

SICK LIST:**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Ed & Bettie Barrett, H.C. & Jimmie Nell Brown, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Henry McDonald, Nellie Windham, Kenneth Windham, Bobby Myers, Bessie Files

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Kimberly Wilcox, Sonya Parnell, Anna Turner, Francis Rushing, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Larry Drummond, Jim Murrell, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Joe Windham, Vera Fike, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, Esther Sutton, Wilma Howell, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom

AM - BEN WRIGHT - HOW IMPORTANT IS THE CHURCH?

PM - BEN WRIGHT - A GREAT SIN OF OUR TIME

ELDERS WILL BE GIVING THEIR YEARLY PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE CHURCH AND SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR SUNDAY NIGHT JAN 29

MEN'S DAY AT WINFIELD, JAN 28

DON BLACKWELL FROM GBN WILL BE WITH US THIS WEDNESDAY NIGHT TO GIVE AN UPDATE ON THE NETWORK

BIRTHDAYS:

Jan 27: Nelda Nelson

20: Gloria Windham

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HIGHWAY 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

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE CHURCH?

(Ephesians 5:25-27)

I. The church is important because God _____ it from eternity (Ephesians 3:10-11).

- A. Before the world was formed by God, He had the church in _____.
- B. We can see this because the _____ foretold its establishment.
 - 1. Isaiah 2:2-3.
 - 2. Daniel 7:13-14.
- C. God does not plan and have foretold _____ things.

II. The church is important because it bears a unique _____ with Jesus.

- A. Jesus loved it and _____ Himself for it (Ephesians 5:25-27).
- B. Jesus _____ for the church with His blood (Acts 20:28).
- C. Jesus _____ the church (Matthew 16:18).
 - 1. He is the Chief _____ (Ephesians 2:20).
 - 2. He is the _____ on which it is built (1 Corinthians 3:11).
- D. Jesus is the _____ of the church (Ephesians 1:22).

III. The church is important because to _____ it is to _____ Jesus Himself.

- A. Saul of Tarsus _____ the church (1 Timothy 1:13).
- B. As he went to Damascus, the Lord _____ Him for his treatment of the church.
- C. Jesus _____ persecuting the church with persecuting Him.
- D. This makes sense when you view the church as the _____ of Jesus (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23).
- E. You cannot separate Christ from the church for which He _____.

IV. The church is important because it is called the _____ and _____ of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

- A. The church is that called out group of people that upholds and _____ the truth.
- B. God's word is the _____ (John 17:17).
- C. The church is as _____ as upholding the truth.

V. The church is important because _____ the saved are added to it.

- A. Acts 2:47- American Standard Version renders it: "...those that were _____ saved..."
- B. You cannot _____ the church like you would a social or civil club or a denomination.
- C. God does not add any _____ person to the church.

VI. The church is important because _____ the saved are added to it.

- A. All saved people are in _____ (2 Timothy 2:10).
- B. One gets into Christ by being _____ into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).
- C. This same process, that of being baptized, puts one into the _____ (1 Corinthians 12:13)

THE GREATEST GENERATION

John Gaines

Tom Brokaw received considerable acclaim as an author and historian of the World War II era. He is responsible for the phrase "the greatest generation" being applied to the young men who grew up during the hard times of the Great Depression in the 1930s, then went on to fight the battles of Europe, North Africa and the Pacific during World War II. The youngest of those valiant warriors are now nearing 80 and great numbers of them are rapidly passing on into eternity. It is fitting that they be honored for their accomplishments and no one would have cause to doubt that Brokaw's phrase aptly describes one of the greatest generations in history.

New Testament Christians, though, might have a slightly different perspective on who makes up the greatest generation. If we look back to the events of the first century, we see outlined in the New Testament a sequence of events which has never been repeated. Just before He ascended back to heaven, Jesus met with eleven chosen men (Judas having been lost to his sinful betrayal of Christ) and charged those men with the awesome responsibility to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16). The eleven didn't do the job all by themselves. They taught others who, in turn, taught others (2 Timothy 2:2). Faithful men teach others and those who hear and obey the gospel form another link in the chain as they share what they have learned with others.

Paul wrote to the Colossians from his prison about a third of a century after Jesus gave the Great Commission. During that 30-35 year period, tremendous progress had been made in evangelizing the world. He said in Colossians 1:23 that the gospel was preached to every creature under heaven. Taken at face value, that statement indicates that the mission Jesus gave the apostles was accomplished. They had gone out and preached the gospel!

Believers were scattered from Jerusalem due to persecution and they went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4). Philip went to Samaria where he worked miracles and taught the gospel. Later, he met an Ethiopian along a desert road and preached Jesus to him, then baptized him (Acts 8). Others went to Antioch and a great church was established there (Acts 11, 12). From that church, Barnabas and Saul were sent out on the first missionary journey. They went to the island of Cyprus then preached in cities in central Asia Minor (Acts 13, 14). A short time later, Paul and Silas answered the "Macedonian call" and took the gospel into Europe. Lydia and the Philippian jailer were converted in Philippi (Acts 16). They went on to Thessalonica where they were recognized as men who had turned the world upside down. In nearby Berea, fair-minded people listened to gospel preaching and searched the Scriptures to see if it were true. Many believed (Acts 17). Paul went on to Corinth where many heard, believed, and were baptized (Acts 18).

Paul was a great missionary who committed his life to spreading the good news of Christ. But he was not alone. Acts is commonly called Acts of the Apostles, but in reality it records only some of the acts of some of the apostles. Most of the apostles are not mentioned in the Bible after their names are listed in Acts 1:13. The Holy Spirit didn't see fit to inspire Bible writers to tell us about their work. But their deeds are known in heaven and the Lord must have been pleased with what they accomplished. Surely theirs was one of the greatest generations in Bible history. Let us follow their fine example!