

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ TODAY'S CONTRIBUTION WILL GO TOWARDS RELIEF EFFORTS
- ◆ SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO SHEILA WINDHAM DUE TO THE DEATH OF HER SISTER CAROLYN WHO PASSED AWAY FRIDAY. ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE LATER
- ◆ OUR GOSPEL MEETING STARTS NEXT SUNDAY
- ◆ REMEMBER TO SET CLOCKS BACK SATURDAY NIGHT
- ◆ GOSPEL MEETING @ ELDRIDGE OCT 29-31

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

- 3—Shelia Windham
- 5—Wilma Brown
- 11—Fred Elliott

NOVEMBER

- 7—Chris Robbins
- 10—Gene McDonald
- 28—Bobbie Dailey
- 29—Brandi Preston

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

- 1—Hoyt & Faye Sims
- 28—Danny & Robin Busby
- 30—David & Brandi Preston

NOVEMBER

- 2—Neil & Carolyn Myers
- 22—Ben & Jincy Wright

SICK LIST

Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bettye Henderson, Hoyt Sims, Gene McDonald, Jill Roden, Brenda Rushing

SERMONS

Oct 29, 2017

AM: THE NECESSITY OF BAPTISM

PM: MATTHEW 23

PRAYER LIST

April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Debbie Odom, Robert Turner, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, J.D. Dailey, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, John Pruitt, Madison Banks, Martha Ann, Margie Thomasson, Micah Earnest, Vonciel Phillips, Wanda Self, Jamie Sanford, Bruce Windham, Raymond Johnson, Gene McDonald, Mike Miles, Marvin White, Jimmy Harrison, Diane Chambers, Angie Jones, Victor Crosby, Brianna Cordell, Bud Howell, Margaret Henson, Judith Homer, Mason Chambers, Danielle Dodd, Mike Myers, Weston Suddeth, Renea Lawson, Chuck Peltz, John Aldridge, Tommy Pope, Byron Leith, Jan Sims

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

Has a preacher ever been motivated by finance, popularity, or fame? Has an elder ever been motivated by power, influence, or notoriety? Has a Christian ever served in any way for notice, accolades, or to satisfy pride? In individual cases, it's so hard to tell (ultimately, it's impossible). But, knowing human nature, we would have to say motivation can be tainted and corrupted.

Paul says as much of preachers, that they preached Christ from envy, strife, and selfish ambition (Phil. 1:15,17). Greed propels some preachers (1 Th. 2:5; 2 Pet. 2:3,14). Woe to the preacher who falls into traps like those! He may do harm in this life, but it cannot compare to the ultimate harm he does to himself and others. Peter calls out elders who he says serve for sordid gain or on a power trip (1 Pet. 5:2-3). Woe to the elder who serve from such a base motive! He will not joyfully anticipate the appearing of the Chief Shepherd (cf. 1 Pet. 5:4)! Christians have been led by their appetites and an earthly mindset (Phil. 3:19). Woe to the Christian who serves God for selfish reasons. Such will not be able to successfully endure their spiritual race.

Sometimes, our words and actions betray our motives and intentions. So often, what gets in the way is self— self-service, self-will, self-interest, self-indulgence, self-importance, selfish ambition. It leaves a sour taste and sounds ugly when said. It is manifestly unattractive to even read the words. It is detestable when witnessed in others. But “self” is such an impediment to spiritual service.

I don't know why anyone else is serving Jesus. But I need to be careful to examine myself. How terrible to let my speech and actions be the cause of anyone questioning what moves me to render any act or service. Let our goal be to live so selflessly that no one has legitimate cause to ask why we do what we do in God's Kingdom. Paul contrasts Timothy with others, saying, “ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:21). Let's be a Timothy, moved by a genuine concern for others (Phil. 2:20). That's just what this cynical world needs to see! Neal Pollard

AN EXAMPLE WORTHY OF IMITATING

Patrick Morrison

Barnabas is one of the great characters of the Bible. Here is one who was such an encourager that the apostles changed his name to reflect this (Acts 4:36)! In every instance wherein we read of Barnabas, we see him acting as an exhorter of his brethren. What an asset to the first century church! What would the church look like today if more people would strive to be like Barnabas? It is all too easy to fall into the trap of running down the brethren, of finding fault with others, of magnifying the shortcomings of others so that our own failures appear miniscule in comparison. Think of the souls that could be won to the Lord and built up in the faith if we would give our energy to being encouragers rather than tearing down or belittling our brothers and sisters. What made Barnabas such a great encourager? Notice what he did that we can emulate today.

Find someone in need and help them. When many of the new converts were suddenly in great need, Barnabas and others of kindred spirit rose to the occasion. He sold some land and gave the proceeds to the apostles to distribute as they saw fit (Acts 4:37). This heart of generosity caused the world to notice and long to be part of the family of God. What if Barnabas had maintained that what he possessed was his own, and he did not have to share it? Would the church have grown as rapidly without the giving spirit of ones like Barnabas?

Find someone who is alone and include them. Saul of Tarsus was a great enemy of the Lord and his people, wreaking havoc upon the early church (Acts 8:3). This antagonist soon had a change of heart and was converted to Christ. The brethren were initially reluctant to accept Saul for fear that he might be feigning conversion in an attempt to infiltrate the church and worsen the persecution against them (Acts 9:36). Barnabas was convinced of the genuineness of Saul's conversion. He brought this new convert to the apostles so that they, too, would accept him as one of their own (Acts 9:27). What if Barnabas had not been so accepting of Paul? Would the church have missed out on the greatest missionary ever known?

Find someone who has fallen and lift them up. After embarking on their first missionary journey together, Paul and Barnabas return to report on the work God was doing through them among the Gentiles. As they are preparing to return to the mission field, Barnabas makes known his desire to take John Mark along with them again. Paul vehemently disagrees, and the contention became so sharp that Paul and Barnabas part ways (Acts 15:39). Evidently John Mark had started into the mission field with Paul and Barnabas, but had turned back for a reason that is not revealed to us. Barnabas wanted to give this young man another opportunity. While Paul seemed to have lost respect for John Mark, we know that later in his ministry this young man had become very valuable to Paul (2 Tim.4:11). What if Barnabas had written this young man off because of his mistakes? What if no one would have been willing to give John Mark another chance?

I am thankful that God in His infinite wisdom chose to record for us part of the life of this great man, Barnabas. May we seek to encourage and lift up our brethren at every opportunity. We may not have the ability to be a great preacher, or great song-leader, or great Bible class teacher, but every one of us has the potential to be a Barnabas!

SERMON ADVANTAGE

THE NECESSITY OF BAPTISM

(Acts 2:38)

I. Baptism is involved in making one a _____ of Jesus.

- A. Matthew 28:18-20.
- B. "Go ye therefore, and _____ disciples of all nations".
- C. _____ and _____ are involved in making disciples.

II. Baptism is involved in _____ away our sins.

- A. Acts 22:16.
- B. The _____ of baptism was to wash away Saul's sins.
- C. No other _____ or _____ is ever mentioned in connection with this.

III. Baptism is involved in _____.

- A. 2 Corinthians 5:10.
- B. Baptism _____ one into Christ.
- C. The Romans were told to walk in _____ of life because they had been baptized (Romans 6:3-4).

IV. Baptism is involved in becoming a _____ of the church Jesus built.

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:13.
- B. The one body into which they had been baptized was the one _____.
- C. This is very _____ to Acts 2:41, 47.

V. Baptism is involved in becoming a _____ of God.

- A. 1 John 3:1.
- B. We get to be the children of God in a _____ sense.
- C. Galatians 3:26-27.