

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MAR 15, 2009**

**SICK LIST:**

**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:** Gertrude Hall, Bertharine Burton

**HOME:** Flora Millwood, Lottie Townley, Ruby Harrison, Johnny & Lizzie Banks, Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Paul Mays, Audie Estus, Maudie Jones

**PRAYER LIST:** April Lazenby, Tommy Hollingsworth, Diane Burns, David Ray, Janice Bailey, Arthur Mason, Amanda Rutledge, Andrew Elliott, Diane Howell, Kimberly Wilcox, Pat Cush, Emmitt Pendley, Fritz Pendley, Michelle Howell, Jerusha Key, Jill Martindale

**AM SERMON - BEN WRIGHT - "PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE"**

**PM - SINGING AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT**

**DESSERTS FOR MARCH 19: KIM HAYNES; 26: BRENDA RUSHING**

**DAVID RAY & ANDREW ELLIOTT ARE IN NEED OF ENCOURAGEMENT.  
THEIR ADDRESSES ARE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD**

**SEE GENE OR LINDA FOR BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

**PLACE QUESTIONS IN THE QUESTION BOX**

**SEE DAVID OR GLEN FOR TAPES**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

Mar 18: Allen Lockhart

**REMEMBER GBN ON DISH CH 9407 11 AM & DIRECTV CH 225 8 AM DAILY**

# THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST  
26036 HIGHWAY 78  
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[westwalkerchurchofchrist.org](http://westwalkerchurchofchrist.org)

## TIMES OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY MORNING

**BIBLE CLASS 9:30**

**WORSHIP 10:20**

**SUNDAY EVENING 5:00**

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00**

### ELDERS:

**Franklin Brown 924-8953**

**Gene McDonald 924-4827**

**Carlton Myers 221-0637**

**Neil Myers 924-9289**

**Bruce Windham 221-2348**

### DEACONS:

**Danny Busby 387-0213**

**Jason Windham 384-1184**

**Randy Wood 221-2508**

### MINISTER:

**Ben Wright 924-2376**

**Good Morning!**  
**Ben Wright**

**March 15, 2009**  
**Sermon Advantage**

**PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE**

**I. Christians are to be \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:1-8).**

- A. God \_\_\_\_\_ his children to be fruitful (Titus 3:14).
- B. When we are fruitful it brings \_\_\_\_\_ to God (John 15:8; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- C. Being fruitful also shows that we are \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (John 15:8, NASV).
- D. Others see us and know us by our “\_\_\_\_\_” (Matthew 7:15-20).
- E. But before we can be fruitful, we must be prepared.
  - 1. This involves gaining \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 1:9-10).
  - 2. It also involves the development of inner \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Peter 1:2-8).

**II. Christians are to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 25:30).**

- A. Could you think of a greater condemnation than to be described by God as “unprofitable” – a word that is translated “\_\_\_\_\_”, “\_\_\_\_\_” and “\_\_\_\_\_” in other translations of the Bible?
- B. On the other hand, notice the praise given to John Mark by \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 4:11).
- C. Our being profitable is not just for our own benefit, but also for the good of the entire \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 12:7).
- D. But before we can be profitable, we must be prepared.
  - 1. We must put forth \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 2:15).
  - 2. We must strive for \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 4:8).

**III. Christians are to be useful (2 Timothy 2:20-21).**

- A. We are to \_\_\_\_\_ to be vessels “meet for the Master’s use.
- B. Being useful means we have \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Someone once said, “Experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you.”
- D. But before we can be useful, we must be prepared.
  - 1. Personal \_\_\_\_\_ growth is necessary.
  - 2. Preparation rarely takes place unless \_\_\_\_\_ are set.
    - a. Montaigne once said, “No wind favors him who has no destined port.”
    - b. Each member needs to set goals for where they want to be

- spiritually in one year, five, ten and twenty years.
- E. We must be aware of our accountability to God: when the final accounting is made, what will we have done with out potential?

**DON'T DROWN IN A DEAD FAITH**  
**Garrett Bookout**

There was once a man who lived at the bottom of a deep valley. One day, during the spring time, it started to rain. It rained often in this valley but never quite like this. The rain was harder than this man had ever seen. It did not take long before this valley started to flood. It eventually got to the point where the man had to go to the second story of the house to escape the flood waters. A rescue team in a boat came by and asked the man if he needed a lift. The man replied, "No, I have faith that God will save me." The rain continued and the flood waters became so high that the man eventually had to go to the roof of his house. Again, another rescue team in a boat came by and asked if the man needed some help. The man again replied, "No, I have faith that God will save me." Finally, the rain waters came down so hard and the flooding was so great that this man had to climb to the very highest point of his house, the top of the chimney. This time a rescue helicopter came and hovered over top of the man and rescue team dropped a rope ladder and begged the man to climb up because his life was in great danger. The man shouted back, "No, I have faith God will save me." So the helicopter flew off to save others and eventually the flood got so high that this man drowned and died. After his death the man stood before God and asked, "Why didn't you save me?" To this God replied, "I sent two boats and a helicopter."

This is somewhat of a humorous story to help describe a very real and serious problem that is taking place in the world today. Many believe in God and in God's power, but not enough to move them to action. Many believe in God and that He sent His Son to die for the sins of the world, but they will not obey Him to the point where He can help. They want God to save them without putting forth any effort to obey Him. They are like the man in the story and want God to lift them up and put them in the boat.

This is the very problem James addressed in his epistle: Christian with dead faith. This dead faith is "faith without works" (James 2:17a). James wrote of two important steps in pleasing God in James 1:21-24). First, we must receive the word implanted (James 1:21). It is through the word of God that we find the way to salvation. Obviously, if we have not

received this word and put it in us then we cannot find this salvation. The second step we must take to please God is to be doers of the word (James 1:22). It is pointless to know what God's desire for man is then ignore it. James said that this would be like looking in a mirror seeing there is something wrong and doing nothing about it. James wrote that it is vitally important that we not only receive the word of God but that we obey it. Let us not be like the man who wanted God to help but did not want to help himself. This kind of faith leads to death.