

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAR 14, 2010

SICK LIST:

HEALTHCARE CENTERS:

Bertharine Burton, Maudie Jones, Ruby Harrison

HOME: Flora Millwood, Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Paul Mays, H.C. Brown, Frances Vinson, Lois Boshell, Jim Windham, Connor Roden

HOSPITAL: Lois Boshell (Princeton, Rm 3133)

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Amanda Rutledge, Kimberly Wilcox, Pat Cush, Emmitt Pendley, Fritz Pendley, Jerusha Key, Sonya Parnell, Michelle Howell, Anna Turner, Francis Rushing, Irene Palmer, Vera Fike, Sue Hinds, Virginia Nicholas, Harold Walton, Paul Lockhart, Larry Drummond, Jim Murrell, J.B. Pruitt, Louise Alexander, Robin Busby, Drew Aldridge, Clyde Hall, Eugenia Barker

AM SERMON - BEN WRIGHT - IS CHRIST DIVIDED?

PM SERMON - BEN WRIGHT - PRAY FOR US

GOSPEL MEETING AT SIXTH AVENUE, MAR 21-24

GOSPEL MEETING AT NAUVOO, MAR 28-31

SEE GENE OR LINDA FOR BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

SEE DAVID FOR TAPES

BIRTHDAYS:

Mar 18: Allen Lockhart

**REMEMBER GBN ON INSPIRATION NETWORK ON DIRECTV AND DISH
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 6 AM**

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HIGHWAY 78
CARBON HILL, AL 35549
(205) 924-9038
westwalkerchurchofchrist.org

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING

BIBLE CLASS 9:30

WORSHIP 10:20

SUNDAY EVENING 5:00

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00

ELDERS:

Gene McDonald 924-4827

Carlton Myers 221-0637

DEACONS:

Danny Busby

Randy Wood

MINISTER:

387-0213 Ben Wright 924-2376

221-2508

Neil Myers 924-9289
Bruce Windham 221-2348

**IS CHRIST DIVIDED?
(1 Corinthians 1:10-13)**

Jesus _____ it.

- A. Jesus said that He would _____ His church.
- B. The truth is that one church is all that is _____.
- C. 1 Corinthians 14:33.
- D. Jesus is the One who prayed that all that followed Him would be _____
(John 17:20-21).
 - 1. One who cites that Jesus is the Builder of all the different religions charges Jesus with _____.
 - 2. The reason is that if Jesus prayed for unity and then created different bodies teaching different things, then Jesus created _____.
- E. You might ask, "Why be one?"
 - 1. If unity promotes _____, division promotes doubt and infidelity.
 - 2. It is no wonder that many that are called "unchurched" point to the division in religion and use it as an _____ to not find Jesus.
 - 3. Unity allows for _____ of faith while division allows for doubt and distress.

I. The Bible _____ it.

- A. Notice these passages: Ephesians 2:16; Ephesians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 12:20; Romans 12:4-5.
- B. The Bible simply _____ that the body and the church are one in the same (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18).
- C. The Bible illustrates unity for us by using _____ figures of speech.
 - 1. There is one _____ instead of many (John 15:1).
 - 2. There is only one vine and its _____ instead of many vines with opposing branches (John 15:1-6).
 - 3. There is only one _____ or family instead of hundreds of houses or families (1 Timothy 3:15).
 - 4. The church is pictured as a human body having one _____ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

II. Man _____ it.

- A. If a preacher preached one doctrine one time and another doctrine another time we would rightly call him a _____.
1. When man's doctrines contradict one another and God cannot be and is not the _____ of contradictions.
 2. God teaches we should walk by the same _____ (Philippians 3:16).
- B. Just because people say that we cannot see the Bible _____ doesn't make it so.
- C. Why are we _____ then?
1. The only reason is because people are _____ items of faith not in the Bible.
 2. We are _____ in the Bible; we are _____ out of it.

GIVE AN ANSWER
Victor M. Eskew

There are several religious groups that teach that man has an evil, sinful nature. They say that it has resided in man since he was born. Those who advocate this have accepted Calvin's doctrine of Total Hereditary Depravity." Adam's sin, we are told, corrupted his nature. That corrupt nature has been passed on to all men who have followed Adam. At birth, one enters into this world with a sinful nature. He is totally depraved, inside and out.

One of the passages used to "prove" this doctrine is Ephesians 2:3. In this verse, Paul is writing to Gentile Christians. He reminds them of what their life was like prior to becoming children of God. "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Those who advocate total depravity point to the words: "...who were by nature the children of wrath..." By nature, they say, we are children of wrath. By nature, they assert, we are evil and wicked.

The key to understanding this phrase is found within the definition of the word "nature." Webster's dictionary reveals that "nature" means "a mode of feeling or acting which by long habit has become characteristic." The Gentiles were not born with a sinful nature. As a people, they had engaged in the lusts of the flesh so long, that it became their nature to do evil (See Romans 1:18-32). By long standing habit, they were the children of wrath.

We see this word used again in 1 Corinthians 11:14. Paul writes: "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?" If this simply means what comes naturally, Paul would not make sense. Natural events would cause a man to have long hair. However, how, then, does "nature itself teach" that long hair is a shame to man? When the word is defined as "long standing habit," it is easily understood. In first century society, men wore their hair short. This had been the practice for many, many years. If a man failed to cut his hair, his long hair was a shame to

im. Paul's readers easily understood this long standing habit and could make the application to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians.

The concepts of total depravity and sinful nature are man-made doctrines. The Bible teaches that man is composed of both a body and a spirit. Our bodies come from the union of our parents. Our spirit comes from God. Zechariah 12:1 states that God "formeth the spirit of man within him." Ecclesiastes 12:7 and Hebrews 12:9 also teach that God is responsible for man's spirit. Can anyone imagine that God, a pure and holy Being, would place an evil, corrupt, fallen spirit within man at birth? Surely not! Babies are born innocent, knowing neither good nor evil (Deut. 1:39). Yes, God makes "man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (Eccl. 7:29). As man grows, he develops the ability to distinguish between good and evil. With that knowledge, he makes a conscious decision to sin. When that happens, that individual becomes guilty before God (Ezek. 8:20; Rom. 6:23). That individual stands in need of the salvation found in the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17). Babies are in no such condition before God. Jesus said of small children: "...for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 9:14).