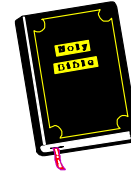


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## Christianity Is Not Denominational

The word "church" in the New Testament is translated from *ekklesia* and means "called out," "assembly," etc. It might refer to any kind of "called" meeting or "assembly" or "congregation." The *ekklesia* of the Lord would be the "called out," the "assembly," or the "congregation" of the Lord, and refers to those people who have been called by the Lord through the gospel out of the service of Satan and into the service of God and righteousness. This idea is indicated in **John 15:18-19: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."** God's church — *ekklesia* — consists of those chosen out of the world, all of them, with the exception of a single one.

The word "church" has three phases of meaning in the New Testament. First, it is applied to local congregations or called out assemblies of the Lord, as in **Acts 15:41: "And he went through Syria and Cilicia confirming the churches."** When it is used in this way, it carries the idea of organization, that is, the idea of the "called out" of a given community organized together after the New Testament pattern for the worship of God and the service of humanity.

**"And when they had appointed them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they had believed" (Acts 14:23).**

**"And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church and the apostles and elders, and rehearsed all things that God had done with them" (Acts 15:4).**

**"And it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men out of their company, and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren" (Acts 15:22).**

Second, the word "church" is used in reference to local congregations or churches in a given province or political division. **"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace being edified; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, was multiplied" (Acts 9:31).**

**"The churches of Asia salute you. Aquilla and Prisca salute you much in the Lord with the church that is in their house" (1 Cor. 16:19).**

**"Moreover brethren, we make known unto you the grace of God which hath been given in the churches of Macedonia" (2 Cor. 8:1).**

Third, the word is employed to designate the entire congregation of the Lord, all of the called out of the earth. **"And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18).**

**"And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18).—(cont on page 3)**

## VOLUME 35, NUMBER 13 March 29, 2009

RECORDS 3/22/2009

SERMONS 3/29/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 34  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 75  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 50  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 48  
CONTRIBUTION: \$2650

AM: Donald Klieves

PM: Tom Rinehart

**"Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." - Matthew 4:4**

### 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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*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Evaline Lowe** wasn't well last Sunday.
- **Carolyn Lee** requests prayers also for her ill health.
- The **Manning family** will be in Memphis for the **MSOP lectures**, returning next Friday.
- Remember our brother **Darius Silbawa** who has not been with us.
- Remember all these, those that are grieving and recovering from loss, and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

**“For we are saved by hope:” - Romans 8:24**

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

- **TEEN CAMPING TRIP! 4/17-18**, signup sheet in the foyer.
- **Foundation Class**, Saturdays 11 am at the building. All are invited.
- **Visual Aids** help needed for VBS, see brother Manning.
- **65th Annual Carolina Lectureship**, April 4-9 at Gold Hill Road, Fort Mill SC.
- **Homecoming**, 20th year, **Twin City church**, 4/26 with **Mike Hinrichs** preaching.
- **Gospel Meeting** in Walterboro with **David Pharr**, 4/26-4/30.
- Seven from West Columbia were able to make it to the **Carolina Men's Fellowship** last Saturday, joining about 650 other men of the church. It was edifying and encouraging. The first Saturday in March, save the date for 2010!

**“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, ...” - Hebrews 6:18,19**

**Let Your Light Shine in 2009!**

## **“... PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.” - Titus 2:14**

**WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 3/29—D 4/5—A 4/12—B 4/19—C**

**All members in the congregation are assigned to a Work Team**

**Check your Work Team assignment—your participation is vital!**

**Work Team D will meet at Vernicia Matthew's Home**

**Let Your Light Shine in 2009!**

## **Christianity Is Not Denominational (Continued from page 1)**

When the word "church" is used in its second and third phases of meaning — referring to churches in a given territory or to the universal church — it does not carry with it any idea of organization. There is no suggestion or intimation in the word "church", or otherwise in the New Testament, that God willed the organization of the congregations of any territory or of the entire world in any manner. There is no suggestion of any kind of church organization in the New Testament that is higher than the local congregation with its elders and deacons (Phil. 1:1).

This idea of the church is presented in numerous figures of speech in the New Testament. We have the "vineyard" with Christ as the husbandman and the called out as the "vines" (John 15:1-2). There is also the figure of the vine and the branches with Christ as the true vine and each saved individual a branch in the vine (John 15:5-6).

Then we see the figure of a sheep-fold with Christ as the great shepherd and the redeemed as the sheep (John 10:15-16). Again, it is presented as a sheep-fold with Christ as the door by which the sheep enter (John 10:7-9).

The idea of the called out body of Christ — the church of Christ — is also presented in the figure of a family with God as the Father, Christ the elder Brother, and all of the "called out" as brethren in the family, heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ (1 Tim. 3:14-15; Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:26-27; 4:7).

And then we have the figure in which the church is presented as a human body (Col 1:18 printed earlier). In all these figures we have the picture of oneness, unity, and harmony.

The idea of division is not once suggested. We do not see the picture of a vineyard divided into a hundred different blocks with each conducted in such a way that conflicts with the others. We see a great vineyard, all arranged in a most harmonious manner, conducted under the direction of one husbandman for His glory.

We do not see Christ as many vines with distinct, separate clusters of branches in each vine, with each of these vines growing and producing separate fruit. Instead, we see one great, glorious vine, Jesus Christ, with every redeemed soul a branch in Him, saved and sustained by Him, and bearing the same kind of fruit for Him.

We do not see a sheep-fold divided up into several hundred small flocks, each conducted by a different shepherd, and in competition with each other. Instead, the Bible shows us one great wonderful sheep-fold with one shepherd, Jesus Christ.

We do not see several sheep-folds with as many different doors. The Bible shows us only one sheep-fold with only one door and all of Christ's called out entering in through that one door.

We do not see in the divine picture several hundred separate families, with different fathers and at variance with each other. The church of the New Testament is not portrayed as a group of different families all claiming God as Father, but a single unified family.

We do not see five or six hundred separate, distinct human bodies, with five or six hundred heads, or with Christ as head of all of them while they war, contend and fight one another. In all of these divine pictures, there is not the faintest intimation that suggests division or such a thing as denominational Christianity. In all the pictures there is oneness, harmony, cooperation and undenominational Christianity.

The church of Christ is not a denomination. You can be a Christian, serve God according to His word, live a life devoted to Him, die and go to heaven without ever belonging to a denomination.

**- Jesse Parker Sewell, 1876-1969, Gospel preacher, Teacher of God's Word**

**“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” - 1 Corinthians 1:10**