

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 & Michael Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald, Willie Nelson, Robin Busby, Bettye Henderson, Kenneth Windham

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, 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 Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, James Felton, Tommy Pope, J.D. Dailey, James Horsley, Brenda Holloway, Kathy Pate, Jake & Diane Chambers, Eloise Spivy, Donna Laratta, Robin & Brandon Mullis

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "WHO WILL FOLLOW JESUS?"

PM - BEN WRIGHT - "WAS THE LAW OF MOSES GOOD?"

SINGING SCHOOL SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8. WE WILL HAVE A LUNCH FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP AND THEN CLASSES DURING THE AFTERNOON. PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND

GREAT JOB BY THE BIBLE BOWL TEAM. PLEASE BE SURE TO ENCOURAGE THEM AND ALSO THANK THOSE WHO ARE WORKING WITH THEM

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO SHEILA WINDHAM DUE TO THE DEATH OF HER MOTHER JEWEL FIELDS. SERVICES WERE TUESDAY

ANNIVERSARY:

Sep 3: Chuck & Patricia Windham

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HWY 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
Barry Lawson 272-1211
David Preston 300-1927
Kevin Richardson 295-8864
Chris Robbins 388-1354
Vince Roden 924-4062

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT FOLLOWING HIM

(Matthew 16:24)

- I. There is a _____ to be made.**
- A. We must decide if we want to follow _____ or not.
 - 1. No doubt it is the _____ decision a person will ever make.
 - 2. It has the power to effect your _____.
 - B. Long ago, Joshua challenged the Israelites to make a _____, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve..." (Joshua 24:15).
 - C. Notice that this beginning of a sentence destroys _____.
 - D. It takes a _____ person to truly decide to follow Jesus.
- II. There is _____ to be mastered.**
- A. _____ - _____ is the next step in being a follower of Jesus.
 - B. Jesus must be first and He _____ first place.
 - 1. We are choosing to follow Him, meaning He is our _____.
 - 2. He is the _____ of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).
 - 3. The church is His _____ (Ephesians 5:22-33).
 - C. _____ modeled this self-denial for us (Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 9:27).
 - D. We must have the _____ of Jesus, when He said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me..."
 - E. When we _____ have to follow Jesus, we will be able to deny self.
- III. There is _____ to be met.**
- A. Self-denial will only continue as long as one is _____.
 - B. You and I are saying we are _____ to take on whatever comes our way in order to be pleasing to God.
 - C. I believe we lose a lot of our _____ right here.
 - D. Often times, parents striving to allow their children to be popular or to fit in, end up _____ their children.
- IV. There is _____ to the Master.**
- A. Jesus is now _____ in heaven and that is where we want to be (Colossians 3:1).
 - B. The way there is _____ (Matthew 7:13-14).
 - C. However, it is well _____ it (Matthew 25:23; 1 Peter 1:1-3).
 - D. The path is _____ and there is only one (John 14:6).
 - E. When we are running the Christian race down the strait and narrow road and begin to look around, we begin to _____ from the direction we are heading.

Studying the book of Acts chapter by chapter leads one to understand that salvation is attained by hearing the gospel, believing it, repenting of sins, confessing that Jesus is the Christ, and being baptized for the forgiveness of sins. The Apostle Peter establishes this pattern for salvation early in the pages of Acts (see Acts 2:22-44). Each time the church grew it was because the same gospel message was preached (see Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:1, 7 etc.). Philip preached the same message to the Samaritans (Acts 8:12-13) and the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39). Peter preached baptism for the remission of sins to Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:48). Paul preached the same message to those of Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:38-39) and every where he preached (see 1 Corinthians 4:17).

By the time one arrives at Acts 15 the pattern of salvation has been firmly established. When the Apostle Paul and Barnabas hear that some are preaching the necessity of circumcision for salvation they were greatly alarmed and "*had no small dissention and questioning with them*" (see Acts 15:1-5). Circumcision had never been in the equation of salvation. It was now; however, being introduced by believing Pharisees. The conclusion to the matter is that salvation is by the grace of God and not by works of circumcision. The Pharisees had added a step to the salvation process that had never been there to begin with. If God desired men to be circumcised he would have had Peter, by the power of the Holy Spirit, teach this from the beginning but he did not do this.

A valuable lesson is learned regarding established patterns and authorized silence in the word of God. When God gives the command to hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized man is not at liberty to add something like circumcision to this. Neither is a man at liberty to take away any part of this established pattern. Those who say that baptism is not a part of God's saving grace are sorely mistaken (see Acts 15:11 in its context compared to Acts 2:38 and Ephesians 1:7). The established pattern of salvation must be left as it is.

The book of Revelation ends with a solemn warning against those who would altar God's instructions. Moses (Deuteronomy 4:2) and Paul (Galatians 1:6-9) gave similar warnings in relation to adding or subtracting from divine revelation. Man is not at liberty to alter or change God's divine instructions. God's instructions are designed to fabricate a justified man of hope. When man altars God's instructions the result is not a justified man of hope but a fabrication of man's own devices. When false teaching is added to truth, as though it represented truth it is to be identified as a doctrine of demons (see 1 Timothy 4:1ff). Subtracted ideas and doctrines only elevate a man to the status of God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). Who is man to change what the Alpha and Omega has announced?

The established pattern of salvation in the book of Acts also teaches us about God's authorized silence. God, through his apostles, taught men what they needed to know about salvation. God did not have to say "Thou shalt not be circumcised to be saved." The Lord had already revealed his mind on the subject of salvation. Today, God does not have to say, "Thou shalt not say the sinner's prayer to be saved... sprinkle babies and call it baptism... accept Jesus into your heart and consider yourself saved..." and many other man made doctrines. God's silence must be respected. Let us take the word of God for what it is and leave our human reason behind us (see Galatians 1:11-12).