obedience to the plan of salvation. God has made the way for us by sending forth His Son to pay the price of sin. We live faithfully by worshiping and serving the Creator according to God's word with the motivation of love and faith. When we come to the realization that life is a preparation for death, we will have the proper outlook on life and on death.

- **Chuck Northrop**, minister Mayflower church of Christ, Arkansas