

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

**April 10, 2011**

**Remember in your prayers:**

- **Ruby Gilbert** has gone to her residence in Bibb County.
- Brother **Billy Norris** (Bunny Richardson’s father) is doing the same. His condition is grave.
- There is no new news on **Sarabeth Upton**.
- **B.J. Parker** (friend of John Ozley) passed away this week and was buried Thursday. Please keep the family in your prayers.
- **Randy Kiker** had successful surgery and now has a long recovery time. Please keep him in your prayers.
- **Jean Burt** (Josh’s step-grandmother) will have surgery on 4/29.
- **Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides, Xabien Hall, Paul Odom, Conard Rice, Barbara Addington, Lea Cooper,** and **Marvin Dryer’s mother,** as they battle cancer.
- **Rhonda Knowles** continues to need our prayers.
- **Heather Flowers, Laura Russo** and **Murry Hyman** who are away at college. **Robert Langley, Jeremiah Hughes** & 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 Class,** tomorrow @6:00----- **Men’s Class,** Tuesday @ 6:30
- **SBS Meeting** next Sunday @ 4:15

**Area Gospel Meetings:**

**South Columbiana** church of Christ.....David Lanphear.....April 10-13.....Mon.- Wed. 7:00 P.M.  
**Northwood** church of Christ.....David Maxson.....April 10-13.....Mon.- Wed. 7:00 P.M.  
**North Jasper** church of Christ.....Jacob Holman.....April 10-15.....Mon. - Fri. 7:00 P.M.



**PUT TO DEATH**

Murder is a grievous sin. As a work of the flesh, it not only denies that one shall inherit the kingdom of God, it condemns the one guilty to *“the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death”* (**Gal 5:19-22; Rev 21:8**). John looks upon the dreadful consequences of murder as something that all should know: *“and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him”* (**1 John 3:15**).

And yet under the law of Christ there is a sense of which the Christian is commanded to murder: “put to death” - not a fellow human being, but evil passions within himself. *“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry”* (**Col 3:5**).

In the affairs of men hate may be a basic cause of murder. Hatred and murder are both condemned. Yet both are required of the Christian when his hatred of sin leads him to “put to death” those evil passions that otherwise would deny his heavenly inheritance.

*“Abhor that which is evil. Cleave to that which is good”* (**Rom 12:9**). **author unknown**

# 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**

**10:25 A.M. Worship**

**5:00 P.M. Worship**

**Elders**

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

**Wednesday**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Deacons**

491-1596 Keith Chaney  
491-3723 Roger Key

**Evangelist**

497-9800 Sammy Bynum

**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) )

## Perspectives on Providence

God is able to work in our lives in ways that are beyond our capabilities to understand. Through providence, God acts in this world to accomplish his will. He is always moving forward with his plans (Revelation 4-5).

When providence is in motion, we cannot see it working around us because God's worktable is larger than the universe. We just know he is still there for us (Hebrews 13:5). We have to trust that he is involved and always good (Hebrews 11:6; Titus 1:2; 1 John 1:5).

We need to step back and consider some important thoughts on providence, so we will not be disappointed and allow Satan to turn us against God.

First, God never promised us that the Christian life would be painless (Matthew 6:34). We will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12) and suffer continual spiritual attacks (1 Peter 5:8). The presence of providence does not negate these facts. He did not take away his Son's suffering because of God's overall plan.

Second, we must understand the expansive nature of God's canvas. As humans, we want everything to happen immediately as we desire. It is difficult for us to wait. Additionally, we think we have complete knowledge and that all things should work according to our will.

The problem is that we are one person among billions. We have no way of knowing what God is working on at any time. Our will may conflict with his will. We cannot outguess God. God knows what will happen

in the universe between now and the end of time in perfect order.

We pray that our loved ones will not die, as well we should. However, if their lives do end, some turn on God and declare him a liar and a failure. Yet, we cannot know what is happening in relation to our lives or that of our loved ones. God may not cause our loved one's death but he sees several steps ahead and knows that souls may come to salvation because of their passing.

We want the world to be simple when it is more complex than we can imagine. When we get in a car, we interact with the freewill of others. As a result, accidents occur and people lose their lives. We all love freewill and to rid ourselves of it would change everything we know as humans. Therefore, evil and death will occur (Hebrews 9:27).

We just have to trust that God will always do what is right. Paul wrote, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

If we try to narrow the parameters of this verse, we will find only confusion. Providence works in accordance with this verse and God creates good things from bad, even if we cannot see them. Paul's message is that providence and God's plan are beyond anything man can conceive, so we must trust him, knowing that he is still in charge. by **Randal Matheny**

## Good Teachers

I believe it would be impossible to place too much emphasis upon proper teaching of God's word. The importance of teaching is emphasized by Christ when He said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me" (John 6:44,45). Jesus clearly shows that the Father "draws" men as they are taught and hear and learn of the Father. This is the only way men can come to Christ. However, in order for this teaching, hearing and learning to take place there must be good teachers. What does it take to be a good teacher?

Good teachers will teach the truth. We need to follow the example of Ezekiel of old as he said, "Thus saith the Lord God" (Eze. 5:5). Time and again in his writing he says he is speaking that which the Lord spoke unto him. Paul told Timothy to "preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2).

The teaching of personal opinions or simply those things the people wish to hear is not good teaching. Paul told the Ephesian elders he "...kept back nothing that was profitable unto you" (Acts 20:20) and that he had "not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). One who refuses to teach all the truth, whatever the reason may be, is not a good teacher.

The apostle Paul told the young evangelist Timothy "...the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). Note, he said these things should be committed to "faithful" men. No one can be effective in teaching others if he is not going

to demonstrate faithfulness in his own life. He told this same Timothy to "be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). Those who would be good teachers need to talk and act in such a way as to reflect the word they are seeking to teach. I have known those who had a great deal of knowledge of God's word and could verbally present the word in an excellent way, however their effectiveness as teachers was destroyed by unfaithfulness in their own lives. If your speech, manner of dress or service to the Lord is not in harmony with God's word you cannot be a good teacher.

Paul also said these men would be "able" to teach others. To have the ability to teach demands a knowledge of the word. One cannot teach that which he does not know. To gain this knowledge one must be willing to make the sacrifice of time and effort necessary to study and learn the word of God. Many will acknowledge the truth of what I am saying but they will not devote the time or energy necessary to gain a knowledge of the Bible. Some will not even put forth the effort to attend the regular periods of Bible study available to them. These are neither "faithful" or "able."

Every Christian should have a desire to teach others. Paul expressed the attitude every Christian should have toward teaching others when he said to the Romans, "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also" (Rom. 1:15). Yes, we need good teachers but let us realize that, as Christians, being a good teacher is just another way of saying that I am faithfully serving the Lord for I cannot faithfully serve Him if I do not seek to teach others. In doing so, as Paul told Timothy, we "shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Tim. 4:16). - by **James Hahn**