

ANNOUNCEMENTS**AUG 17, 2014****SICK LIST:****HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Ruby Harrison, Jimmie Nell Brown

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bessie & Michael Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald, Lizzie Banks, Danny Rushing,

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, 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, Kathy Windham, Lane Clark, Arthur Mason, Kelly Tittle, John Pruitt, Joyce Blankenship, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Donald Rhodes, Debbie Jackson, Diane Townley, Elesia Wright

AM - BEN WRIGHT - EIGHT STEPS TO SALVATION

PM - SINGING AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO JINCY WRIGHT DUE TO THE DEATH OF HER UNCLE JOHN SPEEGLE. SERVICES WERE FRIDAY

SINGING SUNDAY WILL BE SEP 21. ROB GURGANUS WILL BE WITH US TO TEACH SINGING SCHOOL THAT DAY AND WE WILL HAVE A MEAL AFTER MORNING SERVICES

BIRTHDAYS:

Aug 18: Glenn Lockhart

22: Charity Chambers

ANNIVERSARIES:

Aug 17: Frank & Wilma Brown

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

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

EIGHT STEPS TO SALVATION
(Matthew 5:3-12)

- I. Be _____ in spirit.**
- A. Blessed indicates _____ that doesn't pass away.
 - B. Poor in spirit shows a desire to _____ our lives of self and place Christ first in all that we do.
 - C. Jesus came for those that recognize the need for the saving _____.
- II. Be a _____.**
- A. This is not a trait looked upon with _____ in the world.
 - B. The mourners that Jesus wants are those who mourn over their _____.
 - 1. This carries the idea of _____
 - 2. When we mourn this way there is _____ to be had.
 - C. Mourning shows that we understand we have _____ against God.
- III. Be _____.**
- A. Many associate this with _____.
 - B. Meekness has been described as strength under _____.
 - 1. It has to do with being _____ when responding to God's will.
 - 2. God has always _____ for the meek.
- IV. Hunger and thirst for _____.**
- A. These are two of the most _____ drives in nature.
 - B. When we've taken the other steps, we are now ready to _____.
 - 1. We will be ready to do _____ to learn God's will.
 - 2. Jesus promises we will be _____ if we continue to learn.
- V. Be _____.**
- A. These next three steps are _____ traits of citizens of the kingdom.
 - B. Mercy is defined as: "to help one _____ or seeking aid."
 - C. It has been described as "actively _____."
 - D. To _____ mercy, we are to be merciful.
- VI. Be _____ in heart.**
- A. Without this, there is no way we will _____ God.
 - B. Our hearts are purified when we obey the _____ (1 Peter 1:22).
- VII. Be a _____.**
- A. This has to do with making peace between _____ and _____.
 - B. Those living this spiritual life will want to reveal their _____ to others.
- VIII. By being _____.**
- A. This is what will take place if we are _____ of God.

- B. We must have the attitude of _____ (Philippians 1:20, 24).
1. We will gain the kingdom of _____.
 2. We will have _____ blessings.

May I Follow Your Example?

Mike Gifford

The apostle Paul was an amazing man. He suffered incredible hardship for the cause of Christ (II Co. 11:23ff). He cast aside his position in the ranks of Judaism so that he might “be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.” (Php. 3:9-10). He diligently battled with the sword of the Spirit until his dying day (II Ti. 4:7). He was a marvelous example of a Christian. Like righteous Abel, even though Paul is dead, his exemplary walk of faith lives (He. 11:4).

By Divine inspiration, Paul wrote what could be judged as daring words regarding his example. In I Co. 4:16 he said, “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.” He told the Philippian church, “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.” (Php 3:17). He repeated this sentiment to the Corinthian church, adding this qualifier, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (I Co. 11:1). Some might consider these exhortations to be brash. After all, Paul was just a man. He was not perfect (Ro. 7:15ff). Why would God allow this imperfect man to encourage others to follow him? I Co. 11:1 answers this question plainly. The contexts of the other verses give their own crystal clear answers. In the context of each, Paul writes of faithfulness to the Lord. He was not seeking personal glory. Instead, he was asking fellow Christians to look and see Christ in him. He was asking them to see what he had suffered for the sake of the Lord and why he had suffered so much. His faith was unshakeable. He wanted his fellow soldiers of the cross to see that and endure with the same determined trust in God that he was demonstrating. As always, Paul’s focus was on bringing glory to God. He was merely trying to encourage his readers to see the power in the life of a Christian who had devoted himself to the Lord.

This brings rise to the question found in this article’s title. I could ask it of you or you could ask it of me. Think about the question for a moment. Do you want others to follow your example? Would doing so bring them closer to God or drive them farther away? Would you rather that people not take a close look at your life?

The fact of the matter is that whether we want it or not, we are constantly being scrutinized. Don’t our children look at our examples? Don’t our friends and co-workers turn an examining eye toward us? Certainly we know that our family watches to see what type of Christians we really are. Can we, by the lives we live, say in the context of a life of faithfulness to the Lord, “Follow me”?

Back in the 1970s there was a television commercial that showed a father and son enjoying a day together. They laughed and played. Everything the father would do, the son would try to mimic. When the day was closing and the two were leaning against a tree and relaxing, the father reached for a pack of cigarettes, pulled one out of the pack and lit it up. He then set the pack back on the ground between him and his son. The commercial closed with the son staring at the pack of cigarettes. The message of the commercial was clear. The son wanted to be like his father in every way, even if it meant engaging in a harmful act like smoking.

This isn't just about our parental example. It's a clarion call to each Christian to pause and consider at this very moment whether or not we are setting examples that bring honor to God. Dare we invite people to follow us? Even if we don't say it audibly, do we show the world by our actions that we are not afraid for anyone to look to us to see the light of Christ?

May I follow your example? I'll ask you that and you feel free to ask me as well. In so doing, ideally we'll engage in some serious self-examination and recognize the need for personal accountability for the examples we set before others.