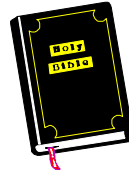


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

I NEVER INTENDED TO QUIT!

A man who had not attended one service of the church in four years told me he had never thought of “quitting” the church. I reminded him that he had:

1. Withdrawn his presence from the worship services. He had failed to sing, to pray with fellow-Christians, to partake of the Lord’s memorial supper and the fellowship of the saints.
2. He had refused to give his moral support to the activities of the congregation.
3. He had withdrawn his financial support, for he had not given one dime to help carry on the Lord’s work.

Then I asked, “What else would you have to do in order to ‘quit’ the church? In case you ever decide that you no longer desire to be a member, what other steps will be necessary to ‘quit’ the church?”

As the true status dawned upon him, his expression reflected his sober thoughts. He replied, “Why, Brother Nichols, I have quit already, haven’t I? Well, I surely didn’t mean to! And I don’t know when I did it...but I’ve quit the Lord and His church! I’ll tell you right now...I’m coming back.” He did, too. At the next service, he was restored and three years later, he was still faithful.

Dear reader, how about you? Have you quit the Lord and His church without resolving to do so? Perhaps no one deliberately decides to quit, but many carelessly drift into backsliding.

If you quit attending services, quit boosting the program of activities planned by the elders and quit giving as God has prospered you to enable the congregation to meet its budget, you need to be restored.

- **Gus Nichols** (1892-1975), Gospel Preacher

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ... As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” - Revelation 3:15-19

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 39, NUMBER 51 December 29, 2013

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J BOLEN

PM: T J BOLEN

**“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” - 1 Peter 5:8**

WHAT WILL YOU DO IN 2014?

**JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

The Bulletin
(USPS-994-500)
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

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

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Anna Porter, Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- Many were out last week with colds and other ailments, including **Pat Joyner**, and **Ethel Smith** who is staying with **Anna Porter** to help as she can.
- Pray for these, and also continue to remember: **Simone Diggs, Margaret Herring,** and **Judy Walker** who all need our prayers.

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." - Romans 8:18

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **SLOGAN FOR 2014?** Suggestions needed: **AS A CHRISTIAN BE SEEN IN 2014**
- **YOUNG ADULT** class Sundays, 10 am in the upstairs classroom.
- Get your **Bible questions answered** Saturdays at 3pm at the building.
- Entire assembly is now being recorded on DVD thanks to brother Marshal Mancuso. See Marshall or **Jones Gamble** to get a copy for yourself or to share with someone.
- **Bible Bowl** Feb 22, 2014—Book is 2 Samuel, the New King James version.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." - Matthew 25:40

WHAT WILL YOU DO IN 2014?

Challenge For One Month

1. Resolve not to miss or be late to a single service of the church. No excuses this time but, for a change, make a few sacrifices for the Lord.
2. Try praying every time you have a problem or decision to make. If you feel the slightest need, pray! And while you're at it, try praying for your enemies (those with whom you don't get along too well).
3. Make it your responsibility to bring at least one visitor to services, preferably a family. Don't just invite them, make a date with them.
4. Take at least one afternoon or evening to go visiting. Not with the ones you know and like best. This time, visit someone you do not know too well, perhaps someone with whom you feel a 'little "strained." Get to know them and see the difference it makes.
5. Read and study your Bible every day, even if you have to turn off the TV.

Follow these simple rules, and you might be surprised at the results.

-Clyde Freeman, Preacher, 9th and Main St. church of Christ, San Antonio, Texas

“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” - Titus 2:14

Jesus died for us—what does He not have a right to expect from **us**?

IF THE ANSWER IS YES

“... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” - Matthew 16:18

In determining whether or not any given denomination is the one true church revealed in the New Testament, a simple question can be posed to its sectarian adherents. The question is as follows: "Can an individual be saved outside your denomination?" If the answer is yes, then that religious group is most assuredly not the church. Here is why.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised that He would build His church. Notice that Christ said HE would build the church and that only one would be built. That church is identified by the apostle Paul as the body (Eph. 1:22-23) and is said to be the only body (Eph. 4:4), hence the only church. This church is also identified as the bride and Christ as its bridegroom (Eph. 5:22-23; cf. Matt. 9:15; 25:1). Christ is not a polygamist. He has but one bride for which He nourishes and cares.

The beautiful bride of Christ, the church, consists of a blood-bought people who, by faith, have been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38,47). Collectively, these baptized believers are known as the saved, the church, the body, the temple, and the kingdom (Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:27; 1 Cor. 3:16; Col. 1:13, respectively). They belong to Christ, and wear His name (Rom. 16:16; 1 Pet. 4:16). It is this entity of people whom Christ will take to glory at the Judgment. Christ is clearly and unmistakably the Savior of this body - His body, the church (Eph. 5:23). Undeniably, salvation is to be found in the church and only in the church. Since the church is the body of Christ, and salvation is only in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10; Acts 4:12), it follows that one cannot be saved outside the church. When Christ comes again, He will save only those who are in His church.

Therefore, if an individual tells me that I do not have to be a member of their church to be saved, then I can know with certainty that their church is not the church of our Lord. Nearly all denominations assert that you can be saved even though you are not a member of their church. However, no one can be saved apart from the Lord's church. Thus, any religious group espousing the doctrine that salvation can be procured outside the church is not a church which belongs to Christ. Salvation is in the church. If you want to be saved, then you must be in the church.

“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” - Acts 2:47

- John Moore, minister, Dripping Springs church of Christ, Texas