

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

February 12, 2012

Remember in your prayers:

- **Robert Knowles** will have surgery tomorrow at Brookwood and will remain there for recovery for a few days.
- **Sara Ozley, Mary Bynum, Marvine Trigg, Marguerite Thompson, Kara Harrison, Sarabeth Upton** and **Rhonda Knowles** continue to need our prayers.
- **Tim Craven, Macon Horne, Tacoda Goshee, Hunter Alexander, Bessie Sides, Xavian Hall, Paul Odom, Victor Holmes, Chester Poe, Randy Johnson** 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.

BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Ladies and Men’s Bible Classes:** Monday @ 6:00, Tuesday @ 6:30.
- **Gospel Meeting** with Jeff Young, Sunday-Wednesday, Feb 19-22
- **Bible Class** at Donaldson- Every Wednesday @ 10:00
- **Summer Bible School:** July 16-20 (M-F @ 9:30)

Area Gospel Meetings:

Oak Mountain church of Christ.....Bob Waldron.....Feb. 12-17.....M-F @ 7:00 P.M.
Elliotsville church of Christ.....Rhodes Davis.....Feb. 17-19.....Fri. - Sat. @ 7:00 P.M.

A Well-Defined Life

Paul was *“separated unto the Gospel”* (**Romans 1:1**). Jesus foretells the gathering of all nations “before him,” saying further that *“he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats”* (**Matthew 25:32**). The Greek word that translates as “separate(d)” is a form of the verb *aphoridzo*. The *-horidzo* part of the word is the source of our word horizon. The *ap-* part of the word means *from*. Altogether, the fundamental idea of *aphoridzo* is to “mark off by boundaries.” The noun form of this word is *aphorismos*, which is the Greek word for “definition.” When we define words, we show how they are distinct, or separated from others in a similar class. A Christian life is a separated life; it is a well defined life.

That definition will be most distinct at the judgment when Jesus *“shall separate ... the sheep from the goats”* (**Matthew 25:32**). We control the precision of that definition when we obey the Lord’s command to *“come ye out from among them, and be ye separate”* (**2 Corinthians 6: 17**). The definition is clear, too, when we live as we ought and *“men ... separate [us] from their company”* (**Luke 6:22**). If you live your life as you ought, this world will vomit you out like the fish did Jonah.

Coincidentally, these Greek words are also the source of our word “aphorism,” a proverb; or, what my Papa used to call “an ol’ ettered saying.” By- **Alan Adams**

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)

ARE YOU TRIPPING UP?

“We all stumble in many things” (Jam 3.2). Often stumbling is ignored or excused by Christians because they do not see how it can lead to anything permanent, or it is written off as just being a part of who they are. Still others will see it as just being human and since every person stumbles in many things, there is nothing to be concerned about.

However, stumbling must be seen as a matter of heaven and hell. That is, if we stumble and do not get up, but remain in a state of apostasy, hell is our destination; whereas if we get up from stumbling, we can still have the hope of heaven. Does this not make stumbling one of the most serious matters that we can consider? When we stumble we should give all diligence to get back up to our former position of righteousness.

The Bible uses walking as a metaphor for living

*Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the
ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful...
(Psa 1.1).*

Romans 13.13 is just one of the many times that the New Testament uses this metaphor, “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and lewdness, not in strife and envy.”

We walk to journey from one location to another. In life we are on a journey, as though we are walking from one location to another. However, what can happen as we walk, especially if we are not paying attention, is we stumble over something and fall. In life we often fail to use the light of God’s word to light our way in this dark world (Psa 119.105), and we stumble, doing something that we should not have done.

Stumbling is an ugly picture

In Second Peter 2.20–22 we can see graphically with three more metaphors what it means to stumble,

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

Peter used the metaphor of pollutions and becoming entangled in them. Is anyone eager to breathe polluted air? Who wants to drink from the sewer? Yet, Christians who stumble are doing these very things spiritually.

The second metaphor is of a dog eating his own vomit. Can you imagine eating

your own vomit? Need it be repeated that this is what fallen Christians are doing?

The third metaphor is of a clean sow wallowing in the mire. This may make sense for a pig, but not for humans, because we clean ourselves to avoid the mud. Why then do Christians fall away and go back to the filth of sin after having been washed from sin?

Signs of stumbling

The preceding material being true, we should all be very careful to examine ourselves to make sure that we do not stumble. Here are some things to look for in your own life, and may be in the lives of others whom you can help. Of course, the pattern may not be the same for every person, but often you will see the following (this list is from J. Curtis Manor).

- Lack of time for Bible study, church assemblies or Christian service
- Devoting of more time to reading newspaper or novels than the Bible
- Preference for the company of the irreligious to that of Christians
- Looking for reasons to justify something you have already done or decided to do

- Evaluating the sermon more by its length than by its content
- Becoming more prone to illness on Sunday than on other days of the week
- Stretching one week’s excuse to cover two or more weeks of absence from church
- Thinking of the church in terms of “they” rather than “we”
- Reaction to sorrow, doubts, or personal problems by avoiding Christian who might help to resolve them.
- Resentment toward being visited by representatives of the church.

Where are you on your walk?

Are you walking, or have you stumbled and fallen? Sometimes we need help to get back up on our feet, and that is why God wants us to have fellowship with one another, so that we can look out for one another and help each other.

Therefore, be sure that you are an active member of the church! **By Don Ruhl**