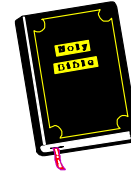


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

For What Am I Responsible?

One of the greatest problems afflicting mankind is the refusal to accept responsibility for one's actions. Most people are determined to blame someone else for their own unacceptable conduct. Some blame their bad behaviour on their ancestors, others blame a society that existed 150 years ago, and many say the devil makes them act as they now act.

The word of God says, "So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Rom. 4:12). The Bible doesn't teach that we shall be able to successfully blame our failures on others. God holds each of us accountable for his choices and actions. This is why each person should possess the attitude of the Bereans who, "received the word with all readiness of mind, and examined the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

A person is responsible for his attitude toward, and knowledge of the Word of God. Many people believe that the Bible is God's Word, but they never study the Holy Scriptures. To ignore the teachings of the Bible is to act as if it does not exist. Some give "lip service" to the Bible, but have no real understanding of the Scriptures. It requires diligent study to know right from wrong and truth from error. (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15).

Some are convinced that if they remain ignorant of God's Word they will not be accountable for their ignorance. But the Bible doesn't so teach. Each person is responsible for finding the truth on any given matter, accepting the truth as it is, and making such truth a guide for his actions.

One may know that instrumental music was used in the Old Testament (cf. Psa. 150) and thus feel that it is an acceptable means of worshipping God today. But the Old Testament is not the covenant that we are under today. That covenant — and all it contained — was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14) to make way for the "better covenant" (Heb. 7:22; 8:6). The first covenant was taken away "that he may establish the second" (Heb. 10:9).

—Continued on page 3

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008!

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RECORDS 11/23/2008

SERMONS 11/30/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 57
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 94
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 64
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 42
CONTRIBUTION: \$2161

AM: Ed Kelleher
PM: Tom Rinehart

**“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?” - Matthew 16:26**

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
2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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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, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Betty Mathis** is expected to be in rehab at National Healthcare (NHC) Parklane, Room 104A, phone 741-9090 till New Years.
- **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.

**“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness”
- 2 Corinthians 12:9**

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Ladies Bible** class is now meeting Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.
- **MISSION TRIP:** Brother Manning is doing well in India. He is on the other side of the country from the difficulties in the capital, Mumbai. Remember him and Lynn and the boys, in your prayers.

**“For thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”
- Revelation 3:8**

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 11/23—B 11/30—C 12/7—D 12/14—A

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008!

The Claims Of The Bible

The Bible claims to be the word of God. And not that only; it claims to be the inerrant word of God, the infallibly and verbally inspired word of God. "All Scripture is given by inspiration" — Theopneustia, God-breathed words. "Unto us God revealed" these things "through the Spirit... Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth; combining spiritual things with spiritual words" (1 Cor. 2:10-13 ASV). Divine thoughts and divine words to convey them is Paul's statement, with emphasis, of the verbal inspiration of the Bible.

Who says it is not the inerrant word of God? The devil (Gen. 3:3-4) and worldly-wise men of today (Rom. 1:22); but we are warned against such and should shun them, for they cannot be converted (2 Thess. 2:10-11) and may destroy faith in you "through philosophy and vain deceit" (Col. 2:8).

- Foy E. Wallace, Jr., 1896-1979, Gospel preacher

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

For What Am I Responsible?

—(Continued from Page 1)

Under the New Covenant God has authorized singing, not playing. Search your New Testament and you will find examples and commands regarding the music that God desires in worship today (Matt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Jas. 5:13; Rev. 5:9; 14:3; 15:3). There is Bible authority for singing, but no such authority for playing on an instrument.

One is responsible for understanding that there is only one church that Jesus built (Matt. 16:18), the church of Christ (Rom. 16:16). The church and the body of which Christ is the head are one and the same (Eph. 1:22-23). The apostle Paul made it clear to the Ephesians that there is only one body (Eph. 4:4). "One" never means more than "one" until folks begin to discuss religion. It's only then that "one" means "two," "three," "four," or "one hundred and four." The one Head (Christ) then becomes the Saviour of multiple bodies that He never promised to build and did not purchase with His blood (Acts 20:28). There is no Bible authority for man-made churches (Matt. 15:13; 1 Cor. 10:10-13).

One is responsible for obeying the gospel. There is only one gospel (Gal. 1:6-9), and it alone has the power to save a soul from sin (Rom. 1:16). Those who obey not the gospel will be eternally lost (2 Thess. 1:8). Baptism is a part of the plan of salvation, and one must be baptized to be saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16) and one cannot be saved while still in his sins.

Yes, man is responsible for many things. But the thing that matters most is your attitude toward the Word of God. Will you accept it and obey it as the Truth it is (John 17:17; 8:32), or will you ignore it and cling to the opinions, creeds, and traditions of men? Remember, you are responsible before God for your choices and actions.

- Marvin L. Weir, Minister, Bonham St. Church of Christ, Paris, Texas

There's Nothing Plainer

The plainest statement on what to do to be saved is Mark 16:15-16: **“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”**

Now that verse cannot be simplified and it cannot be misunderstood, without help. He shall be saved that believeth and is baptized. It does not read, he shall be saved that believeth. It does not read, he shall be saved who is baptized. It reads, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

The principal sentence is, “he shall be saved”. The dependent clause is, “that believeth and is baptized”. The word that points out the fellow — that shows who shall be saved, is “he”.

This is the simplest statement in all the Bible on what to do to be saved.

- Foy E. Wallace, Jr., 1896-1979, Gospel preacher