

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JAN 31, 2010 SICK**

**LIST:**

**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Maudie Jones (Ridgeview Rm 110)

**HOME:** Flora Millwood, Ruby Harrison, Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Paul Mays, H.C. Brown, Frances Vinson, Mitchell Davidson, Lois Boshell, Wilma Brown, Kenneth Windham, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Jim Windham

**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, Tabitha Walker, J.B. Pruitt, Louise Alexander, Jeremy Windham

AM SERMON - JUSTIN BEARD

PM SERMON -JESSE CLAUNCH

**SINGING SCHOOL, FEB 21-25**

**THERE WILL BE A NEW CLASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS STARTING THE FIRST SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY. BRUCE WINDHAM WILL BE TEACHING**

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

**SEE DAVID FOR TAPES**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

Feb 4: Barbara Wright

5: J. P. Whitfield

**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](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:

Gene McDonald 924-4827  
924-2376  
Carlton Myers 221-0637  
Neil Myers 924-9289  
Bruce Windham 221-2348

### DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213  
Randy Wood 221-2508

### MINISTER:

Ben Wright

### How the Bible Does Authorize By Russell M. Kline

There are three essential ways in which the Bible authorizes a given doctrine or practice (Col. 3:17). One is by virtue of an *approved example*. This is an example of behavior, which is portrayed in the Scriptures as worthy of being followed, or imitated—as in a pattern (1 Pet. 2:21). The key to this concept is in knowing when a Biblical example establishes a binding precedent that applies to the church in the present day. When an example is described in the context as being both perpetual and obligatory, then it may be considered binding upon

Christians today. One example of such an example is presented in Acts 20:7, wherein there is an approved example of the frequency with which the early church met to worship God. The text says, “*And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*” This verse clearly establishes that the first day of the week (Sunday) was when the members of the ancient church came together (Heb. 10:25). That they came together to “*break bread*” does not indicate that the purpose of their gathering was simply to share a meal, but rather to partake of the Lord’s Supper, as a part of the worship they offered to God (1 Cor. 11:20-26). The fact that this service did not take place immediately upon Paul’s arrival in Troas further suggests that the first day of the week was the day in which Christians in the first century gathered for worship (Acts 20:6). This is how an example is known to be binding.

We must be careful not to confuse approved examples with examples of behavior in the Bible, which are not binding upon us today. Sinful actions, like those of the apostle Peter, when he visited the church in Antioch of Syria, are not meant for us to follow (Gal. 2:11-14). Customary actions, like those of Jesus, when He washed the disciples’ feet, are not meant for us to follow (John 13:1-17). Actions that were obligatory, but temporary, like the prescribed behavior of those who possessed miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, are not meant for us to follow (1 Cor. 14:27-32). Actions that were optional in the ancient church, like circumcision, or the observance of a special day, are still optional in the modern church (Acts 16:3; Rom. 14:5). Many in the modern religious world are confused about this, and their confusion had led them to many wrong conclusions.

Another way in which the Bible authorizes a given doctrine or practice is by virtue of a ***necessary inference***. In the simplest of terms, this is a conclusion that is demanded by the application of logic to evidence that is available in the Word of God. For example, it clearly established, in passages like Acts 17:30, that no human being may become a Christian without first repenting of his sins. Also, it is clearly established, in Acts 9, that Saul of Tarsus became a Christian. Therefore, even though the text does not say that Saul ever repented of his sins, we may necessarily infer that he did, based upon the Scriptural evidence. This is a crude example, but it straightforwardly demonstrates the principle.

In the modern religious world, there are many who confuse necessary inference with plain old assumption. For example, those who advocate the practice of baptizing babies

and small children assert that Acts 16:15 authorizes them to do so, on the basis that Lydia’s entire household was baptized. They assume that her household must have included some infants and small children, but there is no evidence to sustain that assumption. As matter of fact, there is no precedent for infant baptism anywhere in the New Testament, and that is why we, in the churches of Christ do not advocate the practice.

Finally, a third way in which the Bible authorizes a given doctrine or practice is by virtue of a ***direct statement***. Such a statement may be indicative, like the Lord’s statement about baptism in Mark 16:16. Others might be subjunctive, like Paul’s statement about the need for Christians to emphasize spiritual things in Colossians 3:1. Others might be imperative, like Paul’s statement about faith, in Acts 16:31. Others might be optative, like Paul’s rhetorical question in Romans 6:2. It is difficult to mistake the authority of a direct statement in the Scriptures, but most people simply ignore them.

Of course, many of the Bible's direct statements authorize some things as matters of expediency. For example, the Bible commands us to "go" into all the world and preach the gospel, but it is left up to us to decide if we will go by plane, train, or automobile (Mark. 16:15). Some carry this issue too far, however, when they attempt to justify unscriptural practices by arguing that they are merely matters of expediency. This argument has been proposed to justify the use of mechanical instruments of music in the singing that is done in worship services. But, the use of mechanical instruments of music does not expedite the command to "sing" (Heb. 13:15). Instead, it constitutes an addition to that which the Lord has commanded.

If only more people would learn how the Bible does and does not authorize! I am persuaded that an end could be brought to division in the religious world, if enough people could be made to understand these simple principles (1 Cor. 1:10). Let us resolve to follow the guidance that God's Word gives to us in all of its approved examples, necessary inferences and direct statements. In doing so, we could help make the world a better place.

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### **2010 EVENTS FOR WEST WALKER**

**SINGING SCHOOL - FEB 21-25 - 5 PM SUNDAY - 7 PM MON-THUR**

**VBS - JUNE 6-10 - 5 PM SUNDAY - 7 PM MON-THUR**

**CAMPAIGN - JULY 18-21**

**GOSPEL MEETING - AUG 1-5**

**GOSPEL MEETING - NOV 7-10**