

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)**

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: HARVEY ALLEN

PM: HARVEY ALLEN

"WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD, RATHER THAN MEN" - ACTS 5:29
KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

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

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

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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

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- **Ken Parks** has been under the weather, but **Marshall Mancuso** and **Jason Parks** are doing better.
- **Judy Walker** is still at Agape Rm 206B for rehab. Pray she regains her strength.
- **Margie DeYoung** continues at National Healthcare Rm 108A for rehab for a broken hip, keep your prayers going up, they're working!
- Keep all these, and **the church here**, in your prayers. Our thanks and gratitude to those who watch, and work and pray for the church here. To those faithful in visiting and attendance, encouraging others by talking with them. To those quietly doing the many jobs necessary to keep the congregation functioning.

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

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Ladies Bible Camp**, Kannapolis church of Christ, Fri-Sat 3/22-23, see **Jan Kelleher**.
- Remember to send cards and letters to our sister **Lorraine Porter** who is unable to get out or receive visitors or phone calls due to her medical condition and sorely needs the encouragement.
- **BULLETINS BY EMAIL** sent each Friday. To subscribe, send email address to Ed.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors**. **Marshall Mancuso** had had a bunch of nice cards printed, and **Jones Gamble** faithfully gets visitor cards posted with addresses. So help out yourself! Send a card, invite people to visit, then send more cards! Postage for a post card is \$.32, Send 3 for a dollar and keep the change!

**“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**

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

**“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,
shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;
but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 7:21**

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!**