

SICK LIST:**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Ed & Bettie Barrett, H.C. & Jimmie Nell Brown, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bessie Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald, Sue Lockhart, Kenneth & Gail Windham, Frank Brown, Charles Crump, Ricky Pope

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Jim Murrell, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, James & Wilma Howell, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Michael Pope, Robert Turner, Wonda Ivie, Bobby Wright, Gregory Morris, Donna Rutledge, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Joe Spivy, Kim Elliott, James Felton, Tommy Pope, J.D. & Delores Henslee

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "BLESS THE LORD"

PM - BEN WRIGHT - "PAUL'S DESIRE FOR THE ROMANS"

GUS NICHOLS SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL EMPHASIS THURSDAYS AT 6TH AVE.

BIRTHDAYS:

Feb 3: Kristi Busby

4: Barbara Wright

ANNIVERSARY:

Feb 5: Jason & Charity Chambers

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 522-8004

BLESS THE LORD

(Psalm 103)

I. The blessing of _____ (vs. 3a, 12-16).

- A. “Forgiveth” means _____, and it is only used of God and carries the idea of God forgiving us for _____ Him.
 - 1. Our sins are an offense to the _____ of God.
 - 2. As Habakkuk said, God is of _____ eyes than to behold iniquity.
- B. God _____ and _____ our sins.
- C. He does this because He understands our _____.
 - 1. God never expects _____ from us.
 - 2. We understand life is fragile and _____ does as well.
 - 3. It is for this reason that God has great _____ on us and offers us His forgiveness for the times we offend Him with our sins.

II. The blessing of His _____ (vs. 3b-6).

- A. God blesses us _____ every day through His providence.
- B. He provided the blessings of _____.
 - 1. This is why we take the time to _____ for the sick.
 - 2. It is not a _____ healing for which we pray
- C. God shows His love to us _____ by the things with which He provides us.
- D. God blesses us each day providentially and we must ever be _____ of that.

III. The blessing of _____ His will (vs 7).

- A. God made His ways _____ to Moses is how David describes it.
- B. Thankfully, God saw fit to open His arms to all people _____ His Son Jesus.
- C. By doing so, God revealed His will for _____ mankind, not just a segment of it.

IV. The blessing of His _____ (vs. 8-11).

- A. God has great _____ on His people, really all mankind.
- B. Paul described God as being _____ in mercy (Ephesians 2:4).
- C. Here, David said God is _____ in mercy.
- D. He shows that mercy by being _____ to anger.
- E. Then David states a great _____ about the mercy of God.
 - 1. God does not deal with us _____ to our sins.
 - 2. One sin is worthy of _____ (Romans 6:23).
 - 3. However, because of His mercy, _____ is available.

V. All these blessing are _____ upon one thing (vs. 18).

- A. The blessings of God are contingent upon us being _____.
- B. God blesses those who keep His _____ and do His will.
- C. All these blessings from God hinge on us _____ what God says.
- D. Jesus said, “If you _____ me, keep my commandments.”

PUBLIC CONFESSIONS

John Baker

“Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that you may be healed” (James 5:16).
This passage has stirred much controversy over the years, giving rise to at least two false doctrines.

First, some have taken this passage to refer to a “confessional” system in which Christians must confess every sin to some kind of a leader, “discipler,” or priest. Second, some well-meaning brethren have taught and believed that every individual sin must be made known before the church before forgiveness can take place. While there ARE times when a public confession of sin is warranted, a Biblical view of these matters can give us a better sense of what responses are appropriate.

What is Confession? — Confession comes from a Greek word (*homologeō*) that literally means, “to speak the same,” or, “to agree with.” Thus, a confession is nothing more than our agreement with and acknowledgement of something that is already true. John says, “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). To confess our sins to God, then, is simply to say the same thing about our thoughts and actions that God already knows to be true! Confession is agreement with God’s divine verdict in our lives. John goes on to say that, “if we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us” (1 John 1:10). These Scriptures make clear that our forgiveness is partly based on our agreeing with God. We must say the same thing about sin that God does, or the truth is not in us.

Must We Publicly Confess All Trespasses? — Confession of sin is not just a matter between man and God. In fact, Jesus commanded us to, “first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:24). The implication is that sin can directly affect relationships between brethren, and when that happens, confession is necessary for a restoration to take place. There is no Biblical precedent for sweeping sin under the rug and acting as if nothing happened. Rather, when our actions and attitudes have offended others, we need to “speak the same thing” that our brethren already know! Public confession is a mutual recognition of something that has deeply hurt individuals. May God give all of us forgiving hearts when sin is among us (Matt. 6:14)!

When, Then, Must We Respond Publicly? — Since confession is an agreement, a mutual recognition of a truth, we must always be ready to confess sins to God (Acts 8:22), for He knows everything about our hearts (Ps. 139:23-24). If our sin has hurt other individuals, we must be willing to make things right with the concerned parties as well (Matt. 5:24). Sometimes, however, our sin is so great that it affects the local church. There seem to be several circumstances under which a public confession of sin is needed. (1) When our attitudes and behavior in the community have brought reproach upon the name of Christ and the local church (Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:1-4). (2) When our attitudes and behavior have created strife and division within the local church (1 Cor. 1:10). (3) When our moral life has been an occasion of stumbling for others (1 Cor. 5:1-13). (4) When we have failed to encourage our brethren by faithful attendance (Heb. 3:13; 10:25). (5) When our conscience, guided and convicted by God’s word, tells us we need to make things right before God and the church (Rom. 14:23). Not every sin demands a public confession, but I suspect that God would be glorified and churches would be strengthened if there was more Godly sorrow in us all (2 Cor. 7:14).