

SICK LIST:

HEALTHCARE CENTERS:

Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Michael Files, Henry McDonald, Lizzie Banks, Bruce Windham, J.D.

Dailey, Sandra Hunt, Betty Henderson, Gene McDonald, Betty Honeycutt

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 - BEN WRIGHT - "THE PROBLEM OF HUMANISM"

PM - JORDAN GRAY

REMEMBER MIDWEEK SERVICES WILL BE THIS TUESDAY EVENING AT 7 PM

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER ORDER FORMS TO CHRIS OR SHANNA BY NEXT SUNDAY NIGHT. THIS MEAL WILL BE DEC 21 AFTER EVENING SERVICES AT THE BULLPEN IN OAKMAN

BIRTHDAYS:

Nov 28: Bobbie Dailey

29: Brandi Preston

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 PROBLEM OF HUMANISM

(Jeremiah 10:23)

I. Some definitions.

- A. _____ - having concern for or helping to improve the welfare and happiness of people.
1. Humanists are often benevolent but not because they can point to some _____ that requires it.

2. Some oppose sending _____ to other nations which have, as one stated, “exceeded their biological carrying capacity.”

B. The _____ - the study of classical languages and classical literature.

C. _____ - characterized by tenderness, compassion, and sympathy for people and animals, especially for the suffering or distressed.

1. Is it humane to teach those who have birth defects should be _____?

2. Is it humane to withhold aid to other nations unless they institute measures to control _____?

D. Long ago, Protagoras, a 5th century B.C. philosopher, said, “Man is the _____ of all things.”

II. Their beliefs.

A. Humanists, for the most part, are either _____ or _____.

B. The false theory of _____ is part and parcel of humanism.

C. They believe that there is no _____ after _____.

D. Humanism teaches that man is a free being able to do that which _____ him as an individual as long as what is practiced does not hurt others.

E. What is scary, is that much of this can be found in the _____ used to teach our young people in the public school systems across America.

III. God's _____ to humanism.

A. The _____ of humanism sound good.

1. Let's have a _____ world that is more loving and kind.

2. Let's _____ the individual human being.

B. The truth is: God's answer is the _____ for mankind.

C. Both of those goals, the better world and the improved individual, are all accomplished through _____ to the gospel.

D. _____ is accomplished through the gospel (John 13:34-35).

E. _____ is a by product of gospel obedience (Colossians 3:12-14).

F. Obedience to the gospel _____ the individual human being.

G. God's answer to humanism is found in _____:_____.

1. Man can't make his problems any _____ on his own.

2. We _____ things up (Jeremiah 10:23).

Humanism and Authority Kevin Cauley

In 1973 the American Humanist Association came out with Humanist Manifesto II. In this document, among other things, is found this statement: “We believe in maximum individual autonomy consonant with social responsibility.” The document goes on to associate “social responsibility” as not harming others. That premise, however, is a relative one. It is left up to the individual to decide what is or is not harmful. This places the emphasis upon “maximum individual autonomy.” The manifesto rejects strictures on the individual in the forms of religious injunctions and sexual constraints. It is the personal autonomy of the individual that is left to make such decisions for himself ultimately using his own judgment and reason. It is the humanist contention, then, that no one individual, as an individual, has a right to tell any other individual, as an individual, what not to do. This is the essence of “maximum individual autonomy.”

But have not the humanists just told individuals what to do? That is, in making the statement “no one individual, as an individual, has a right to tell any other individual, as an individual, what not to do” hasn't the one affirming that statement to another just told another what

he may not do? Wherein is the authority for affirming such a statement, if it is not with the individual? Is it with groups of individuals? Is it with the majority? Is it simply might makes right?

The bottom line is that man, as man, holds no intrinsic authority within himself. The notion of autonomous man is a myth, a hoax, a lie, because any autonomy I claim for myself necessitates a claim upon another individual's autonomy over me. Take the example of prayer in school. One student wishes to pray out loud. Another student objects, and ends up forcing silence on all. Has not the defense of one student's personal autonomy resulted in the subjugation of the autonomy of the other students? Many similar examples could be presented. Autonomous man really holds no authority. Jeremiah declared such to be the case when he said, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

If there is no autonomous authority intrinsic to the individual, from whence does one's authority for living one's life derive? Surely it does not derive from one's sheer arbitrary will, for then one could do what one pleased regardless the consequences to others. Does it lie with the government? Many would answer that governments of the past have gone horribly awry in directing the lives of their citizens, and many still do. Do the wealthy/powerful (the aristocracy) hold authority? Certainly abuses have been documented by these also. There is only one source upon which men may call for authority in all matters: God. I do not know anyone that would dispute the point that if God exists, He holds all authority. What is equally true is that if God does not exist, no man holds any intrinsic authority.

We confidently affirm that God exists and that He has all authority to direct and guide the affairs of man. Moreover, it is our affirmation that God does this through His inspired word, the Bible. Today, God has given all authority to His Son, Jesus the Christ (Matthew 28:18). It is incumbent upon us to seek Christ's authority, respect Christ's authority, and submit to Christ's authority. May God so help us to do.