

SICK LIST:**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Ruby Harrison, Ed Barrett

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Jimmie Nell Brown, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bessie & Michael Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald, Willie Nelson, Kenneth Windham, Brandi Preston, Gene McDonald

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, Donna Laratta, Robin & Brandon Mullis, Angie Johnson, Kathy Windham, Lane Clark, James Mason, Arthur Mason, Jerry Wright, Kelly Tittle

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "FOR PREACHING THE NECESSITY OF BAPTISM"

PM - BEN WRIGHT - "GOD IS SOVEREIGN"

ELDERS MEETING TONIGHT AFTER SERVICES**MEN'S DAY AT WINFIELD JAN 25 AT 9 AM****BIRTHDAYS:**

Jan 13: Bruce Windham

14: Cynthia McMeans

18: Cynthia Pope

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
David Preston 300-1927
Kevin Richardson 295-8864
Chris Robbins 388-1354
Vince Roden 924-4062

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

FOR PREACHING THE NECESSITY OF BAPTISM
(Acts 2:37-38)

I. _____ 2:38.

- A. This passage is probably the most hotly _____ passage in the New Testament when dealing with the subject of baptism.
- B. The most contested part of this verse is the word the Greek word that is translated “_____.”
- C. One must repent and be baptized towards, or to enter the state of or _____, the forgiveness of sins.
- D. The word “and” is a _____ that joins things of equal value.
- E. In Acts 2:38, repent and be baptized are of _____ value.
 - 1. One without the other is _____.
 - 2. Both are necessary to _____ the forgiveness of sins.

II. _____ 1:17.

- A. You might be thinking that this is an _____ verse to use to show the lack of need to be baptized in order to be saved.
- B. In conjunction, many will use Matthew 4:1-3 where we are told that _____ did not baptize others, only the disciples.
- C. What is important about these two passages is that the one doing the baptizing is not _____.
 - 1. There was a great problem already in Corinth of _____.
 - 2. Part of the problem there was that some claimed _____ because of who baptized them.
- D. Paul never _____ baptism.

III. _____ 3:3-7.

- A. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born of _____ and the _____.
- B. They don't understand that Jesus is making a _____ point.
 - 1. Notice that being born of water and the Spirit is after _____.
 - 2. The word except is _____: except you do both, you won't enter kingdom of God.
- C. The idea is that one must be born of water, baptized, and of the Spirit, by the _____ of the Spirit.
- D. _____ 3:5 is a commentary on this passage.

Should We Change?

Joe Slater

Is change good or bad? That depends on what is changing, why, and how, among other things. Biblically speaking, some changes are mandatory; others are optional; still others

are sinful. Unfortunately, most of the agitation for change within the Lord's church falls into that last category. However, the self-styled "change agents" tend to lump their unscriptural changes together with harmless changes, as though mentioning them all in the same breath makes them equivalent. It behooves us to know the difference to avoid being deceived.

Scripture mandates that we change. The very word "convert" means change; and repentance is a change of mind. We are to be transformed (changed) by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2). Yes, the Bible requires that sinful thoughts, words, and deeds must be changed!

Other changes are optional. Suppose the church changed the time that we assemble. It might not be wise; you and I might not like it; but it would not be sinful, for the Bible leaves this matter open. What if the song leader taught us a song we had never sung before? As long as it was scriptural, it would not be wrong, even if you and I didn't care much for it. Some congregations observe the Lord's Supper toward the end of the assembly rather than the beginning. Since the Bible doesn't specify one way or the other, this is purely optional. Congregations with which I am familiar have no problems with points like these.

Despite claims that "we aren't changing the gospel, we're just using a more up-to-date approach," most of the changes being pushed upon churches of Christ today are, in fact, unscriptural. When the window dressing is stripped away, we are left with supposedly "Christian" leaders (elders, preachers, professors, editors, etc.) who teach, practice, and promote error. Such elementary principles as the purpose of baptism have been abandoned, not to mention the unique, undenominational nature of the church. Worship is exchanged for entertainment; Biblical authority is sacrificed upon the altar of subjective feelings; truth is traded for so-called "unity-in-diversity."

Will we be swept away with the tide? Or will we resist sinful changes while choosing optional changes only with care and wisdom? May God help us to love Him and His truth, and to be "steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).