

Galatians 6:10 *“Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith.”*

January 8, 2012

Remember in your prayers:

- **Paul Odom**, Roger’s brother-in-law had surgery on his vocal cords this week.
- **Sarabeth Upton** is still having problems with her auto immune system and is still on oxygen.
- **Xavian Hall** condition remains very serious.
- **Sara Ozley, Marvin Trigg, Kara Harrison, and Rhonda Knowles** continue to need our prayers.
- **Macon Horne, Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides, Xavian Hall, Paul Odom, Victor Holmes and Marvin Dryer’s mother**, as they battle cancer. **Frances Flowers** (Alzheimer)
- **Heather Flowers**, who is away at college; **Sawyer Jones, Jeremiah Hughes, Robert Langley & all of our servicemen** who are defending freedom. **Our nation** and its leaders. **Those that preach and teach the gospel**; especially those who labor under hardships.

❖ The Chronological daily bible reading schedules are available in the foyer

BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Ladies and Men’s Bible Classes:** Mon and Tue, 6:00 and 6:30
- **Bible Class** at Donaldson- Every Wednesday @ 10:00
- **Sunday Prison Service** at Donaldson, Today, meet here at 1:30

Area Gospel Meetings: No Notices received this week



Possible or Impossible?

Can an accountable person who so desires become just a Christian? And can a group of such people constitute a congregation (such as those we read about in the New Testament) that is non-denominational and that belongs to Christ? The religious world in general says that it is impossible; we say that it is possible. Christians in the first century were neither Catholics nor Protestants. All of the Lord’s churches were non-denominational and neither Catholic nor Protestant. Our plea is for people to lay aside human names and designations, human creeds and doctrines, human organizations and systems, and become only Christians, and constitute only churches of the Lord.

Can any accountable person, as a result of his own sincere desire and effort, understand the Bible so that he can know what it teaches and so that he can see clearly what it is that God wants him to know, to believe, to do and to be? The religious world in general says that this is impossible; we say that it is both possible and necessary. We know that God is unlimited in power, wisdom and knowledge; that He is capable of giving a revelation that can be understood by men; and that He certainly wants men to understand this revelation of His will. To maintain that people cannot understand the Bible, or that they cannot “understand it alike,” is more of a reflection upon God and His Book than it is upon men.

- by Bill Crews

The Banner of Truth

Black Creek church of Christ
1235 Alliance Rd; Alliance, Alabama
436-4477

“You have given a BANNER to those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of the TRUTH. “ Psalms 60:4

Editor:

Van Cooper

Schedule of Services

Lord’s Day
9:30 A.M. Bible Classes
10:25 A.M. Worship

Wednesday
7:00 P.M.

5:00 P.M. Worship

Elders

Philip Jacks 436-3055
Truman Wallace 483-7016
Van Cooper 491-9695

Deacons

Keith Chaney 491-1596
Roger Key 491-3723

Evangelist

Sammy Bynum 368-3511

Who We Are: The Black Creek Church of Christ is simply a group of Christians dedicated to serving God. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and it is to be our sole guide. We are committed to preaching the gospel of Christ, which is man’s only hope for eternal life.

We are interested in helping anyone who is searching for the way to God. We welcome the opportunity to privately study the Bible with you. If you would contact us, we would be happy to meet with you. In addition, you are invited to visit one of our public assemblies (information is above). At our public Bible studies, we have classes for adults and children of all ages. If we can help you in knowing more about God and His Word, then please visit, call, or write us.

(Visit us on-line at (WWW.blackcreekchurch.com)

The Deceitfulness of Sin

Sin is very deceitful, alluring, and ensnaring. **Hebrews 3:13** says that we are to *"Exhort one another daily...lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."* With many people sin is first abhorred, then as people become more comfortable with it, sin is tolerated, and then it is embraced. But why is sin so openly embraced by so many? It is because they have not been properly taught the word of God. People, who become so involved in sin, do not want to listen or receive God's word. People, because of sin become *"past feeling"* (**Ephesians 4:19**), because they have *"their conscience seared with a hot iron"* (**1 Timothy 4:2**). As the morality level of this nation declines, the church is also affected and has become more comfortable with sin. As Paul says in **2 Timothy 3:13**, *"Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse."* Satan wants us to become complacent with sin so he can help us to be lost with him in the burning fires of a real Hell.

There seems to be no shame today by those who participate in sin. **Jeremiah 6:15** says, *"Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed, nor did they know how to blush."* The modern world is rapidly casting aside all moral restraints. They want to *"call evil good and good evil"* (**Isaiah 5:20**). As or Lord says in **Matthew 3:15**, *"For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard*

of hearing, and their eyes they have closed." Sin first has its beginning with lust. *"Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin when it is finished brings forth death"* (**James 1:15**). This is spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God.

There are no little sins or big sins. In God's eyes all sin is sin. There is no difference. Homosexuality and adultery (**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**), murder and lying (**Revelation 21:8**), or prejudice (**James 2:9**) are all sins that will cause us to be lost. But these and any other sins which are not forgiven will cause us to be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone along with Satan and *"tormented day and night forever and ever"* (**Revelation 20:10, 15**). Also we dare not try to justify anyone in their sin because, *"He that justifies the wicked and he that condemns the just, even they both are an abomination to the Lord"* (**Proverbs 17:15**).

But how do we protect ourselves from sin? We are to *"Lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us"* (**Hebrews 12:1**). We must *"Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good"* (**Romans 12:9**). We are not to be *"conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"* (**Romans 12:2**). How do we renew our mind to protect ourselves from sin? *"Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you"* (**Psalms 119:11**). And then we must *"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"* (**James 1:22**), because *"To him that knows to do good and does not do it to him it is*

sin" (**James 4:17**). The terror of the Lord awaits those who because of sin are unprepared to meet Him in the Judgment. Let's not be deceived by sin. By **Ron Boatwright**

A Mixed-Up World

Human wisdom has rejected the Bible as the word of God and has decided that man evolved from lower animals, therefore they do not want to kill animals, but many of the same people have no respect for human life, therefore advocate unrestricted abortion. It is really a mixed up world!

Some do not want to wear any article of clothing made of fur, or any other kind of animal products, use animals for research or eat meat. According to the doctrine of reincarnation, they may be harming a relative!

What does the Bible say about this? First, if it is a sin to wear animal skins, then God sinned in the garden of Eden, when he *"made tunics of skin"* and clothed Adam and Eve (**Gen. 3:21**). When Noah came out of the ark, God said *"Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. But you shall not eat flesh with the life, that is, the blood"* (**Gen. 9:2,3**). God did not know that it was *"cruelty to animals"* to eat meat. Paul said that one doctrine of those who departed from the truth would be *"commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified*

by the word of God and prayer" (**1 Tim. 4:4,5**).

John Clayton commented: *"Is nature cruel? Do animals possess a sense of self that makes death a personal tragedy? The evidence suggests that the answer is No! The fact that males will frequently kill their own offspring and that many forms of life will eat a member of their group that has died suggests that there are other forces at work. Predation (preying on other animals) is not a wanton and cruel act..."*

"If we recognize that living things are not unevolved men but products of a design which ensures survival of the species and are programmed to fit the design, we will be better equipped to manage our world and also will be able to understand acts in nature that many interpret as blatant unwarranted cruelty" (Does God Exist? Sept/Oct, 1990).

The theory of evolution and the Eastern religion's doctrine of reincarnation have influenced us more than most may realize. When men reject God's revelation, they get values confused and even reversed. In short, if vegetarianism is mandatory, the Bible is false! by **Frank Jamerson**