

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, Gene McDonald, Lynn Honeycutt

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, John Pruitt

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "FOR PREACHING AGAINST DENOMINATIONALISM"

PM - BEN WRIGHT - "THE FAILURE OF ISRAEL"

BIBLE BOWL TODAY AT 2 PM AT EAST WALKER

GOSPEL MEETING AT PARRISH JAN 31-FEB 2

QUILTING GROUP WILL MEET TUESDAY NIGHT AT 6

BIRTHDAYS:

Jan 20: Blake Wright

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 AGAINST DENOMINATIONALISM

(Matthew 16:15-19)

I. What is denominationalism?

- A. The Westminster Dictionary of Church History defines it as: “The system and ideology founded on the division of the religious population into numerous ecclesiastical bodies, each stressing particular values or traditions, and each _____ with the other in the same community under substantial conditions of freedom.”
- B. The American Heritage Dictionary defines denomination as: “A large group of religious _____ united under a common faith and name and organized under a single administrative and legal hierarchy.”
- C. So denominationalism is the splitting up into various religious denominations, each of which are _____ by some person or body that decides things for them.

II. Denominationalism is sinful.

- A. It is sinful because it has no scriptural basis for _____.
 - 1. In the New Testament, local churches were _____ divided into differing bodies with differing beliefs.
 - 2. There was no way this could be the case because the same thing was being taught _____ by the apostles (1 Corinthians 4:17).
- B. When you read the New Testament, we see several things about the local congregation:
 - 1. Each congregation was autonomous (_____ - _____);
 - 2. Each one was overseen by elders from that particular _____ (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2).
 - 3. The only authority above the local congregation was _____ and His _____.
 - 4. The apostles were not _____ when they died, except for Judas.
 - 5. _____ is head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).
- C. Denominationalism is _____ scripture as well.
 - 1. It goes against what Jesus _____ for, recorded in John 17:20-23.
 - 2. The _____ behind it is condemned in 1 Corinthians 1:10-13.
 - 3. Being divided is shown to be a sign of being _____ minded (1 Corinthians 3:3-4).
 - 4. It goes against the work of Jesus on the _____ (Ephesians 2:14-16).
- D. It _____ the cause of Christ.
 - 1. _____ is a sign to the world that Jesus is Lord (John 17:21), therefore disunity hurts Christ.
 - 2. The religious division that exists is used by atheists and others as a _____ not to obey the Lord.
 - 3. Not only that, it has given rise to other _____ religions.

III. We can't be part of the _____.

- A. No matter what others may teach, we must always _____ for truth.
- B. We promote denominationalism when we _____ like we are part of one.

IF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WILL TRULY BE UNDENOMINATIONAL

Neal Pollard

The Restoration Plea is valid, vital, and victorious! It urges every believer in Christ to throw off the shackles of humanly-devised traditions and beliefs that undermine and contradict the sole, supreme authority of Christ. Religious division has been spawned through time because of men's preference for their own creeds and doctrines. Reason and rationale becomes, "We've always done this" or "We prefer this" rather than "Thus saith the Lord!" With human nature, we are often prone to see such faulty thinking in others while being blinded to our own potential guilt. This happens to us individually and it certainly can happen to us collectively. Painfully aware of my own limitations and shortcomings, may I offer some cautions to us out of a sincere love of Christ and His glorious bride?

If the church of Christ will truly be undenominational:

1. We must build our faith and beliefs from the "text out" rather than assert our beliefs and then find verses to support it.
2. We must avoid blind loyalty to any individual, congregation, school, work, and the like.
3. We must determine not to press our inclinations, preferences, judgments, and opinions to the extent that such divides brethren or becomes matters of fellowship.
4. We must strive to preach and practice "the whole counsel of God," even in unpopular matters or those we may have neglected (church discipline, evangelism, marriage, divorce, and remarriage, moral purity, first-century-like benevolence, etc.).
5. We must be patient and loving within and towards congregations, be they Thessalonians or Corinthians.
6. We must avoid unconditionally venerating and idolizing men above the Lord.
7. We must repent of our intensely "in-reach" philosophy and rededicate ourselves to intense "outreach" in our communities.
8. We must avoid convenient silence in our pulpits and classrooms regarding New Testament distinctiveness and doctrine.
9. We must increase our faith in the absolute, unqualified Lordship of Jesus.

This list is inevitably incomplete and imperfect. How could it not be, since it is put forward by one who is certainly both those things? Yet, it is put forward to emphasize that there is an urgent need for us to continually examine our beliefs and practices making sure our allegiance is to the Christ and not men—however great and noble they seem to us. Our Lord said, "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day" (John 12:48).