

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JULY 12, 2015**

### **SICK LIST:**

### **HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Ruby Harrison

**HOME:** Fred & Romaine Elliott, Carolyn Myers, Gail Windham, Willie Nelson

**PRAYER LIST:** April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Robert Turner, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, J.D. Dailey, James Horsley, Brenda Holloway, Jake & Diane Chambers, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, Arthur Mason, John Pruitt, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Debbie Jackson, Diane Townley, Elesia Wright, Margie Thomasson, Larry Alexander, Micah Earnest, Vonciel Phillips, Roger Deihl, Wanda Self, Katie Griffies, Bruce Windham, Eddie Rutledge

AM - NEIL MYERS

PM - NEIL MYERS

**WE REJOICE THAT BRADEN AND BLAKE WRIGHT WERE BOTH BAPTIZED THURSDAY AT ICYC. THERE WERE 17 BAPTISMS AND 12 RESTORATIONS LAST WEEK**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE CAMPAIGNERS THIS WEEK**

**THERE IS A BLOOD DRIVE IN HONOR OF MS. MCMEANS JULY 21 AND THERE IS A SIGN UP SHEET ON THE BOARD**

**BE PRAYING AND PLANNING FOR OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH WADE WEBSTER AUG 2-5**

**VBS AT CARBON HILL JULY 12-15 AT 7 PM EACH EVENING**

### **BIRTHDAYS:**

July 15: Danny Rushing

### **ANNIVERSARY:**

July 14: Robert & Deloris Brown

# THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST  
26036 HWY 78  
CARBON HILL, AL 35549  
(205) 924-9038  
[westwalkerchurchofchrist.org](http://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

## **Of Dogs, Pigs And Pearls**

**Wayne Greeson**

Jesus came into this world to reveal and speak the Truth. Often the truth He spoke was painful. One of the more painful truths spoken by Christ is found in the Sermon on the Mount. "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and rend you" (Matt. 7:6).

Jesus paints a vivid picture of a cornered person confronted by a hungry pack of snarling dogs and vicious boars. In fear and desperation the person throws into the mud in front of the beasts his most valuable possession, a bag full of pearls. The animals lunge forward anticipating food for their bellies only to discover the precious pearls are hard and tasteless. In their anger, the entire pack of animals turn on the person before them and drag him down into the mud where they tear him to pieces.

To the Jews dogs and swine were unholy and unclean animals fit neither for sacrifice nor food. However, Jesus is not warning about animals but people! There are numerous places throughout the Bible where unfit and worthless persons are called dogs or swine (See, 1 Sam. 17:43; 2 Sam. 16:9; 2 Ki. 8:13; 2 Pet. 2:18-22).

Jesus instructs His disciples not to waste the holy and precious instruction and rebuke of God's Word to those who are unfit and unworthy, for not only will they abuse and reject it, but they also abuse and reject you.

It is a sad but painful truth that there are those who lower themselves to the level of vicious snarling junkyard dogs and brutish boars in their rejection of God's wisdom. Get out of their way for if they have no respect for God or His Word they will certainly despise those who try to proclaim God's Truth. Jesus warns about such characters and teaches that we should be discriminating in our teaching and preaching lest we fall victim to them.

Solomon explained why one must be discriminating in whom he entrusts precious pearls of instruction and wisdom. He taught that "fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7) and a "scuffer does not love one who reproves him" (Prov. 15:12). Therefore, "Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words" (Prov. 23:9). Like Jesus, Solomon recommended a discriminating attitude toward those one tries to teach: "He who reproves a scuffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man gets himself a blemish. Do not reprove a scuffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser. Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning." (Proverbs 9:7-9).

## **Cotton Candy Preaching**

### **Tom Moore**

If I were to ask you what would be worse, to give your children cotton candy or poison, what would you say? In answer to this question most people would very quickly say that poison would be the worse thing to give our children. But consider this, what if all we gave our children to eat was cotton candy? What if cotton candy was their favorite food and that was all they wanted, and any time they received anything else they would throw a fit? Would we only give them cotton candy? Would we be loving and concerned parents if we only fed our children this cottony pile of sugar? Most assuredly not! We understand that our children could not survive only on sugar, for they would soon grow weak and sick, and would soon die. So, what is worse for us to give our children, only cotton candy or poison? The truth is that both will eventually kill our children.

Now let us make a spiritual application. Is it worse to teach in the Lord's church false doctrine or to teach simple pleasant truths from God's word? In answer to this question most people would quickly say that false doctrine would be the worst thing of all to teach. But consider this, what if we only taught concerning the loving story of Ruth, or about benevolence, or about the need for loving families, or about the need to feel good about ourselves? Now these are topics that we should be concerned about and are issues of interest, and should be taught. But, can a Christian survive spiritually solely on this kind of diet? Can a child of God mature and be grounded in the faith solely on these kinds of meals? The answer is no!

There are many preachers and teachers in the Lord's church who are not teaching error, but neither are they being distinct in their preaching and teaching. Many are given more to proclaim what the brethren want to hear than what they need to hear. Concerning the people of Isaiah's day, the Lord declared, "For this is a rebellious people, false sons, Sons who refuse to listen To the instruction of the Lord; 10 Who say to the seers, "You must not see visions"; And to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right, Speak to us pleasant words, Prophecy illusions. " (Isa. 30:9-10). Many today are clamoring for the same things as the Israelites of old – smooth things, and sweet and pleasant words.

And what is even more disturbing are the preachers and teachers who are giving in to their cry with sermons and lessons filled with nothing but "love-dovey mush." Many preach to please men and tickle their ears with what they like to hear. Paul said, "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ." (Gal. 1:10). Paul warned Timothy about people who have "itching ears" and warned that such people will gather around those who will scratch their ears by teaching lies (2 Tim. 4:3-4). The whole counsel of God must be preached, regardless of how it is received (Acts 20:26-27)! The truth is truth and must be preached! Modern preachers didn't write the book (Bible) and they have no right to "water it down" to please men.

The apostle Paul declared, "I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ... Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God." (Acts 20:20, 26-27). If we really care for our families and brethren, these same actions of Paul will be true of us! Furthermore, Paul also said, "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction." (2 Tim. 4:2). You will notice that good gospel preaching demands both positive and negative proclamation of truth. But as already mentioned, some "will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths." (2 Tim. 4:3-4). But we must not allow this attitude to influence us away from preaching the whole counsel of God.

There are too many "cotton candy preachers" in the brotherhood who are proclaiming a "sugar coated" gospel that is lulling the brethren into spiritual decay! Tell me, which are worse, false teachers or cotton candy preachers? The truth is they both will cause the spiritual demise of their listeners.