

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ GUS NICHOLS SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL EMPHASIS THURSDAY NIGHTS @ 6 PM
- ◆ FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY WILL BE APRIL 9—BE PRAYING AND INVITING OTHERS
- ◆ CONGRATULATIONS TO MASON CHAMBERS WHO GRADUATED FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD BOOT CAMP ON FEB 24
- ◆ MIKE MYERS, NEIL AND CAROLYN'S SON, IS IN EMORY HOSPITAL IN ATLANTA RECOVERING FROM A STROKE

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY:

- 4: Barbara Wright
- 5: J.P. Whitfield
- 10: Jenna Wright
- 17: David Preston
- 18: Asher Phillips
- 19: Margaret Barton
- 21: Bettye Henderson
- 25: Travis Richardson
- 27: Kevin Richardson & Brooklyn Griggs
- 28: Neil Myers & Jack Wright

ANNIVERSARIES

February:

- 5: Jason & Charity Chambers
- 13: Vercie & Pete Griffin
- 28: Carl & Ann Myers

SICK LIST

Fred & Romaine Elliott, Mike Cooper, Neil Myers

SERMONS

February 12, 2017

AM: THE PROFIT OF EVANGELISM

PM: FOUR BEASTS AND A KINGDOM

PRAYER LIST

April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Debbie Odom, Robert Turner, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, J.D. Dailey, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, Arthur Mason, John Pruitt, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Margie Thomasson, Micah Earnest, Vonciel Phillips, Wanda Self, Jamie Sanford, Bruce Windham, Raymond Johnson, Joyce Jacobs, Gene McDonald, Mike Miles, Jon Sanford, Marvin White, Jimmy Harrison, Otto Tolbert, Diane Chambers, Angie Jones, Victor Crosby, Brianna Cordell, Michael Griggs, Bud Howell, Margaret Henson, Judith Homer, Danielle Dodd, Mark Barker, Mike Myers, Tabitha Rushing, Cooper Lawrence

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

THE BIBLE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Mark Lindley

To say that divorce is rampant in America is an understatement. According to statistics, approximately half of all marriages granted in our country, end in divorce. This does not mean that fifty percent of people who marry get divorced. Many marry and never divorce, while others marry and divorce more than once. Therefore, it would not be accurate to say that a person who marries only has a fifty percent chance of avoiding divorce. It is true that about half of "all marriages granted," end in divorce, but some of those marriages which end in divorce include those who have been married and divorced already. Regardless of how the statistical information is analyzed, divorce is a serious problem in our day.

One reason divorce is a "problem" is that divorce hurts those going through the divorce and their families. Children are often involved, and they are innocent victims who are emotionally distressed and injured by this dramatic change within their homes. Another reason divorce is problematic is that many divorce for unscriptural reasons. Some not only divorce without scriptural grounds, but also compound the problem by marrying a second time. One who divorces without scriptural authority does not have scriptural grounds for remarriage.

According to the Bible, there are three classes of people who may marry with God's approval: 1) those who have never married (I Corinthians 7:1-2); 2) those whose spouses have died may remarry an eligible marriage partner (Romans 7:2-3); 3) those who put away their spouses for the sin of fornication. Jesus taught that if one's spouse is guilty of fornication, the innocent party may divorce and remarry with God's approval: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:9). Fornication is defined as "illicit sexual intercourse." Jesus clearly taught that this is "the" exception that allows for divorce and remarriage. Therefore, unless one has put away a husband or wife who is guilty of fornication, one has no right to remarry.

It matters not who "approves" divorce for another reason. Jesus gave one exception. Yet, people often trash their marriage vows because they "no longer love" their spouses. This often means, "I have found someone else to whom I am attracted, and I will be with this person regardless of who it hurts or what God has said about it."

Friends, marriage is for life. Choose carefully. When you say "I do," you have made a commitment. Be faithful to your vows. Work through problems. Marriage is what you make it.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Jesus showed the greatness of service by washing the disciples' feet (John 13:12-17). As they fought over who was the greatest, Jesus revealed that He came to serve and not to be served (Mat. 20:25-28). God refers to Him in the great prophesy about His suffering as "My Servant" (Isa. 52:13; 53:11). Why, then, are we more apt to jockey for prominence, position, power, and prestige? Is it not that, in such times, we've lost our focus and stopped "looking unto Jesus" (cf. Heb. 12:2)? What are some practical ways we can reflect Jesus through service? Consider the following as a pump-primer:

Write a note of encouragement

Pleasantly let a merging driver merge in front of you

Fervently pray for the good of someone who has been hurtful to you

Meet a widow(er) for lunch or coffee

Volunteer to babysit so a young couple can go on a date

Anonymously send a small amount of money or gift card to a college student, preacher student, or missionary

Visit a shut-in

Participate in a feeding the homeless event

Tell an elder you love and appreciate him

Pay for the meal of a young family who looks like they could use the help

Ask a neighbor if there is something you can be praying about on their behalf (and, if they're willing, pray for that on the spot)

Text or email someone you know is in a stressful circumstance and express confidence in them

Take a small group to go sing for someone confined to a hospital or nursing home

Volunteer to work with small children to make a craft or baked good for the elderly

Police the bathrooms and pews at church and tidy up little messes you see

Make visitors to our assemblies feel welcome and help them find a class or a seat (with a pleasant smile)

There may be profound ways we can serve, but realize that any act of service may be far more profound than we think. We may not know in this life how a simple act opens a heart and opens a door of opportunity for Christ. Think like a servant and seek ways to serve! The greater others think you are, the greater your need to serve. But however much or little you think of yourself, think of others. Then, serve them! **Neal Pollard**

SERMON ADVANTAGE

THE PROFIT OF EVANGELISM

(Matthew 28:18-20)

I. Evangelism helps us grow in _____.

- A. We are going to be _____ by those with whom we discuss scripture.
- B. Conversations with non-Christians force us to have a better knowledge of the _____.
 - 1. This will force us to _____.
 - 2. We will have to become better _____ in order to evangelize.

II. Evangelism helps us grow in _____ for God and man.

- A. We are _____ to love God and our fellow man (Mark 12:28-31).
- B. The more we tell others about the God we love, the _____ our love for God will become.

III. Evangelism helps us _____ our faith.

- A. When studying with someone, we will get an _____ question or objection.
- B. We can't get _____ when someone asks us a question or disagrees with us.
- C. There is nothing wrong with saying, " _____".

IV. Evangelism helps us grow in _____.

- A. We are not seeking out _____.
- B. We must be _____ to endure it (2 Timothy 1:8).
 - 1. Not everyone will _____ our evangelistic efforts.
 - 2. Also, when we go to work, _____ will take notice.
- C. The apostles suffered and it _____ them (Acts 5:41).

V. Evangelism helps us _____ God.

- A. The command to evangelize is just _____.
- B. Evangelization is one of the things Jesus _____.