

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, Fred Elliott, Bobby Myers, Henry McDonald, Bessie Files, Cynthia McMeans

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Kimberly Wilcox, Sonya Parnell, Michelle Howell, Anna Turner, Francis Rushing, Vera Fike, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, 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, Bob Daniels, April Kinney, Wilma Howell, Patsy Tucker

WM - BEN WRIGHT - "CHRISTIANS MUST BE SOUL WINNERS"

WM - BEN WRIGHT - "THE WATCHFUL FATHER"

OUR SINGING SCHOOL WILL BE SEPTEMBER 18-21

OSPEL MEETING AT PARRISH, SEP 11-14

OSPEL MEETING AT SIXTH AVENUE, SEP 25-28

READING FOR THE WEEK: SUN- EZEKIEL 35-37; MON-38-40; TUES-41-43; WED- 44-6; THUR- 47-48; FRI- DANIEL 1-3; SAT-4-5; SUN-6-7

BIRTHDAYS:

Sep 12: Sue Lockhart

13: Ethan Phillips

14: Mitchell Davidson

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

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

CHRISTIANS MUST BE SOUL WINNERS

(1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

The _____ from above (Matthew 28:18-20).

- A. God gave Jesus all _____ and Jesus used that to command us to go and make disciples of all men, baptizing them and teaching them.
- B. We have been given the only _____ necessary to save souls, which is also the only power to save souls (Romans 1:16).
- C. Our Lord set the _____ for carrying out this command while He was on earth (Luke 19:10).
 - 1. We constantly read in the gospels about Jesus _____ people.
 - 2. He went about doing _____ (Acts 10:38), which very much includes teaching people how to be saved.
- D. If we are going to be obedient to Jesus we must _____.
- E. As one writer said, "In many churches, the Great Commission has become the Great _____."

I. The _____ from beneath (Luke 16:27-28).

- A. The rich man desperately wanted his brothers to _____ the place in which he found himself.
 - 1. He was in great _____.
 - 2. He was in a place from which he could get no _____.
- B. If we could hear the cries from hell right now, we would realize how _____ evangelism really is (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).

II. The _____ from without (Acts 16:9-10).

- A. In Paul's vision, a man from Macedonia invited Paul to come over and preach the gospel because he needed the _____ it offered.
 - 1. No doubt this weighed heavily on Paul, knowing that people there were lost and needed the _____ he had.
 - 2. Therefore, Paul _____ began making plans to go over there and preach to the lost in that area.
- B. There are people that want to hear the _____ of the gospel.
- C. The greatest _____ we can bring anyone is the gospel.

V. The _____ from within (2 Corinthians 5:14).

- A. Paul felt the _____, or constraint, of the love of Christ to preach the gospel.
- B. 2 Corinthians 5:14 would have been his _____.
- C. All that Paul did was because of the _____ he had for Christ that came about as a result of the love Christ had for him.
- D. If we love Christ, we can't help but love _____ because He did and does.

The issue of instrumental music versus vocal music in worship to God has been a widely debated and controversial subject down through the years. Those in favor of the mechanical instrument cite passages like psalm 33:2-3, where David specifically said to play. But who was he writing to, and what Law were they under? In addition, if one bases his/her decision to play a mechanical instrument in their worship to God from the Old Law, would they not also be obligated to keep all other commandments found therein (Sacrifices, Sabbath, Tithing, Circumcision, Burning of incense, etc.)? Last time I checked, the Old Law had been abolished (cf. Eph. 2:15), and thus, no longer in effect (cf. Gal. 3:19, 24-25; 5:4). We're under the New Law, the Law of Christ, today. The question then is, "What does the New Testament authorize relative to the music that's to be used in our worship to God?"

Interestingly, nowhere in the N.T. is the employment of mechanical instruments in worship to God ever authorized. I do, however, find the authority to sing/vocal music (cf. 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15; Jam. 5:13; Acts 16:25). These passages make it clear who is to sing (everyone, which eliminates solo's and choirs), what we're to sing (psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs), where and when we're to sing (within the assembly - anywhere), why we're to sing (to teach and admonish one another - praise God - joy), and how we're to sing (vocally - making melody in our hearts to the Lord).

Centuries after the apostolic age (1st century), Christians joined together in singing praises to God, and they did so by employing the only instrument authorized by God; that is, the mouth and the heart. Chrysostom (347-407) made the following observation:

"It was the ancient custom, as it is still with us, for all to come together, and unitedly to join in singing. The young and the old, rich and poor, male and female, bond and free, all join in one song... All worldly distinctions here cease, and the whole congregation form one general chorus."

It is worth noting that the music employed in worship to God didn't become an issue until around the 7th century. That's when man began abandoning inspiration for innovation.

"The organ is said to have been first employed in the church during the time of Pope Vitalian I (666 A.D.). Pepin placed the Constantine organ in the church of St. Corneille at Compiègne in 755 A.D." (The New International Encyclopedia).

In my studies on the subject, I found the statements and practices made by renowned leaders within various denominations most interesting:

'Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, the restoration of other shadows of the Law" (John Calvin- Presbyterian).

'Music as a science, I esteem and admire: but instruments of music in the House of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruption's in the worship of the author of Christianity" (Adam Clarke- Methodist).

'I have no objection to instruments of music, in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen" (John Wesley- Methodist).

'The organ is an ensign of Baal" (Martin Luther- distinguished reformer).

Charles Spurgeon (Baptist) preached for 20 years to thousands of people weekly in the Metropolitan Baptist Church in London, England, and they did not have musical instruments in the worship.

God gave us our voices and then commanded us to use them to praise Him! We must come before His presence with singing (Psa. 100:1-2). Any other way He will reject.