

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, Kim Haynes, Sheila Windham

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

BIBLE CLASS - L.T. GURGANUS

W - RICKY BERGER

W - DAVID SEAY

REMEMBER OUR EVENING SERVICE WILL BE AT 1 PM FOLLOWING OUR FELLOWSHIP MEAL AFTER MORNING WORSHIP

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

WISCONSIN MEETING AT BURLESON, OCT 7-10

BIRTHDAYS:

Sep 30: Deloris Brown & Margie Mays

Oct 3: Shelia Windham

5: Wilma Brown

ANNIVERSARY:

Oct 1: Hoyt & Faye Sims

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

IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST A DENOMINATION?

Bob Pritchard

A frequent follow-up question to “Are you a — Christian?” is “What denomination are you? Denomination” is not found in the Bible, — and the idea is based on sectarianism and division. Denomination” is not simply an incidental name, but a choice to be divided from other believers who do not share the same sectarian doctrines. Religious denominations are divisions among people who may all claim to follow the same Lord and same Bible but cannot agree because of their denomination.

As Jesus prayed for His apostles before His arrest, He said, “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (John 17:20-21). Jesus wanted unity among His apostles, and everyone who would believe the apostles’ teaching (whether through their preaching or writings). This unity is not possible as long as the denominational system exists. The denominational system has developed with various creeds, manuals, handbooks, hierarchies, and systems of organization, which have grown more complex over time. Years ago many people understood that the denominational system was a violation of God’s will and sought to leave the denominations so that they could restore the “undenominational” church of Christ of the New Testament. By being just Christians, without being associated with any denomination, they believed they could better serve God. That is why the churches of Christ are undenominational. We have no creed but the Bible, no denominational or church hierarchy over the local congregation, and no authority for faith and practice other than the Bible. We are not “Church of Christ Christians,” but simply Christians.

Seeds” of denominationalism were in the church at Corinth. Paul wrote, “It hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ” (1 Corinthians 1 : 11-12). Some were not satisfied to be Christians only, but wanted to be “Paulite Christians,” or “Apollosite Christians,” or “Cephasite Christians.” Paul asked, “Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Corinthians 1:13). They had divided the church into arguing factions. Paul emphasized the seriousness of the situation by saying he was glad he had only baptized a few at Corinth, so few could claim to follow him instead of Christ (1 Corinthians 1:1-16). Of what denomination were Peter and Paul? None! They were just Christians. The church of Christ, if it truly is the church we read of in the New Testament, cannot be a denomination.

WHY KNOW THE BIBLE?

Frank Dunn

After 55 years of studying and preaching the word of God, the author gives the following reasons why we should all seek to know the Bible. Why must you know your Bible?

(1) Know Your Bible in order to have everlasting life. In praying to the Father, Jesus said, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). The Bible is the only source of perfect, saving knowledge of God and Christ.

(2) Know Your Bible to know the greatest book ever written. The Bible is the best book because God is its author. There were forty penmen, but only one author. All of the writers were "moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). No other book can compare with the Bible. It is truly God's book!

(3) Know Your Bible so that you will know who you are. Only from the Bible can you know your origin, mission, and destiny – where you came from, why you are here, and where you are going. You are not a product of evolution, but of divine creation. God made man in His image, and man became a morally responsible, living soul (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7). Our mission is to glorify God and become as godlike as possible in preparation for the judgment and our personal accountability to God (Romans 4:11,12).

(4) Know Your Bible to be saved from sin. The Bible is the only book that has as its main message the salvation of sinners. The Bible alone answers the world's greatest question, "What must I do to be saved?" "The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). He saves sinners by His gospel, which is "the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16). Therefore, Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15,16).

(5) Know Your Bible in order to identify the church of the Lord and know its importance. When one obeys the gospel by being baptized into Christ, he is born again of water and the Spirit (John 3:3-5), into the family of God. This is the spiritual body of Christ, the church of which He is the head (Ephesians 1:22,23). Christ has only one body (Ephesians 4:4); church (Acts 2:47). In the New Testament, members of the Lord's church were Christians only (Acts 11:26), and they were the only Christians.

(6) Know Your Bible to find the Christian way of life, worship and service. The inspired Scriptures are the only doctrine of the New Testament church. The Scriptures alone furnish us completely unto all good works (2 Timothy 3:16,17). The inspired word teaches us that "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

(7) Know Your Bible in order to reach the highest goal, "the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). Paul counted all things "but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8). We should strive to be like Paul, who near the time of his departure from this life could say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:7,8).