

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAN 4, 2015

SICK LIST:

HEALTHCARE CENTERS:

Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Michael Files, Henry McDonald, Lizzie Banks, Bruce Windham, Vercie Griffin, Kristee McDonald, Leta Phillips, Gene McDonald, Chris Robbins, Neil Myers

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 NEED FOR AUTHORITY

PM - BEN WRIGHT - THINKING RIGHT ABOUT CHURCH GROWTH

MEN'S DAY AT WINFIELD JAN 31 AT 9 AM

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 NEED FOR AUTHORITY
(Matthew 21:23-27)

I. The need _____.

- A. The rejection of authority is not _____.
- B. We see it back in the days of _____.
- C. When we come to the time of the _____, we see the need arise again.
- D. As you read through the history of Israel recorded in 1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles, you quickly see that authority went out the window and _____ ensued.
- E. When you come to the time of Christ, you see that the Jews had turned to their own man-made _____.
- F. In reality, the times of greatest growth of the Lord's church are times when authority was _____ and adhered to in social and academic settings.

II. The need _____.

- A. The book of Deuteronomy is filled with statements that show the need the _____ had for authority.
 - 1. Moses warned them of the _____ they faced if they turned from God's way for them.
 - 2. Deuteronomy 8:19-20.
- B. The Proverbs writer let his audience know that man needs _____ (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).
- C. Jeremiah let his audience know that man needs authority (Jeremiah 10:23).
- D. Man is incapable of reaching God by doing as he _____.
- E. There is the need for authority in what we do _____ (Colossians 3:17).

III. The need _____.

- A. There has always only been _____ who has the authority and that is God.
- B. We are to appeal to _____ for all that we do in religion (Colossians 3:17).
- C. There is an objective body of truth to which we must turn for a _____ (John 8:31-32; John 17:17).
- D. Anything we desire to do in worship to God or in regards to organization or work of the church must be _____ by God's word (Colossians 3:17).
- E. We can find authority for something or find a lack of authority for something in that word if we _____ for it.
 - 1. We can find out if we have or don't have authority for something if we read and study God's word on that _____.
 - 2. It is not a matter of whether we like it or not, but whether God

_____ of it or not.

Do You Wear a Bridle? Clay Bond

It is said that a doctor can tell a great deal about our physical condition simply by looking at our tongue. The same is true of our spiritual condition. How we use our tongues is a great indicator of our spiritual status. Did you know that all of our religion amounts to nothing if we do not learn to bridle our tongues? "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26). Jesus warned that it is the things that come out of our mouths that defile us (Matt. 15:18). If we want our religious devotion to be meaningful, we need to be careful what we say to others.

According to James, one who can bridle (or control) their tongue has the ability to control their whole body and is perfect. This type of self control is a mark of spiritual maturity (James 3:1-18). When we allow our tongues to get out of control, it doesn't take long for our body, our whole being to follow suit. A tongue that is out of control affects the entirety of one's life. Even our eternal fate is determined by how we use our tongues. Solomon said, "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction" (Prov. 13:3). According to Jesus, the words that come out of our mouth can either "justify" or "condemn" us (Matt. 12:36-37). As is true with any sinful behavior, we must master it or it will master us.

Our words have a tremendous impact on those around us. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness" (Prov. 15:1-2). Changing the way we talk to others is a sure way to improve our relationships. Think about the way you talk to your parents, your spouse, your children, your co-workers and everyone else you encounter. Do your words build them up or tear them down?

These mouths of ours are described as "an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:8). We use them so inconsistently, one minute cursing each other, the next praising God (James 3:9-10). We have done some amazing things in terms of taming dangerous wild animals, but we are incapable of taming our own tongues! In God's Word we find "instruction in righteousness" so that the people "of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Achieving spiritual maturity in our speech can only be done with the help of God's Word. It is by the power of God's Word that our tongues can be used for good rather than evil.

Given the power of words we need to be determined not to let any corrupt communication come out of our mouths (Ephesians 4:29). We must take great care with what we say and learn to lay our hand upon our mouth (Job 40:4). As David said, "I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a

bridle..." (Psalm 39:1). God's Word says the way you use your tongue is a mark of spiritual maturity and reveals your spiritual status. What does your speech say about your spiritual condition? Is your tongue bridled?