

**SICK LIST:****HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Ruby Harrison, J.D. Dailey (Ridgeview, Rm 154)

**HOME:** Freddie Alexander, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Michael Files, Henry McDonald, Lizzie Banks, Kristee McDonald, Bruce Windham, Sandy Richardson

**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, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Debbie Jackson, Diane Townley, Ralph Moon, Elesia Wright

AM - NEIL MYERS

PM - NEIL MYERS

**GOSPEL MEETING AT OAKMAN, NOV 9-12****BIRTHDAYS:**

Nov 10: Eugene McDonald & Leta Phillips

# 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

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD - HAS IT COME?  
J.K. Gossett**

The kingdom of heaven was foretold by Daniel (Daniel 2:44). It was announced, “at hand,” when Jesus was upon the earth. John the baptizer, Jesus, the twelve apostles, and the seventy, preached, “Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand “ (Matthew 3:2). “At hand” means nearby or approaching, ready to occur. Surely it must be the case that the kingdom of heaven was “set up” near the time when Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

The kingdom was to come during the life time of some who heard Jesus speak. The Lord said, “Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power” (Mark 9:1). Either the kingdom has come or there are some on the earth who are nearly two thousand years old: Therefore, the kingdom has come.

The kingdom was to come with power (Mark 9:1). The power was to come when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles (Acts 1:6-8). The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles on the first Pentecost after the Lord’s ascension. Therefore, the kingdom came on this day (Acts 2:1-8).

Jesus communes with us in the Lord’s supper which is in the kingdom. The Master said, after instituting the Lord’s supper, “But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom” (Matthew 26:29). If the kingdom has not come, then the Lord’s supper cannot be eaten. Since the Lord’s supper was observed in the first century, it follows that the kingdom existed at that time (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-30).

The saints at Colosse were in the kingdom. God had translated them from the power of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13-14). One can’t be translated into something which does not exist. Conclusion: The kingdom existed when Paul wrote and the Colossians were in it.

“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear; for our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:28-29).

The reign of Christ began on the first Jewish Pentecost after the ascension. It will end when Jesus comes again (Acts 2:29-38; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28).

**“THE SINNER’S PRAYER”**

**J.K. Gossett**

The “sinner’s prayer” has no biblical standing. However, if one may be saved by so praying, it seems that Bible would read something like this: “He that believeth and prays the sinner’s prayer shall be saved, but he that does not pray shall be lost.” But this is not what the Lord said. What the Lord did say is this: “He that believeth and **IS BAPTIZED** shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

The people who crucified the Lord were the first to hear the gospel. Peter said to them, “Repent and pray the sinner’s prayer every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Is this what he said? No! What the inspired apostles did say is this: “Repent and **BE BAPTIZED** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Now, what did the people do who were so instructed? Verse 41: “Then they that gladly received his word prayed the sinner’s prayer, and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” Before anyone shouts “hallelujah, praise the Lord, “ read this passage again. What it really says is this: “Then they that gladly received his word **WERE BAPTIZED**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

Luke, the historian of the early church, wrote of the Samaritans, “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and name of Jesus Christ, they prayed the sinner’s prayer, both men and women.” No, the passage does not say “They prayed the sinner’s prayer.” The text states that they were **BAPTIZED**, both men and women (Acts 8:12).

Ananias instructed Saul to “arise, and say the sinner’s prayer; and wash away thy sins calling on the name of the Lord.” Friends, this, as many will recognize, is an erroneous quotation. Saul was instructed to “arise, and **BE BAPTIZED**, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

Finally, sinners are to be baptized. Christians are to pray. May we never reverse the biblical order.