

LIST:**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Maudie Jones, Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Paul Mays, Ed & Bettie Barrett, H.C. & Jimmie Nell Brown, Francis Vinson, Jamie McDonald, Bobby Myers, Barbara Wright

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Kimberly Wilcox, Jerusha Key, Sonya Parnell, Michelle Howell, Anna Turner, Francis Rushing, Irene Palmer, Vera Fike, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Paul Lockhart, Larry Drummond, Jim Murrell, Louise Alexander, Cindy Ruddard, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Amanda Gurganus, Frank Guthrie, Joe Windham, Vera Burke, Elmer Williams, Aspen White, Sandra Myers, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, Timmy Myers, Amanda Rushing, Esther Sutton

AM SERMON - BEN WRIGHT - DEFEATING TEMPTATION

PM SERMON - BEN WRIGHT - EVILS OF IDOLATRY

OUR SEMINAR ON ISLAM WILL BE FEB 25-27. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY WILL BE AT 7 PM. SUNDAY WILL BE AT 9:30 & 10:20 AM AND 1:30 PM WITH A FELLOWSHIP MEAL FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

PLEASE TAKE COPIES OF THE FLIER FOR OUR SEMINAR AND GIVE THEM TO FRIENDS AS YOU INVITE THEM

READING FOR THE WEEK: SUN- LEVITICUS 5-7; MON - 8-10; TUE - 11-13; WED - 14-16; THUR - 17-19; FRI - 20-22; SAT - 23-25; SUN 36-27

BIRTHDAYS:

Jan 30: Patricia Windham

Feb 4: Barbara Wright

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
Neil Myers 924-9289
Bruce Windham 221-2348

DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 924-2376

DEFEATING TEMPTATION

(Genesis 39:7-12)

- I. Joseph did not _____ the sin.**
- A. There are many things that Joseph could have _____ that would have led him to commit this sin.
 - B. He pointed out that it would be a _____ against God.
- II. Joseph did not _____.**
- A. He did not simply go to another _____ in the house.
 - B. Too many of us wait for a more “_____” to avoid sin.
 - C. At each _____ in life there are things that could be used to keep us from getting our lives right.
- III. Joseph did not _____.**
- A. When Potiphar’s wife grabbed his arm he _____.
 - B. If it means _____ or _____ a job to keep from sinning that is what we have to do.
 - C. Paul told the Corinthians to flee _____ (1 Corinthians 6:18).
- IV. Joseph had prior _____.**
- A. Joseph did not have to think about what the proper _____ might be.
 - B. He had made up his mind _____ before based on what he had been taught about God and His word.
 - C. Too much _____ happens when we sin.
 - 1. We _____ God and ourselves.
 - 2. We _____ the church.
 - 3. We _____ our influence.
 - 4. Our _____ are damaged.
- V. Joseph understood the _____ of sin.**
- A. Notice how God views _____ (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).
 - B. Listen to _____ 21:8.
 - C. Listen to _____ 6:9-10.
- VI. Joseph looked to the _____ and not the _____.**
- A. Sin is _____, no doubt about it.
 - B. Joseph looked to _____ glory and not earthly _____.
- VII. Joseph understood the _____ of God.**
- A. Joseph knew God _____ him.
 - B. God loved you enough to send His Son to _____ for you.
 - C. If we would really get hold of how _____ God loves us, it would go a long way in our fights with temptation.

"Maintenance" is not exactly the most exciting word. It's not something that gets the blood flowing, is it? Consider the matter of your car. Cars are an essential part of the society in which we live. And cars can be fun. But the not-so-fun thing about cars is that they have to be maintained. Maintenance is not exciting, but it's better than walking.

The Christian life must be maintained also. We have to take care of ourselves spiritually. As Christians we are expected to grow into maturity (2 Pet. 2:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:18. Christians must continually give themselves to things that will enhance their spiritual growth (e.g. regular Bible study and prayer, fellowship and encouragement, worship, evangelism, service).

An important part of our Christian lives is the work of helping other Christians to maintain their faith and stability . We're called upon to look after the needs of others in the faith (Phil. 2:4; Eph. 4:7-16). This can be both a taxing and rewarding work, but necessary. And just as we need to look out for the spiritual welfare of others, even so we need others to look out for us.

Considering your own Christian life and spiritual maturity, do you consider yourself a high-maintenance or low-maintenance Christian? We all need maintenance but some need more than others. We should expect new converts to need more encouragement and direction than older Christians. But the object is to grow steadily and sufficiently so that our faithfulness to the Lord is not as dependent on others as it was when we started down the path of faith. I have known Christians who have been in the church for many years who need a high degree of input and encouragement from other believers or they will drop out. I have known mature Christians and church leaders who seemingly invest a large amount of their energy just maintaining the faith of other Christians who never seem to grow up. This is not what the Lord intended. He doesn't want us to always be tapping the time and energy of other believers, and robbing the church of resources it could use to bring others into the kingdom.

One of the things each Christian should realize (as quickly as possible when they come into the family of God) is that spiritual growth is mandated by the God of Heaven. He expects you to grow into maturity. Growth is not just a good idea, it's a command. Furthermore, growth is not just a command, its essential to the development and work of the kingdom. It is just as essential to salvation to grow into Christ-likeness as it is to hear the Word, believe in Christ, repent of sins, confess faith in Christ, and be immersed for the remission of sins. To grow or not to grow is not an option for the child of God.

As a Christian, I will always need maintenance. I will never reach a point where I do not need to study the Bible, and pray, and worship, and need the encouragement and fellowship of other Christians. There will be times in my life, as there will be for every Christian, when I will need the aid, comfort, and counsel of wiser Christians. But I never want to be high-maintenance. I don't want my faith to be dependent on others "dragging me to church." That is a decision I should have already made as a Christian. I don't want my faith to be such that I have to be coaxed to speak to others about faith in Christ. It is a blessing to receive strength and encouragement from others, but the greater blessing comes in being able to give back; to reach a point spiritually that you become a pillar of strength and assurance for others.