

SICK LIST:**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Ed & Bettie Barrett, H.C. & Jimmie Nell Brown, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bessie & Michael Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald, Willie Nelson, Glen Lockhart, David & Addison Preston, Travis & Sandy Richardson

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, James & Wilma Howell, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Michael Pope, Robert Turner, Wonda Ivie, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, James Felton, Tommy Pope, J.D. Dailey, James Horsley, Brenda Holloway, Kathy Pate, Jake & Diane Chambers, Donna Laratta, Robin & Brandon Mullis, Angie Johnson

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "THE DEVIL'S TOOL"

PM - SINGING NIGHT

GOSPEL MEETING AT LIBERTY SEP 15-18**BIRTHDAYS:**

Sep 17: Zach Walker

ANNIVERSARY:

Sep 19: David & Margaret Barton

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 DEVIL'S TOOL

(Numbers 21:4-6)

- I. Focus on our _____.
- A. Discouragement, if left alone, will turn to _____.

- B. Doubt is a _____ of faith.
 1. Instead of turning to doubt, we ought to focus on the things we _____ about God and His word.
 2. Despite what brethren may do or what may go on in the world, God is not _____ us (Hebrews 13:5).
- C. When Elijah got discouraged after having _____ the priests of Baal and still was being persecuted, God took care of him.
 1. He allowed an _____ to minister to him.
 2. He then _____ a place to rest and talked with him.
- D. If we _____ when discouraged, it is because of a lack of faith.
- E. Romans 8:31 - when God is with us, sin cannot _____.
- F. Our faith will allow us to be _____ (1 John 5:4).

II. Focus on our _____.

- A. We need to look out for the _____ - _____ of our family members.
- B. Spouses need to _____ one another through difficult times.
- C. We are to put the _____ of our spouses before ourselves (Ephesians 24-25).
 1. When that doesn't happen discouragement will always _____.
 2. There must be _____ or sin will result.
- D. We need to look out for our _____.
 1. We can _____ them (Colossians 3:21).
 2. Discouraging our children can lead them to _____ _____ from us and from the Lord and we must avoid that.
- E. The Psalmist _____ the feeling of discouragement (Psalm 77).

III. Focus on our _____.

- A. We can't let the discouragement of the _____ keep us from the glorious future that awaits us.
- B. A crown of _____ awaits those who are found faithful in the end (Revelation 2:10).
- C. The discouragement of life can rob us of _____ in the present.
- D. Discouragement is a _____ of any hopes and dreams for our future that we may have.
- E. Thoughts of heaven and the glories that await us should serve to lift our _____.

**Dealing With Discouragement
Clay Bond**

Many of us know how it feels to be discouraged. We have experienced that feeling of disappointment, disheartenment, loss of hope and lack of confidence. At times discouragement is so severe we feel like we're drowning. Everything feels so hopeless and we see no way to escape.

The danger of discouragement is that, if it is not dealt with properly, it leads to depression and depression to despair. If we allow ourselves to continue in a state of despair, we are soon unable

to function as healthy, happy individuals. Our thinking becomes irrational, we begin to make life altering, even life ending choices. Judas is a sad example of one who so immersed himself in his depression that he ended up taking his own life (Matt. 27:5).

Whether it is due to illness, material loss, emotional trials or guilt over sin, discouraging circumstances are part of life. Job said, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). To lose your job and consequently lose everything you have worked for can be disheartening. Having your marriage end in divorce or experiencing the death of a loved one can be incredibly discouraging. Facing the reality of the hurt your sin has caused and the separation it brings between you and God can cause feelings of deep despair (Is. 59:1-2).

Our feelings of disappointment, disheartenment, depression and despair can only be remedied with God's help. When our heads are hanging low, when things are not going well, when everything seems to be falling apart the Lord can lift up our head (Ps. 3:3). Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30). If we are going to allow the Lord to help us through our hardships, we must be willing to come to Him in humble obedience.

We must be willing to come to Jesus and learn how "He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8), how He, by the grace of God, tasted death for us (Heb. 2:9) and how He suffered for our sins, "the just for the unjust--" (1 Pet. 3:18). Like Jesus humbled Himself to obey the Father, we must be humble enough to hear and believe His gospel (Rom. 10:17; Mark 16:15-16), repent of our sin (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30), confess that Jesus Christ is the son of God (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37) and be baptized into Christ (Gal.3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21). In Christ we have access to some amazing spiritual blessings like being added to His church (Acts 2:47), having our sins washed away (Acts 22:16), experiencing unity with other Christians (Eph. 4:1-6) and having fellowship with the Father and the Son (1 John 1:3).

The truth is, we will experience trouble and face discouragement as long as we live. There is no escape from the difficulties of life, but we can face all that we must face without losing heart or being overwhelmed by discouragement. We can turn to the Lord for help, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7). As Christians we face the same problems and challenges, but we have the comfort of not facing them alone (Heb. 13:5-6). We can do "all things through Christ which strengtheneth" us (Phil.4:13).

(Edited for space - BW)