

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

**February 5, 2012**

**Remember in your prayers:**

- **Robert Knowles** will have surgery this week.
- **Sara Ozley, Mary Bynum, Marvin Trigg, Marguerite Thompson, Kara Harrison, Sarabeth Upton and Rhonda Knowles** continue to need our prayers.
- **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:**

- **Summer Bible School** Planning Meeting this afternoon
- **Gospel Meeting** with Jeff Young, Sunday-Wednesday, Feb 19-22
- **Bible Class** at Donaldson- Every Wednesday @ 10:00

Area Gospel Meetings: No notices received this week.



***ELECTED FOR LIFE?***

In 1900, the Daughters of the American Revolution elected social reformer Jane Addams to honorary membership. Later her antiwar stance during World War I and her insistence that even subversives had a right to trial by due process led to them expelling her. She commented that she had thought her election to the DAR was for life, but now knew it was for good behavior.

Some people have the same view of spiritual election that Addams had of her election: they do not believe they can do anything to jeopardize it. The Bible tells us differently. **2 Peter 1:10** says, *“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.”* In other words, you can lose the surety of your election if you are not diligent, you can stumble and fall from it if you do not do “these things” required of you. Don’t take God’s grace for granted.

# 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](http://WWW.blackcreekchurch.com) )

## Remember Mrs. Lot

The Lord removed Lot from the city of Sodom before its destruction. The two angels to whom Lot had shown hospitality the previous night were actually the ones who conducted Lot, his wife and his two daughters from the mountains because the cities of the plain were going to be destroyed. The instructions were clear: "Do not look back behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain" (Gen. 19:17).

We don't know the name of Lot's wife. She is remembered simply as the woman who was turned into a pillar of salt because she looked back (Gen. 19:26). Perhaps she was curious about the destruction of the city or maybe she simply had a hard time leaving everything behind, but she disobeyed the divine instructions given and died as the consequence of her sin.

At least two thousand years later, as Jesus neared the end of His public ministry upon the earth, He spoke of God's impending judgment against the city of Jerusalem (Lk. 17:22ff). He warned the disciples about the swiftness of the judgment and the need to leave the city quickly. When the Romans came against Jerusalem, there would not even be time for the man on his housetop (the people of the day used the flat roofs of their houses for various purposes) to come down into the house to gather some of his things. Instead he must flee the city, moving from housetop to housetop to arrive at the city wall and exit through one of the gates. There would be no time to be concerned about possessions; his full attention would have to be focused on the need to escape. To make His point Jesus cryptically remarked: "Remember Lot's wife" (vs. 32).

The disciples knew the story about Lot. Just the mention of Lot's unfortunate wife was enough to emphasize Jesus' point -- there are some things which require our undivided attention. Looking back only hinders one's efforts of going forward.

Jesus made the same point about discipleship in general: "Follow Me," Jesus said to one man. The man requested that he be allowed to bury his father first. Another affirmed that he would follow Jesus, but he needed to return home and bid fare- well to his family. Jesus knew that both of these men had the same problem; they wanted to be disciples, but they were allowing themselves to be distracted by other concerns. He said, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk. 9:62).

Like Lot's wife, disciples of Jesus sometimes are tempted to look back at the sinful things which they left behind in the world. Paul reminded Christians that they died to these things (Rom. 6: 1-11). If we will escape condemnation in the final judgment (2 Cor. 5:10), we must "flee for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us" (Heb. 6:18) and never look back! (Paul said, forgetting those things that are behind, I press on toward the upward call of Christ Jesus, JWS). ---- Allen Dvorak in *The Sower*, Vol. 4, No. 37, Sept. 25, 2011

## When Was the Church Built?

In the denominational world one would get all kinds of different dates as to when "their" church was established. But we need only to be concerned with one church - the church that Jesus built! Therefore, let us take a look at when the church of Christ was established. To find out everything we need to know about Christ's church we can

go straight to the inspired Bible as our only source.

### Jesus Stated that His Church Would Be Built

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus clearly stated to Peter: "upon this rock I will build my church..." When Jesus stated this, His church had not yet been built because He said "I will build" not "I have built". So we know that it was His church that was to be built at some future time as stated by Jesus Himself

It was something like eighteen months after Jesus ordained the twelve apostles (Matthew 10), and sent them forth to preach that the Lord said: "I will build my church." These two facts are very clear: The church was not built at the time he made the statement, and He promised to build the church.

In A.D. 32 is when Jesus said "I will build my church" and His church was realized in A.D. 33 on the day of Pentecost when people were "added to the church." It was then that Jesus' church had been built and the "Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

### Paul References that the Church Is Built

In the writings of the apostle Paul we can see clearly that the church of Christ had been built. In Ephesians 2:20 he says: "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." Paul's reference to "are built" occurred after Pentecost when the Lord's church was established.

For one to be in the church that Jesus built it has to rest on His foundation, not man's! Paul stated: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (First Corinthians 3:11). To lay a foundation is the first work in the

erection of a building. What did Paul do first when he went to Corinth? He laid down the foundation of Jesus. He told them: "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (First Corinthians 15:3-4). Before one can build upon the word of God the foundation must first be laid. This basic foundation was also laid down at Pentecost when the Lord's church was established (Acts 2).

### Jesus Was Made Head of His Church After He Was Raised

In Acts 4:10-11 we read: "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'"

Here are some basic facts that we can learn about the church that Jesus Christ built and is now head of:

1. The church couldn't be built till the foundation was laid (I Corinthians 3:11).
2. The foundation could not be laid till the foundation was tried (Isaiah 28:16; Mark 3:27; I Corinthians 15:14-17).
3. The Stone could not be tried till rejected (Mark 8:31)
4. The Stone was tried and proven in His resurrection (I Corinthians 15:3).

It must follow that the church of Christ could not be built before Christ was raised from the dead. Therefore the church of Christ was built after the resurrection of Jesus Christ - not before. **by Richie Thetford**