



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Is Salvation My Way Or God's Way?

"Thou believest that God is one; thou doest well: the demons also believe, and shudder" (James 2:19 ASV).

Believing in God is not enough. One must believe God and obey Him in order to be right with Him.

The wise man said, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death” - Prov. 14:12. Jeremiah stated, “O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” - Jeremiah 10:23 ASV. God teaches us through these scriptures that what feels right and what seems good is determined by what He says, not how I feel and think about something. God directs our steps, showing us what is right and what is wrong.

Many people daily tell God how it is that He is going to save them. However, we cannot determine how God will save us. God has already determined this, and we must conform to his will in order to receive salvation. We know that Jesus is the only way of salvation (John 14:6) and He taught explicitly, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16 ASV). Yet people say "He that believes shall be saved and then baptized." Do you believe God or man?

Jesus stated, "Remember the word that I said unto you, A servant is not greater than his lord. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also" (John 15:20 ASV). Jesus gave his apostles authority to teach the whole world everything that he had taught them (Matthew 28.18-20). Jesus said that if we believe and accept his word, we would believe and accept their word also. Consider what Christ's apostles taught about baptism.

Peter stated, "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38 ASV). Yet people say, "Believe for the remission of your sins, and then be baptized". Do you believe God or man? Peter also stated, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us" (1 Peter 3:21). Yet people say, "Even faith alone doth also now save us, then you should be baptized". Do you believe God or man? - (Continued on page 3)

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—The privilege of what we (can) know

PM: T.J. Bolen—Carnal Thinking

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." - 2 Corinthians 9:6

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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: *Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Margaret Herring** was able to meet with us last Sunday. She continues to have numerous biopsies of possible cancers about her neck and face. Coupled with many other problems she needs and very much desires our prayers.
- **Jan Kelleher** has had a recurrence of cancer. Tests show the cancer has not spread but is in one spot, for which we are thankful.
- **Tommy White** is at home now, but still recovering from bypass surgery
- Remember these and: **Anna Porter; Gwen Pittman; the Brisbons in NY ; Grant Parks** and family; **Debbie Sheppard; Eileen Lester.**
- **Pray for all these**, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers! (1 John 5:15)**

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him." - Psalm 27:1

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Baby Shower!** For **Dorothy Gray**, Friday May 29 6:30 pm.
- **Pantry Items** needed, see **Marshall Mancuso.**
- **Activity Fund** donations needed to help some of our youth attend camp.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have showed toward his name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Hebrews 6:10

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, ... For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where *were* the body? But now *are they* many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: ” - 1 Corinthians 12:12-22

Is Salvation My Way Or God's Way? - (Continued from page 1)

Paul was told, **"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).** Yet people say, "Have faith, and wash away thy sins, then be baptized". Do you believe God, or man?

There is much for us to do in order to be saved. We must have **faith**, (Romans 10:17). We must **believe God** and **confess the name of Jesus**, (Romans 10:9-10). We must **repent** of sins (Luke 13:3). We must **live faithful** lives until we die (Revelation 2:10; James 2:14, 17, 20, 24). James said, **"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:24).** Yet people say, "Ye see then how by faith only a man is justified". Do you believe God or man?

We must follow God's instructions for salvation. **Baptism** is a necessary part of our salvation, just like believing, repenting, confessing, and faithful living. Without baptism, a person cannot be saved. Baptism puts us into Christ (Romans 6:3-4), yet people say that we invite Christ into our hearts through the "sinners prayer." Do we believe God or man? Baptism clothes us with Christ, (Galatians 3:27) and puts us into His body (1 Corinthians 12:13). Yet people say, "We must receive Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, then be baptized to show the world our faith". Do we believe God or man?

Without baptism friends, none of these blessings are possible. Baptism comes before salvation and is just one of the things required in order to be saved. These other means and sayings are the inventions of men. Do you believe God or man? Jesus once asked a powerful question to a group of Pharisees. **"The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or from men?" (Luke 20:4 ASV).** His point was to prove that anything authorized from heaven must be obeyed by those living on earth. The Bible has authorized the way of salvation. It is from heaven. Are these other sayings from heaven, or from men? Do you believe Jesus, or the words of men?

We must believe the words of Jesus and his apostles and reject the false ideas invented by men. Jesus, quoting Isaiah, said, **"But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men" (Matthew 15:9 ASV).** Any and every time we teach and believe the invented doctrines of men, our worship to God becomes vain. We must believe God rather than men.

Do you believe God? I know you do. Follow his word and teaching only, and reject the false teachings of men.

- Josh Haley, Gospel preacher, Piedmont church of Christ, Oklahoma

**“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
- Galatians 3:26,27**