

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUG 30, 2015

SICK LIST:

HEALTHCARE CENTERS:

Ruby Harrison, J.D. Dailey (Ridgeview Rm 179)

HOME: Fred & Romaine Elliott, Allie Roden, Chris Robbins, Brandi Richardson, Carl Myers

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, Micah Earnest, Vonciel Phillips, Roger Deihl, Wanda Self, Katie Griffies, Bruce Windham, Raymond Johnson

AM - DAVID STAFFORD

PM - DEREK PORTER

THERE WILL BE A HOUSE WARMING FOR KERRY HONEYCUTT TODAY AFTER MORNING SERVICES.

GOSPEL MEETING AT PARRISH SEP 13-16

ANNIVERSARIES:

Sep 3: Chuck & Patricia Windham

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

Check How You Look in the Mirror

Dan Jenkins

It happens to Americans every day of their lives. Few of us like the way we look the first time we see ourselves each day in the mirror, so it is not long before we begin making changes to our appearance. Usually, before we leave the house, we take a final look in the mirror hoping that we look presentable and acceptable to others.

James describes the Bible as a mirror. "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was" (Jas. 1:23-24). It is remarkable how God uses the simplest aspects of our lives to illustrate truth. To look into His mirror, the Bible, and to see our spiritual needs and do nothing about them just does not make sense. It is even more foolish than that person who looks into a regular mirror, sees something which destroys his appearance and then walks away forgetting what the mirror showed him.

Paul describes the Bible as a mirror with the power to change you. "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18). These words are much like the words from James, but Paul sees that person as spending time looking into the mirror, but not seeing just self. He looks into the mirror and sees Jesus in His radiant glory. The present tense of "being transformed" indicates an ongoing process. He does not just see the Lord once, and then he is immediately and completely changed. He sees the Lord. He spends time gazing at Him. The glory of the Lord becomes is standard, and he is being changed into the very image of the Christ.

David, while not using the imagery of a mirror, describes the same action. "Blessed is the man . . . (who) delights in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night" (Psa. 1:1-2). Have you ever considered what made David's heart be like the heart of God? He turned to the law of God and meditated on it day and night, and that transformed his heart. Looking into God's mirror will change the heart of all men.

Consider some "mirror rules" for those seeking to change their appearance. We must come to our mirror, His word, with an open, sincere heart and see His image clearly. We must come with a determination to change the flaws we see in ourselves in that mirror. We must spend time seeing the glory of the One in the mirror, mediate on what we see and then change our lives to become like that One. We need to think often about this, knowing that it takes time to become just like Him.

Witnessing **Robert Notgrass**

We hear a great deal about “witnessing for Christ” in our present day. Even some of our brethren use this word. The denominational world uses this expression to refer to a “special working of grace.” So what is witnessing?

Are You Really a Witness?

It is defined as: “To behold personal knowledge of an event, to have direct observance with one’s own eye, to bear witness to one’s religious convictions.” In the Bible, the Greek word for witness means, “One who is a spectator of an event.” It is one who has information or knowledge of something and who can give information. It is further defined by Vine’s Dictionary of New Testament Words as: “One who has seen, heard or knows; to observe.” In the Bible, there are thirty three references to being a witness (examples: Acts 1:8, 22; Acts 5:32; 1 Pet. 5:1; etc . . .) Each time the term is used in the sense of stating what one has actually seen or observed or has direct knowledge of.

Many people who are using this term, including those of the brotherhood, do not use this word as the Bible uses this term. One cannot bear witness of the death of Christ for none of us were there. One cannot bear witness on the work of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost because none of us were there to observe it. Now, we can proclaim to others the testimony of Luke who wrote the book of Acts. We can give to others what the apostles witnessed, but this is not our testimony. In other words, there is a difference between telling what another witnessed and actually witnessing something yourself. So, when we proclaim the good news of the Gospel, we are passing on to listeners, the testimony of those who were actually witnesses.

But, the question then arises: “What is the big deal if we use this word or not?” Well, as Christians, we are taught to speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11). For this reason alone, we should be cautious in using expressions like “witnessing for Christ” lest we begin to change the way the Bible uses the term witness. Second, no one qualifies as a witness for Christ today and it brings into Christianity, an element of deceit which defiles a person (Mk. 7:21- 23). Third, if we truly seek to speak where the Bible speaks, we will understand that witnessing, as recorded in God’s Word, was in reference to the witnessing of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and all he did (Acts 1:21-22; 10:39-43). Fourth, our purpose is not to be a witness for the Lord as the disciples were in the first century. Christ, His message and His kingdom have already been established and proven to be true. We do not need to share testimonies of what the Lord did in our lives nor do we need to witness: anything. What we need to do is speak as the Bible speaks and teach as the Bible tells us to teach so that we and others are absolutely sure of the message we bear. And, to do contrary to this, is to pervert and confuse people of the message we bring. Therefore, let us teach the Gospel to others by using the examples of conversions we find in God’s Word and leave witnessing to those who lived in the days of Christ.