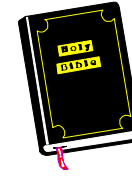


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

THE CHARACTER OF NOAH

Notice how Noah's character contrasts with the world he lived in. "**But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah walked with God**" (Genesis 6:8-9). Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. In the midst of this immoral society, Noah stood out. Notice what we read about him.

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. This is the first time the word "grace" is used in the Bible and Noah did not earn God's blessing...he was given God's favor. Without grace Noah could not have been saved from the destruction of the world. God's grace benefited Noah. First, God revealed His intentions to Noah (6:13,17). Second, God gave commands to Noah that, if he obeyed, would save him and his family (6:14-16). Third, God promised Noah salvation from the flood (6:18). The grace extended by God was not "cheap grace," but included hard work by man in obeying God. Also, careful attention to detail to what God had said and how He had said it was essential. We are living in a world where folks have disregarded God's details; such action is not the means of obtaining the grace of God. Further, the complete judgment of God against all that was evil and sinful is expressed. Noah trusted God. In so doing, Noah stood alone in grace and favor with God.

Noah was a just man. To be "just" means to live a righteous life and to treat others in a fair and just way, despite the circumstances. It means to be upright, honest, and virtuous, never to cheat or steal from others. Noah lived a just and moral life both before God and man. Noah's righteousness exceeded that of the people. "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20). Noah's mindset was to do only that which God wanted him to do. He allowed God's standards to effect and direct his life. Noah was unafraid to live differently from the status quo. What a lesson for Christians! The child of God is to live that holy and just life that is different from the world (1 John 2:15-17). The Christian life is a constant that is not robbed by circumstances. "**For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain:**" - **Philippians 1:21.**

(Continued on Page 3)

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org B836 South Carolina 11/15/2009

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 46 November 15, 2009

RECORDS 11/8/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 34
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 78
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 32
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 37
CONTRIBUTION: \$2136

SERMONS 11/15/2009

AM: Jerry Manning
AN APPROVED MINISTER OF GOD—Part 1
PM: Jerry Manning
AN APPROVED MINISTER OF GOD—Part 2

"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked." - Psalms 97:10

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:

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

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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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.
- **Ron Banks** had surgery to deaden a nerve in his back that was giving him constant pain. Pray for his relief.
- **Margie DeYoung** fell last week and hurt her ankle. Her legs are very weak.
- **Chris Kelleher** is home and starting treatment for brain cancer.
- **Betty Mathis's** daughter's (**Sheryl**) father-in-law, **Stuart Oswell** passed away during heart surgery. Remember the family in your prayers. **Betty** is doing well and would greatly appreciate your cards, calls and visits.
- **Sue Island** is in LMC with pneumonia.
- **Kenneth Sheppard, Doris and Eddie's** son, has pneumonia and they found some spots on his lung. An MRI is scheduled.
- **Marilyn Brooks** isn't well and isn't able to get out. **Jean Godley** isn't well and asks our prayers. **Pamela Palmgren** has the flu. **Dave Gummer** a friend of **Stephanie Rinehart** has the H1N1 flue.
- Also, remember **Jean Baker** as she mourns the passing of her husband.
- And, remember **Vernecia Matthews** in your prayers as she faces surgery.
- And remember the **Stoyk** family as they cope with much adversity.
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" - 1 Peter 3:8

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **College age Bible study Thursday at 8 pm.**
- **Transportation** needed for sisters **Betty Mathis, Jean Boyd** and **Marilyn Brooks.**
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

11/15 Chef Boyardee Lasange

11/18 Dole Tropical Fruit

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" - Luke 16:10

How important are the thoughts of our hearts as compared to our actions, what we do? Look what the Lord said was the Israelites' problem:

"Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways." - Psalms 95:10

**“Keep thy heart with all diligence;
for out of it are the issues of life.” - Prov 4:23**

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

THE CHARACTER OF NOAH - (continued from page 1)

Noah was a perfect man. The Hebrew word for perfect is to be without blemish or to be blameless, to be moral, a person of purity, of integrity, of honesty; to be whole and complete. Not that he was sinless (9:24), but that there were no blatant faults. He was a man of moral integrity among his generation. In that godless society, no one had any charges against Noah. We can conclude that he had a good relationship with his friends and neighbors. No one wondered if Noah was dealing honestly with them. They knew his ethics were solid. No one had to question whether Noah was cheating on his wife. They knew Noah was committed to her. No one questioned Noah's methods. They know he was not seeking to manipulate them. No one questioned Noah's sincerity. They may have questioned his sanity, but not his heart. Jesus expects His church to be perfect (blameless) when He delivers it to God the Father, **"a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish"** (Ephesians 5:27).

Noah walked with God. Noah's conduct and his walk of life are emphasized. The same thing was recorded about Enoch; it is the essential element we need. Noah's walk with God was threefold. First, it was a walk that continued individually. Second, it was a walk that persevered a family. Third, it was a walk in contrast to the disobedient world. The present generation could use a change of heart so we can walk with God instead of walking with the world. It requires a change of attitude. The imaginations and thoughts of the heart cannot be evil continually while yet we expect to walk in God's favor. We must have a walk of life that corresponds with our profession. Note that when the Christian walks with God, it is also a circumspective walk. **"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil"** (Ephesians 5:11-16). The circumspective walk of the child of God is about an awareness of one's surroundings. Christians should behave like Noah by walking with God through a very dark and dying world.

How can we find grace in the eyes of God? By being just, perfect, and walking with God. Character does matter with God! May we be encouraged by the example and life of Noah.

- **Glenn Hitchcock**, Assistant Minister of the Fort Valley church of Christ, Georgia