

WICK LIST:**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Ed & Bettie Barrett, H.C. & Jimmie Nell Brown, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bessie Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald, Brenda Rushing, Sue Lockhart, Bobbie Dailey

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Kimberly Wilcox, Sonya Parnell, Anna Turner, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Jim Murrell, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, Esther Sutton, Wilma Howell, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Michael Pope, Wanda Williams, Robert Turner, Kristee McDonald, Wonda Ivie, Bobby Wright, Misty Aldridge, Gregory Morris, Donna Rutledge, Bobby Holloway

W - BEN WRIGHT - THE REWARDS OF A DEACON

W - BEN WRIGHT - LET'S GET RID OF WARS

W - NICHOLS SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL EMPHASIS THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 6TH AVE.

W - OSPEL MEETING AT SIXTH AVENUE, SEP 23-26

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
Leil Myers 924-9289
Bruce Windham 221-2348

DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

THE REWARDS OF A DEACON

(1 Timothy 3:13)

_____ are often found in scripture,

- A. 2 Timothy 4:6-8 - Paul thought it right to _____ for the crown.
- B. Matthew 25:31-46 - serving Jesus in this life brings _____.
- C. Jesus often used appealed to various areas of life to _____ one to serve.
- D. There is nothing _____ with a man desiring the office of a deacon in hopes of a reward.
 - 1. It must be remembered he is not to be greedy of _____ lucre.
 - 2. The reward he is seeking is one that is _____ and not physical.

I. Some things the reward is _____.

- A. Some say that the office of a deacon is a _____ into the office of an elder.
 - 1. What Paul is stating is _____ the reward of a deacon for serving well in that office.
 - 2. A deacon may never become _____ to be an elder and yet still serve well as a deacon.
- B. Some teach that Paul is saying you get increased _____ as a deacon who ministers well.
 - 1. It is true that through excellent service in any area we may increase the _____ of our influence.
 - 2. But nowhere does Paul say you _____ more influence by serving well.
 - 3. It is possible, but is not a definite _____ - _____.
- C. Some teach that deacons will receive greater _____ in heaven.
 - 1. Paul mentions _____ about heaven in this text.
 - 2. Everything that is mentioned as a reward is to _____ here on earth.

II. The _____ of a deacon.

- A. The first reward is that they “_____ to themselves a good degree.”
 - 1. The deacon that serves well gains a good _____ among the congregation.
 - 2. He is well _____ of by the members and eldership.
- B. The second reward is he will have “great _____ in the faith.”
 - 1. The deacon who serves well will grow _____ every day.
 - 2. By that growth he will have _____ in his relationship with God.
 - 3. The carrying out of his duties well will bring about an increase in his faith in the _____.
 - 4. Thus, the reward is greater confidence in the truthfulness of the gospel gained through carrying out the _____ of a deacon.
- C. Therefore the reward is _____ in this life - respect from the congregation and greater confidence in the gospel message.

TRUE UNITY
Richard Mansel

We commonly believe that if the members of a congregation get along really well, they are unified and constitute a strong spiritual family. However, this is not necessarily true. Men who congregate at a cafe every morning for coffee are close friends, but that does not mean they are a spiritual family. Likewise, a group of people who gather on Sundays and Wednesdays can be close friends, love each other's company, and not necessarily be a close spiritual family. It requires more than simply good cheer, hugs, and laughs.

A spiritual family is one that exists in Christ (Galatians 3:27; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38). Its primary goal is to bring glory to Christ (Ephesians 3:20-21), which includes evangelism, worship, fellowship, and a host of spiritual blessings. We labor diligently in the fields of the Lord in His name (Colossians 3:17). We work with His power to accomplish the goals set forth in Scripture (Ephesians 1:19). God "put all things under [Christ's] feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22-23).

If we are not seeking to fulfill these majestic goals, we are a group of friends but not necessarily a functional, spiritual family. The Lord's church exists to do the Lord's work, not simply to be a social club. The task before us is too immense to ignore.

God brings spiritual families together (Acts 2:47). We can create a group around a common interest, but it may not be Christ's interest. Friendships are wonderful, but if they exist within a spiritual family they are far better. When we are united in the job of bringing souls to the Lord, we are developing the strongest bonds possible.

A group of friends knows the boundaries that exist within the group. They know the areas in which the individual members differ, and they suppress them for the sake of the group. As a result, their common interests fuel their group. Surely we can see how this differs from biblical unity. Paul wrote: "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Unity in the Spirit means that we are united in the Lord and in God's holy and divine Word. We speak the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11), whether we find them palatable or not (2 Timothy 4:2). We have no right to suppress what which we do not like just so the group can be harmonious. That goes beyond our rights as children of God (1 Corinthians 4:6).

Christians submit to God and then they find spiritual unity. Just like an orchestra, we remain focused on the conductor and playing the piece that he has written. When we do, we create beautiful music.

Biblical unity is more than companionship; it is collectively moving toward the goal of heaven (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17). That will bring joyful hearts by itself. When we are rich in His grace and mercy, we will find the spiritual unity we all crave. Let us seek it out every day!