

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM:

PM:

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

HOW TO WALK WORTHY? Look at what you do and remember:

"WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD, RATHER THAN MEN" - ACTS 5:29

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!**

SERVICES

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

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members
none at present time
Full time position open

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WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

The New Birth And Baptism

The effect of the new birth is to bring persons into the Divine family, and give them equal rights and privileges with the other children; to make them "heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." Without it they cannot enter (John 3:5).

The effect of baptism is to bring persons into Christ. "So many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27).

Therefore the new birth — of water and Spirit — is equal to baptism, at least in its effects, or results. Things equal to each other are equal to the same thing.

Unless there are two ways of getting into Christ, and so becoming heirs of God, they must be the same for all practical purposes.

But there is only one way of getting into Christ and becoming heirs of God. Does not Jesus say, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God?" (John 3:5). Man here is generic and includes all men. "He cannot enter" limits his entrance to this way, and is equal to saying there is no other way by which he can enter the kingdom of God.

Yet we are baptized into Christ, the king. It would be absurd to talk of being in the king and not in the king-dom, which means the reign of Christ. It rather means into the very head and center of the kingdom. And therefore, scriptural immersion is the consummation of the new birth.

The promises to those born again and to those baptized are the same; and in this way also, identify them.

Is it not said, "ye shall be heirs of God"; "ye shall inherit all things"; and "I will be your God and ye shall be my son"? And do we not read in the great commission, "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved?" (Mark 16:16). "Shall be saved" is equivalent to being heirs of God — sons, etc. All God's children are saved. All are heirs. **(Continued on page 3)**

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Richard Ramkinson, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Ed Kelleher's** back surgery was delayed till 3/13/17 to repair 2 herniated disks.
- The blood clots of **Karen Harding, Judy Cornelius daughter**, are no longer a problem. She is having Chemo each Thursday.
- **Remember also: Margaret Herring** was in the hospital for 4 days with esophageal problems; **Dorothy Gray** dealing with the many needs of her family; **Tommy White** and leg problems; **Jamie Sheppard with upper respiratory infection**; Jason Parks Traveling; **Pat Joyner** with vertigo; **Laura Nichols** friend and co-worker **Tammy** with spread of cancer, not much time and not much hope, pray that she desire to hear the word of God and a door be opened to her heart; **Jan Kelleher** continuing in a painful fight with metastatic disease.
- Visit **Anna Porter** at National Health Care on US 378. **Pray for all these** and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

**"Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the lowly,
than to divide the spoil with the proud." - Proverbs 16:19**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **North Columbia church Gospel Meeting** with **Paul Powers** to be the last week of March starting Mon-Thurs @ 7 PM subject **“Walking by Faith”**.
- Remember signup sheet for **college student meals on Wed!** All are invited to stay.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer.**
- Invite people to come to the informal Q&A **Bible study**, Saturdays 3pm.

**“That there should be no schism in the body;
but that the members should have the same care one for another.” - 1 Corinthians 12:25**

Walk worthy of the calling with which you are called!

(Ephesians 4:1)

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

- **Stephanie's** lymphoma is no longer in remission, but fortunately is not rapidly growing, which will affect decision to start chemo. Pray often for her and **Steve**.
- **Harvey and Gail's daughter Erin's** father in law passed away after a long illness, details to be announced later.
- **Karan Wyatt** is suffering from a partially detached retina, very painful. She and her husband Steve have been visiting for several weeks. Keep them both in your prayers.

Don't despair! Remember:

**“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8**

The New Birth And Baptism— (continued from page 1)

And therefore the new birth, and baptism, as the consummation of the birth of water and Spirit are the same. And so all the ancient fathers taught, without exception.

Jesus spoke to Nicodemus of the new birth in a parable. **“Without a parable spake he not unto them.” (Mark 4:34)**. But Jesus told his disciples that the time would come when he would speak no more to them in parables, but would **“show them plainly of the Father.” (John 16:25)**. That time came as the history of facts proves, when the apostles first began to preach the gospel of Christ. Otherwise, when the penitents, on the memorable Pentecost (Acts 2) asked what they should do, Peter should, and would, have answered, “You must be born again — born of water and the Spirit.” But because the time for change in the Divine manner of teaching had come, and Peter knew very well that they would at once inquire what he meant by being born again, he just gave them the literal of the figure, saying, **“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38)**. So afterwards they never told people to be born again — never used the figurative style in such cases, but told the inquirers plainly — without a figure.

And therefore, the new birth and scriptural baptism, as the literal of the figure, are the same.

Carroll Kendrick, 1815-1891, Gospel Preacher, Texas

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” - Matthew 28:18-20

Is your heart like Paul's, whose heart was like Christ's?

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. ... For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. ... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” - Romans 10:1-14

People believe in God, but they have not obeyed the Gospel, because they have not heard the whole counsel of God preached. They will hear it here! Tell them of it! Invite people to attend or join us on a Saturday afternoon Bible study. Follow up with them, to see they come **hear—that they might be saved!**