

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ FELLOWSHIP MEAL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP WITH SINGING @ 1 PM TODAY
- ◆ MID-WEEK SERVICE THIS WEEK WILL BE TUESDAY @ 7 PM
- ◆ ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEAL @ THE BULLPEN DEC 17 @ 3 PM
- ◆ ON DEC 24TH, EVENING WORSHIP WILL BE @ NOON

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

- 7—Chris Robbins
- 10—Gene McDonald
- 28—Bobbie Dailey
- 29—Brandi Preston

SERMONS

Nov 19, 2017

AM: NEIL MYERS

PM: SINGING

PRAYER LIST

April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Debbie Odom, Robert Turner, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, J.D. Dailey, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, John Pruitt, Madison Banks, Martha Ann, Margie Thomasson, Micah Earnest, Vonciel Phillips, Wanda Self, Jamie Sanford, Bruce Windham, Raymond Johnson, Gene McDonald, Mike Miles, Marvin White, Jimmy Harrison, Diane Chambers, Angie Jones, Victor Crosby, Brianna Cordell, Bud Howell, Margaret Henson, Judith Homer, Mason Chambers, Danielle Dodd, Mike Myers, Weston Suddeth, Renea Lawson, Chuck Peltz, John Aldridge, Tommy Pope, Byron Leith, Jan Sims, Jean Griffith

ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER

- 2—Neil & Carolyn Myers
- 22—Ben & Jincy Wright

SICK LIST

Fred & Romaine Elliott, Gene McDonald, Jamie McDonald, Asher Phillips, Addie Preston, Travis Richardson

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

westwalkerchurchofchrist.org

Times of service:

Sunday:

Bible Class:

9:30 AM

Worship:

10:20 AM & 5 PM

Wednesday Bible Study:

7 PM

Elders:

Eugene McDonald

924-4827

Carl 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

471-3747

Preacher:

Ben Wright

522-8004

FRUITFUL STUDY—Glen Elliott

When you have prayerfully studied and have become convinced of the meaning and proper application of a particular passage of Scripture, having taken into careful consideration both its context and historical setting, walk around in it for a while and give it a try. See how it fits. Test your conclusions in your walk of faith and, in this way, come to know the truth.

But, in this, there is also a much-needed warning. In your pursuit of truth, make sure that you do not leave the safe harbor of humility, for knowledge can lead to arrogance if unaccompanied by reverence and awe—a basic, foundational awareness of both the majesty of God and our own accountability before Him—that He is God and we the sheep of His pasture—that He is Deity and we but frail human beings beset with weakness—that He is Creator and Sustainer and we the work of His hands.

This is how we come to know the truth. This is also how we continue to be set free from the bondage of sin—set free to serve the true and living God—set free to serve Him from the heart, according to His pattern rather than our own—set free to serve the God of heaven who has spoken to us, revealing Himself to us through His inspired word. By all means, let us open the Book, drink deeply of its precepts, and set our hearts on things above. This is how we must engage in a fruitful study of God's word!

FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE

Paul Sain

God expects (demands) His faithful followers to worship Him. The Scriptures are emphatic in the faithful child of God reflecting their love and loyalty by coming together with the saints, to worship on the first day of the week. While attendance at worship services is NOT the only measuring stick of one's spirituality, it certainly is one spiritual barometer.

In Hebrews 10:25 we read, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." The thought immediately expressed after this admonition is: "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins" (v. 26). Can there be any doubt what the inspired writer is stating? Don't forsake! If you do, you sin willfully!

In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 we note the disciples were to give as they assembled on the first day of the week. Yes, that was every first day—every Sunday. The church of the first century "came together" to break bread (Lord's Supper) (Acts 20:7), the whole church, to worship (1 Cor. 11:18; 14:23,26). Note also Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." The fact is: Christians have an appointment with the Lord on the first day of the week, on every first day of the week.

By your attendance you show: (1) your love for the Lord (John 14:15), with all your mind, body, soul and strength (Mark 12:30); (2) your desire to become stronger (1 Peter 2:2-3); (3) your faith in God (James 2:18); (4) a desire to grow spiritually (2 Peter 1:5ff); (5) concern to refrain from falling away (2 Peter 2:20-22); (6) your light shining for the Lord (Matt. 5:16); (7) the example of first century Christians in your life today; (8) an excellent example for others to follow (1 Cor. 11:1; Prov. 22:6); (9) the great benefit from treasured fellowship with the followers of God (Acts 2:38-47); (10) your refusal to serve Satan and that you are not his disciple (James 4:7); (11) you are seeking the Lord first (Matt. 6:33); (12) you are pressing toward the mark of the prize (Phil. 3: 13-14).

Question: Under what circumstances would a faithful child of God ever NOT want to assemble with the saints of God?

Most of you I am sure have heard of the novel Moby Dick by Herman Melville. It tells the story of Captain Ahab's relentless hunt for the great white whale Moby Dick who had destroyed his ship and bitten off his leg. Ahab was obsessed with destroying the whale—his life revolved around his resentment, bitterness and the desire for revenge and it tarnished everything he did.

His bitterness had twisted him into a cruel and hateful person and the saddest thing about the book, and bitterness in general, is the fact that the real victim of Ahab's bitterness and hatred was Ahab himself. His obsession had made him a most unhappy man and that is what bitterness will do to you. Do you know any bitter people? Those who have been wronged in some way in life and have allowed such to turn them into negative and critical people? Bitterness is a terrible thing for not only does it make us miserable, it makes those around us miserable.

Webster's defines bitterness as an attitude unfriendliness, resentment and animosity. Doris Black said that if we fail to overcome our resentment and animosity, it will likely develop into bitterness. Bitterness is a malignant form of resentment and anger and it is capable of spreading rapidly until it affects every area of our lives. It causes us to become harsh, reproachful, unpleasant and unfriendly. Do you know anyone that this describes? Do you know any Christians that this describes?

Bitterness can be the result of someone doing us wrong and getting away with it. It can be brought about by someone achieving a success that we feel we deserve and have not yet attained. It is often the result of the feeling that life has somehow been unfair to us. Regardless of what causes it, bitterness can rob us of our joy for life and make us unbearable to be around.

Bitterness can prevent us from practicing kindness and forgiveness (Eph.4:30-32). It can destroy relationships with our families, friends and brethren (Heb.12:14-15). And bitterness can cause us to put all of the focus in our lives on self (Jm.3:13-14). In the end, bitterness causes us to grieve the Holy Spirit, possess a heart of ingratitude, lack kindness and compassion and be unwilling to forgive.

So how do we overcome and rid our lives of this extremely negative emotion? While there is much I could say, let me just suggest that you stop often to count your many blessings. "Count your blessings; Name them one by one. Count your blessings; See what God hath done. Count your blessings; Name them one by one. Count your many blessings; See what God hath done. When it comes to the bitterness, anger and resentment of the world, God has the solution, be thankful in all things."

Let us never forget that regardless of what trial or difficulties we may be experiencing, we will always have a great deal for which to be thankful. It is like the man who said, "I was sad because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet." Whenever you start feeling bitter about your lot in life, how about you stop for a minute and think instead about all of the blessings God has bestowed upon you and give thanks in all things.

Brian Mitchell