

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY 17, 2016

HOME: Fred & Romaine Elliott, Henry McDonald, Gene McDonald, Robin Busby

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Debbie Odom, Robert Turner, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, J.D. Dailey, James Horsley, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, Arthur Mason, John Pruitt, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Margie Thomasson, Micah Earnest, Vonciel Phillips, Wanda Self, Jamie Sanford, Bruce Windham, Raymond Johnson, Joyce Jacobs, Patrick Parker, Gene McDonald, Sabrina Handley, Mike Miles, Terry Galloway, Jon Sanford, Marvin White, Jimmy Harrison, Otto Tolbert, Diane Chambers, Angie Jones

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "PRAYING WITH IMPORTUNITY"

PM - KEVIN RICHARDSON

WE REJOICE THAT ETHAN PHILLIPS WAS BAPTIZED WEDNESDAY AT ICYC

GOSPEL MEETING AT BLACKWATER JULY 17-20

THANKS TO EACH OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED TO ICYC. IT WAS A GREAT WEEK WITH SEVERAL BAPTISMS AND RESPONSES

OUR 5TH SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GOING TO BE GIVEN TO VARIOUS MISSION EFFORTS WE SUPPORT: JULY - L.T. GURGANUS, OCTOBER - MSOP/GBN

ANNIVERSARY:

July 20: Bruce & Sheila Windham; Kevin & Brandi Richardson

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
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(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

PRAYING WITH IMPORTUNITY

(Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-8)

I. The _____ of importunity in prayer.

- A. This word was long believed to mean _____.
- B. The Greek word translated "importunity" literally means, "_____, want of modesty, impudence."
- C. What this means for our parable is that the man knocking is doing so without _____ and _____ because he is in need of assistance.
- D. You are unabashedly _____ for help until you get it.
- E. This is the way we are to _____ prayer.
- F. You might be thinking that it seems that God should just _____ us what we want without having to ask numerous times.
 - 1. We don't always know what is _____ and that for which we are asking may not be best.
 - 2. It may be that God is _____ to give us what we want to teach us patience.

II. The _____ of importunity in prayer.

- A. _____ leads to _____, which leads to _____.
- B. There is another thing we need to pay _____ to in these verses.
 - 1. This is telling us the tense of the words in the original language show a _____ of action.
 - 2. We are to _____ on asking, seeking, and knocking.
- C. There is a great illustration of this in Genesis 18.
 - 1. God has revealed to _____ that He is going to destroy Sodom.
 - 2. Genesis 18:23-33 is an _____ of persistence in prayer.
 - 3. _____ times Abraham came to God with a request.
 - 4. He did so _____ and _____.
- D. God _____ answers our prayers.
 - 1. However, He doesn't always answer them with a _____.
 - 2. Sometimes we have to _____.
 - 3. Sometimes God gives us something altogether _____.
 - 4. Sometimes God gives us _____ than that for which we ask.

III. The _____ of importunity in prayer.

- A. Remember the _____ of James (James 5:16).
 - 1. How can a righteous man's prayers _____ much?
 - 2. Because they are _____ of a Great God.
- B. We are tapping into the greatest source of _____ there is. ages.
- C. We have a God that wants to bless us and has given us the _____ to seek that blessing.

This World is not My Home

David Hersey

As the words of a popular song say, "This world is not my home; I'm just a passing thru. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue". Jesus says, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:20-21). We must lay up our treasures in heaven, not here on the earth. The Bible says, "And as it is appointed for man to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). When we draw our last breath, what we have accumulated here on the earth will go to someone else. After we pass from this life our fate is sealed and we will be judged by what is written in the word of God (John 12:48).

Life here on earth is so temporary and short. Life passes so quickly. James 4:14 says, "Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." Many people are living their lives as though they will live forever here on the earth. One day this earth and all of its possessions will be burned up. No one knows when this will be. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness" (2 Peter 3:10-11).

As the words of the song continue to say, "If heaven is not my home, then Lord what will I do?" For the vast majority of people, heaven will not be their home (Matthew 22:14). Their home will be a real and never ending hell in which they will be "tormented day and night forever and ever in burning fire and brimstone" (Revelation 20:10, 15). But for the few whose home is heaven, "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4). The apostle Paul was longing to leave this world and go home to heaven. He says, "For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you...For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:23-24, 3:20).

As mortal human beings we cannot begin to imagine how great and wonderful heaven will be. We cannot comprehend its glory. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:9. "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." We have, "an inheritance incorruptible and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4), "knowing that you have a better and enduring possession for yourselves in heaven" (Hebrews 10:34). As human beings we are eternal in that we have a soul that lives forever in one of two places. Our home will be either heaven or hell. We make the choice as to where we will go while we are here on Earth. If one is not preparing to go to heaven he will end up in hell.

Jesus taught, "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33). Our number one goal in this life must be for heaven to be our home. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). No one will accidentally go to heaven.