

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEC 11, 2016

HOME: Fred & Romaine Elliott, Henry McDonald, Lucille Finn, Rick Pope, Hoyt Sims, Gene McDonald, Ann Myers, Bettye Henderson, Robin Busby, J.D. & Bobby Dailey, Charlie Richardson

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, 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, Mike Miles, Jon Sanford, Marvin White, Jimmy Harrison, Otto Tolbert, Diane Chambers, Angie Jones, Victor Crosby, Brianna Cordell, Michael Griggs, Bud Howell, Margaret Henson

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "THE BLESSING OF ADOPTION"

PM - BEN WRIGHT - "A VISION OF THE KINGDOM"

MEN'S GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING TONIGHT AFTER SERVICES

DEC 25TH AFTERNOON SERVICE TIMES ARE CHANGED: THERE WILL BE A 30 MINUTE BREAK AFTER MORNING WORSHIP AND THEN WE WILL MEET FOR OUR AFTERNOON SERVICE WITH CONNOR RODEN SPEAKING FOR US

REMEMBER OUR HOLIDAY MEAL AT THE BULLPEN NEXT SUNDAY NIGHT

BIRTHDAYS:

Dec 12: Nelda Windham

13: J.D. Dailey

17: Peyton 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 BLESSING OF ADOPTION (Ephesians 1:4-6)

I. God's _____.

- A. God has always planned on _____ people into His spiritual family.
 - 1. Notice that God has _____ a group of people in Christ before the foundation of the world.
 - 2. There has never been a time since the world began that this group was not in God's _____.
- B. It is a special group being only those who are _____ Christ.
- C. There is only one way to be in Christ, and that is to be _____ into Christ (Galatians 3:27).

II. God's _____.

- A. The adoption _____ was made possible because of Jesus.
- B. There was a price paid in the adoption process and Jesus, _____, paid that price for us.
- C. This was all done according to God's _____.

III. God's _____.

- A. When a person puts on Christ and is adopted into the family of God, all _____ are removed because the debt has been paid.
- B. The one in Christ has a new _____ and, spiritually speaking, has become a new person (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- C. Since our debt of sin is paid, we ought to praise God for the _____ that was extended to us in order for the debt to be paid.
 - 1. God is _____ to be praised simply because of Who and What He is.
 - 2. When you add to that the fact He has adopted you and me into His _____, there should be no end to His praise by us.

IV. Man's _____.

- A. This passage tells us of two privileges at least, that we have as adopted children of God.
- B. We have a Father's _____.
 - 1. We get to be _____ Him in love according to verse 4.
 - 2. I believe that to be _____ before God being loved by Him.
- C. The second privilege we have is being made _____ in the beloved.
- D. How could anyone turn down the _____ to be a part of this family?

Why Would God Not Listen? **Gary L. Hutchens**

"Call to Me, and I will answer you..." (Jeremiah 33:3). What a blessing is prayer! Through prayer God has enabled us to be able to talk directly to Him, to personally present to Him all of our needs, concerns, thoughts, and fears. He has promised us that, because of His unlimited power, our prayers can make a difference for good, they change things (James 5:16). But the scriptures are clear that there are people to whose prayers God will not listen. Why would God not listen to somebody's prayers?

The simple answer is, "Sin!" It is not that God will not listen to a person's prayers simply because that person commits a sin. It is through prayer that a Christian who has sinned is to purposefully ask God's forgiveness.

When a person is living an ongoing lifestyle of sin, however, and does not repent, God can choose to stop listening to that person's prayers. Many scriptures deal with this scenario, several examples being: Psalm 18:40-41; 34:14-16; Proverbs 15:8-9 & 29; Isaiah 59:1-3; John 9:31; and 1 Peter 3:11-12.

The very idea that God would not listen to their prayers would be shocking to many people. Virtually everyone, regardless of how unfaithful to God they might be, how wicked and completely ungodly are their lives, how totally disrespectful to God they have become, still believes they can pray anytime and expect God to listen to their prayers! Many people would become quite emotional, some even angry, at the suggestion that perhaps God might not be listening to their prayers.

The idea that individuals can disrespect God through continual disobedience and unfaithfulness, and that God will still always pay full respect to their prayers is presumptuous, to say the least. It could also be described as arrogant, absurd, even downright ungodly and wicked.

The right to pray to God is a blessing, and with blessing goes responsibility. Describing our responsibility could be honed down to one word, faithfulness! God expects us to be faithful. Faithfulness is not the equivalent to simply having faith in God's existence. The demons believe in God (James 2:19). Faithfulness is consistent dedication to God, evidenced by living by His teachings.

Sin is transgression of God's teachings and demonstrates unfaithfulness (1 John 3:4). A godly lifestyle and a sinful lifestyle cannot coexist within the same individual. Sin will separate a person from God. "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). In response to a person willingly living in sin, God can choose to not listen to that person's prayers: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear" (Psalm 66:18).

Sin is not to be played around with. Its ultimate consequence is death (Romans 6:23). Related potential consequences are many, one of the most terrible of which is the loss of the assurance that God will listen to your prayers. Don't be careless with your relationship with God. Don't be careless with your soul. Be respectful of God in the way you live before Him. Be responsible with the blessings that He bestows upon you, one of the most precious of which is prayer....