

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ THE ELDERS ARE LOOKING FOR CONGREGATIONS IN FLORIDA WHO ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE. IF YOU KNOW OF ANY OR ANYONE, PLEASE INFORM THE ELDERS
- ◆ BIBLE BOWL TODAY @ BLACKWATER
- ◆ GOSPEL MEETING @ BURLESON OCT 1-4
- ◆ GOSPEL MEETING @ WHITE'S CHAPEL OCT 1-5
- ◆ GUS NICHOLS SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL EMPHASIS THURSDAYS @ 6 PM

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

- 10—Romaine Elliott
24—Charlie Richardson
30—Deloris Brown & Margie Mays

SERMONS

Sep 24, 2017

AM: BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
PM: PSALM 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

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

- 3—Chuck & Patricia Windham
8—Lynn & Betty Honeycutt
19—David & Margaret Barton

SICK LIST

Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bettye Henderson, Sandy Richardson, Danny Rushing, Neal Myers, Gene McDonald

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

Send Me

R.W. Mcalister

Years ago when I was substitute teaching, I would frequently end up in the early elementary grades. Most who substitute teach don't enjoy it very much, but I always did, in part because the younger ages had an immeasurable amount of enthusiasm. If ever there was an errand to run, I could always count on a number of hands waving in the air, and it was common to hear, "pick me!" As I've gotten older and more involved in the work of the Lord's church, I look around at my fellow Christians at home and in other congregations my family and I occasionally visit, and I can't help but wonder where that child-like enthusiasm has gone. The predominant attitude seems to be, "Well, I hope nobody asks me to do anything!"

I've overheard conversations dealing with something that needs to be done to the church building or something that needs to be done in regard to the work of the church, and the question was often, "Well, who's going to do that?" Was this the attitude Isaiah had? Recall Isaiah 6:8. Just prior to this passage, the Lord was considering whom to send to reach out to disobedient Israel. In this passage, Isaiah is speaking and the Bible reads, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

Where is the enthusiasm of Isaiah today? Many of us in the Lord's church want the church to grow, but how much do we do toward that end? We cannot expect the work of the church to progress if we don't help it along. The church will not experience the same growth it saw in the first century if only a "handful" are evangelizing. This work requires everyone.

We can also apply this principle to our everyday lives. Be willing to do what needs to be done without having to be asked. This makes for a very positive atmosphere and an enjoyable place to be. If every Christian were willing to fulfill his or her duties as a Christian and pitch in and help out, every congregation of the Lord's church would grow in spirit and in number.

The next time something needs to be done for God (or another), try saying, "Here am I, send me."

HAVE YOU STOPPED BEATING YOUR WIFE?

Billy Alexander

Just before Hurricane Irma arrived to batter Florida there was a news report that a man's parents flew into the Sunshine State from India to assist their son in "disciplining" his wife. When authorities arrived at the home to rescue her they had to enter forcibly as the door had been blocked by the husband. They found the wife covered in bruises and learned that the man and his mother and father had "repeatedly and forcefully" beaten her for her disobedience.

While such behavior seems obscene here in the West, it is not such an uncommon practice around the world to physically "discipline" one's wife. In fact, in the ancient world, women were too often viewed as little more than property. Few in the West today recognize that it was the teachings of Jesus that elevated the status of women out of such deplorable conditions.

For women in Greece, before and during the time of Christ, they were not permitted to leave the home without their husband or a trustworthy male escort. Wives had to retreat to her quarters if her husband hosted a male guest and they had very little freedom. Wives in Roman culture shared a similarly low status. Even among the Hebrews there was some rabbinical thought that men were not to converse with women because they would lead men into unchastity. When the disciples returned and found Jesus speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well, they were not surprised that He conversed with a Samaritan but that "He talked with a woman ([John 4:27](#))."

The Taliban forbids girls from attending school and learning as a boy may do. Under Islam, the Koran directs husbands to put disobedient wives out of their beds and to beat or scourge them until they obey ([Sura 4:34](#)). What a contrast to the direction of the New Testament in regards to husband's relations with their wives. The husband is to love his wife as his own body ([Ephesians 5:28](#)) and be prepared to give himself for her, just as Christ did for His bride, the church ([Ephesians 5:25-27](#)). Paul admonished Husbands to "love your wives, and do not be harsh with them ([Colossians 3:19 ESV](#))." Peter instructed husbands to show consideration for their wives as "the weaker vessel ([1 Peter 3:7](#))." Typically, the man, being stronger, could be inclined to forcefully impose his will over her. Peter adds the warning that the husband should not abuse his advantage of strength and treat his wife dishonorably so that his prayers would not be hindered, that his privilege of coming boldly to the throne of God could be cut off by choosing to act in this fashion.

Jesus radically altered the status quo of the culture of His day and for all generations since then where His example is followed and His teachings are honored. Not only did He converse with the Samaritan woman at the well at Sychar, He revealed to her that He was the Messiah ([John 4:25-26](#)) and graced her with the honor to lead the entire town to Jesus (vv.29, 39-42). It was to women that He extended this same favor by revealing Himself first to them after His resurrection and charging them to tell the other disciples that He had risen ([Matthew 28:10](#)). Women were not only His disciples, they were among His ministry's prominent financial backers ([Luke 8:1-3](#)). Women were free to approach Jesus directly, in violation of the culture's mistaken norms towards women ([Luke 7:37-39](#)).

Jesus did not come to earth to initiate a women's movement, rather He came to provide redemption from sins for all, both men and women, for both are equal in Christ ([Galatians 3:28](#)).² But His teachings remain and prove able to continue to change hearts and conquer the ugly and improper traditions of men.

SERMON ADVANTAGE

BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

([Matthew 12:31-32](#))

I. What blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is not.

- A. This sin, whatever it is, was described by Jesus as an _____ sin, or an unpardonable sin.
- B. Remember that blasphemy is a sin of the _____.
- C. Some have said that it is _____.
- D. Some have said that it is _____.
- E. Some have said that it is _____.
- F. Some have said that it is _____.
- G. Some have said that it is _____.
- H. Some have said that it is _____.
- I. Some have said that it is _____ of all three members of the Godhead.

II. What blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is.

- A. The Pharisees had seen a notable miracle that could not be _____.
- B. The only thing the Pharisees could do was to attack the _____ of the power.
- C. They accused Jesus of having the power of _____, not of _____.
- D. Jesus said that the miracle was done by the _____ of _____.
- E. Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is not the sin under consideration in _____.

III. Can we commit blasphemy of the Holy Spirit today?

- A. Based on all the evidence, the answer is we _____ commit this sin.
- B. The events and setting of the sin cannot be _____ today.
- C. There is no mention of this sin ever being _____ after this incident.