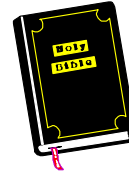


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



BEARING FRUIT

Bearing fruit is something *all* Christians *must* do. Jesus wasn't giving an *agriculture* lesson when he said: "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." - Matthew 7:19

Usually we jump right to the harvesting stage, wanting to pull good fruit out of thin air, much like the rich young ruler who asked Jesus, "What good thing shall I do ..." (Matthew 19:16) as if that were all there was to it. However, like him, to be fruitful we should first think instead about how to *prepare* ourselves to be *able* to bear good fruit. If we prepare properly, we'll bear fruit; good fruit, and tons of it. Think for a moment on how you'd go about getting some apples:

First and foremost, you must *want* the fruit, else you won't put out the effort. If you don't like apples, would you buy an apple tree, dig a hole, plant it and water it etc.? You wouldn't, you'd quit first. We also must **know and be fully convinced** the work is worth the effort: "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:" - Romans 2:7

Second, we must get the ground ready—us! You wouldn't drop a tree on the ground in your backyard and expect it grow. Look at the *qualities* a Christian must cultivate *in order to* bear fruit (they aren't fruit of themselves): "add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful ..." - 2 Peter 1:4-8.

Then we must plant the right seeds. Apples don't come from kudzu. If we want *good* fruit, we must plant *good* seed - God's word and wisdom, not man's: "The seed is the word of God" - Luke 8:11, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;"- Romans 1:16

The seed must then be watered and nurtured and cultivated while waiting for the harvest. You don't plant a tree then harvest the next day. We also ought to have patience and faith in God. Wait on the Lord, don't be discouraged, it will be **worth** it! "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - Galatians 6:9

- Ed Kelleher, elder, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 29 July 27, 2008

RECORDS 7/20/2008

SERMONS 7/27/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 54
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 90
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 71
Wed 7 PM Bible Study: 73
CONTRIBUTION: \$2653

AM: Jerry Manning
TODAY IS ALL THAT MATTERS
PM: Jerry Manning
WHAT WE LEARNED FROM V.B.S.

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” - Galatians 6:7

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

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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

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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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, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Anna Porter requests prayers for her neighbor Elma Berrier who seems to be taking a turn for the worse and isn't doing at all well.
- Gwen Pittman requests prayers for Mariam Cannon of Conway, SC.
- Remember Lamar Reeves as he recovers from painful surgery. But he's been able to be at VBS, bringing his daughter and 3 nephews.
- Don Klieves is working in Greenville during the week for the next 3 months or so. He's able to return home on the weekends. His cell phone is 381-5489.
- Remember Dianne and Tiffany Dillard in your prayers.
- Jeanette Reeves continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- Remember all these, our new brothers and sisters in Christ, and brother Manning and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." - 1 Peter 5:6,7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Volunteers needed to clean the building! Sign up in the foyer.**
- **INTRODUCING!** The Young Ladies Class, kicking off Thursday, 7/31 7 pm at Jamie and Debbie Sheppard's home. Lynn Manning will be teaching, just for the girls, teens to young adults.
- **New Convert Class** Saturdays 11 am at the building, for all who are interested.
- **ALL NIGHT CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**—10th Annual at St. Andrews Rd. Friday Aug 1, 7:30 pm until ...
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 7/27—A 8/3—B 8/10—C 8/17—D

"IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME" - MATTHEW 16:24

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008

<u>NT BOOKS (27):</u>	1 Corinthians	2 Thessalonians	1 Peter
Matthew	2 Corinthians	1 Timothy	2 Peter
Mark	Galatians	2 Timothy	1 John
Luke	Ephesians	Titus	2 John
John	Philippians	Philemon	3 John
Acts	Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
Romans	1 Thessalonians	James	Revelation

A SURPRISING WOE

Normal human nature craves friends, and delights in being well spoken of. One of the basic passions is a feeling of self-importance. To be sinned against in this respect is as grievous as going hungry. It is the more surprising, therefore, that Jesus said, "**Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for in the same manner did their fathers to the false prophets.**" (ASV Luke 6:26).

It is commonly considered a compliment to a man if he has no enemies. But militant goodness is offensive to some and makes enemies "for righteousness' sake." The Lord Jesus was wholly clear of all manner of sin, and yet He began to make enemies as soon as He came into the public eye. His very righteousness was a rebuke to a selfish, scheming class, and His teaching met the most violent opposition. He was subjected in turn to ridicule, opposition in debate, and death. The worst passions of depraved hearts were loosed in fury upon Him. He had friends, but His enemies were many and powerful.

And it is interesting to note how many reacted to Paul. If there was ever a good man, praiseworthy in all respects, Paul was one. After he became a Christian, a search for sin in his life would yield meager results. And yet from the very beginning of his ministry in the gospel he was harassed as few men have ever been. Some of his enemies were members of the church — "false brethren," he called them. From one place he fled with a companion "**when there was made an onset both of the Gentiles and of the Jews with their rulers, to treat them shamefully and to stone them.**" (ASV Acts 14:5). He was beaten and put in jail on a charge that he taught unlawful customs. He was charged with turning "the world upside down." His enemies said he taught "men to worship God contrary to the law." "Some mocked" in the face of his most brilliant sermons. A hired orator, speaking for a powerful group, called him, "a pestilent fellow," said he ought to be in a pesthouse somewhere, and stigmatized him as a ring-leader of a sect which stirred up trouble all over the world.

Jesus and Paul made enemies for a great cause, and their enemies emphasized their greatness and righteousness. "**Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you.**" (ASV Matt. 5:11-12).

- Cled E. Wallace, Gospel preacher

So, what do men think of you? ... What does God think of you?

**“What shall we then say to these things?
If God be for us, who can be against us?” - Romans 8:31**

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008