

**WICK LIST:**

**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Maudie Jones, Ruby Harrison

**HOME:** Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Paul Mays, Ed & Bettie Barrett, H.C. & Jimmie Nell Brown, Kim Haynes, Bettie Barrett, Fred Elliott, Bobby Myers, Rick Pope

**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, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Joe Windham, Vera Burke, Elmer Williams, Sandra Myers, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, Esther Sutton, Robin Harrison, Bill Hawkins, Bob Daniels, April Kinney, T.D. Baker, L.J. Frost

WM - BEN WRIGHT - WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

WM - KALEB HALL

**OUR VBS IS JUNE 5-9. BE MAKING PLANS TO ATTEND AND BRING OTHERS WITH YOU**

**REMEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION GOES TOWARDS HELPING CONGREGATIONS REBUILD THAT WERE EFFECTED BY THE STORMS**

**BOPEL MEETING AT ADAMSVILLE JUNE 5-8. MORNING SERVICES MON-WED AT 10:30**

**READING FOR THE WEEK: SUN- JOB 20-24; MON- 25-28; TUE- 29-31; WED- 32-35; THUR- 36-39; FRI- 40-42; SAT- PSALM 1-8; SUN- 9-15**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

May 30: Jasmine Griggs

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

June 2: Vince & Jill Roden

# THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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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  
Carlton Myers 221-0637  
Leil Myers 924-9289  
Bruce Windham 221-2348

### DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213

### MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

**WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?**

(Job 3:23-26)

**Suffering keeps this world from becoming too \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. We are called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in this world.
- B. If there was no suffering there would be \_\_\_\_\_ to stay here.
- C. God devised things so that this world soon loses it \_\_\_\_\_.

**I. Suffering can bring out our \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. We come together as a \_\_\_\_\_ and as a \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of trials and disasters that happen around or to us.
- B. The early Christians seemed to \_\_\_\_\_ in trials, having great faith.
- C. They understood well the teaching of Paul (\_\_\_\_\_ 5:3-4).

**II. Suffering gives an occasion to \_\_\_\_\_ the enemies of God.**

- A. God wants us to silence \_\_\_\_\_ men (1 Peter 2:15).
  - 1. These people \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity as foolishness.
  - 2. Many of these people say that people are Christians only for what they can get out of it or because they are too \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. In times of trial, patient endurance and doing good for others shows the \_\_\_\_\_ of being a Christians and having a strong faith.

**V. Suffering makes us \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. We receive many \_\_\_\_\_ and good things in this life.
- B. Suffering helps us appreciate our \_\_\_\_\_ more fully.

**7. Suffering makes us more \_\_\_\_\_ on God.**

- A. A lot of times we think we are \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. It is just as Paul told the Athenians, it is in God that “we live and move and have our \_\_\_\_\_” (Acts 17:28).

**7I. Suffering helps \_\_\_\_\_ us.**

- A. 1 Peter 1:6-7 - suffering can be like purifying \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. James 1:2-5 - \_\_\_\_\_ develops through trials.

**7II. Suffering makes us \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. We are better able to comfort others when comfort has been \_\_\_\_\_ to us (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- B. We are able to weep with those who weep in \_\_\_\_\_ like these.

**7III. Suffering strengthens our \_\_\_\_\_ life.**

- A. But in times of suffering we really \_\_\_\_\_ how to pray (Romans 8:26).
- B. A suffering Christian wrote:- “I have learned more about prayer in the past six weeks than in the previous twenty years. My prayers will be \_\_\_\_\_ for the rest of my life.”

**REALITY CHECK**

**Robert Hatfield**

he mood was light, happy and even almost fun as the nicely dressed men and women stepped off the buses, walked through the barbed gate and into the camp for the first time. Rumors of the horrible activity which defiled these secluded scenes had traveled from person to person, but no one actually believed those stories. These people were nothing more than loyal followers of their fearless leader; all they wanted was a better home with better inhabitants. They looked forward to a better Germany.”

he sounds of joy and laughter quickly turned to sorrow and crying as Allied troops led the German men and women through each building at the concentration camp after the war was over. Their eyes were opened to the fact that their Nazi leaders had been murdering literally thousands upon thousands of innocent people, all of whom came from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. They could no longer hide behind their blankets of ignorance; these people finally saw reality. Many of these men and women later admitted to a previous knowledge of the concentration camps, but had simply dismissed it from their minds. They became increasingly numb to the reality of mass horror and innocent bloodshed.

Christians today look back on the tragedy of the Holocaust and find it difficult to believe that many people ignored the horror that surrounded them. However, it seems that many individuals--even Christians themselves--seem to ignore a horrific situation in which the majority are involved: the loss of souls (cf. Matt. 7:13-14). The Bible seems to reinforce the idea that an occasional “reality check” is good for Christians. Paul noted that apostasy would bring a numbness to sin.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared with a hot iron;**” (1 Tim. 4:1-2, emp. added)

The Greek behind the words “*seared with a hot iron*” means to brand or render insensitive; to numb. In Ephesians 4:19 Paul described the Gentiles’ serious sinful state as those who were, “past feeling.” They had become apathetic to sin’s destructive forces.

Isn’t it possible for Christians today to become so influenced and accustomed by the sinful world around us that we lose sight of the seriousness of sin? Could it be that many Christians are not working as they ought because they are numb to sin? The Lord is depending upon **Christians** to carry out His work and to stay focused. (Matthew 5:14-16).