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

August 22, 2011

Remember in your prayers:

- **Marguerite Thompson** now has a bacterial infection in her foot. **Macon Horne** had successful surgery and is in ICU but doing well. Tim Parker's dad, **Jimmy Parker**, who is not feeling well. Lance Whitehead's mother, **Janice Smith**, as she continues to recover from a spider bite. **Laura Andrews** is making progress in her recovery. Shawn Flowers' mother, **Frances**, is bed ridden and not doing well. **Rhonda Knowles** continues to need our prayers.
- **Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides**, **Xavian Hall, Paul Odom, Conard Rice**, **Lea Cooper,** and **Marvin Dryer's mother,** as they battle cancer.
- **Heather Flowers,** who is 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:

- **Bible Class** at Donaldson- Every Wednesday @ 10:00
- **Men's and Ladies Classes:** Monday and Tuesday, Sept 12 & 13 @ 6:00 and 6:30

Area Gospel Meetings:
No notices received this week.

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CHARM IS DECEITFUL AND BEAUTY IS VAIN, BUT…

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates. (**Prov 31:30-31**). God is the creator of beauty, but he has warned us about building our lives, self-images and marriages on beauty that will not last. The woman who woos a man with nothing more than physical charm and outward beauty is wooing on fleeting terms.

Charm is "deceitful" in that it is temporary. Youthful bodies age. Circumstances change. Interests evolve. Beauty is "vain" in that it is superficial. There is an outward beauty that goes no deeper than the skin. But what about the inner woman? What about her heart—the mental, moral and spiritual source that will come to shape the springs of her life (**Prov 4:23**)?

Tweens, teens, single ladies and married women are absolutely bombarded in our secular culture with images of "real womanhood" founded on deceitful charm and vain beauty. **"But a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised."** Youthful circumstances change, but reverence for God endures. Youthful bodies age, but Christ like character will cause the hidden woman of the heart to thrive. Youthful interests evolve, but the fruit of a woman's hands who loves the Lord is worthy of praise (**Prov 31:31**).

Parents: let's teach our daughters that the greatest role models are those who fear the Lord. **Ladies:** root your identity in God, not the vain deceptions of secular culture. Resolve that your physical beauty will serve as a complement to the imperishable beauty of a gentle, quiet, God-centered spirit (**1 Pet 3:4**). Let your service as a living sacrifice be the primary source of your praise (**Rom 12:1**). **Single men:** guard against the intoxication of a forbidden woman who will lead you away from the Lord (**Prov 5**).

Married men: "An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain" (**Prov 31:10-11**). A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Be a source of that praise today. By ***Jason Hardin***

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

5:00 P.M. Worship

Wednesday
7:00 P.M.

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)

How Does God Address the Subject of Dress?

Let's first identify some areas of concern: most, if not all swimwear; at least some of the uniforms worn by those who participate in sports; shorts that only go down to about mid-thigh, and get even shorter when one sits down; short skirts; low-cut tops, which seem to be very popular with women today; see through clothing; tight clothing; men who walk around without a shirt, or who wear a "muscle shirt"; and even the revealing wedding dresses that some brides wear. How does God address the subject of dress in general, and these areas of concern in particular?

God teaches us a number of qualities or virtues to "put on," all of which have an effect on what we wear, or don't wear. Here's at least a partial list of those qualities: self-control (Galatians 5:23); modesty, shamefastness, and sobriety (1 Timothy 2:9, ASV); meekness and quietness (1 Peter 3:3-4); humility (1 Peter 5:5); chastity and discretion (Titus 2:5). Put these on, and you'll have a difficult time putting on any of the outfits mentioned above. God says it's shameful to be naked (Isaiah 47:3; Nahum 3:5; Revelation 3:18), unless, of course, you're only in the presence of your spouse. Sounds rather obvious, but bear in mind that God's definition of naked is a little different than ours. Yes, you're naked when you don't wear any clothes, (Job 1:21), but you're also naked when you wear just a "loin covering" (Genesis 3:7, 10), when you show your buttocks (Isaiah 20:4), when you reveal your waist and thighs (Exodus 28:42), and when you expose your breasts (Ezekiel 16:7). Shouldn't a Christian, at least one with the virtues cited above, be more concerned with concealing than revealing?

God warns us about the seriousness of causing others to sin, in passages like Matthew 18:6-7: "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!" If speech can be enticing (Proverbs 7:21), then so can clothing. Woe to the man, or woman, who wears such clothing!

God calls us to a very high standard—His own holiness. "Be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15-16). Anyone willing to argue that this does not apply to dress? And here's another passage to ponder: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed…" (Romans 12:2). For too long, we've allowed the standards of the world to become ours—in many areas, and particularly in the area of dress. Remember, if you're a Christian, you've been sanctified, or set apart from the world (1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:21). Dress accordingly, and that doesn't mean as close to "the line" as possible.

God wants us to set a good example, before both our fellow-Christians and the people of the world (1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8). When it comes to how you dress, could you join with Paul in saying, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1), or, "Brethren, join in following my example..." (Philippians 3:17)? **by *Bryan Gibson***

'He Restrained Them Not'

Do you think juvenile delinquency is an evil that is peculiar to our day? If so, then you would do well to read your Bible, particularly such passages as are found in the book of First Samuel.

Eli was judge in Israel and a priest of the living God. When he grew old, instead of his children being a source of joy to that religious leader of olden days, they caused him much heartache and grief. After Eli had heard of the almost unimaginable sins which his sons committed--as recorded in First Samuel 2:22--he said unto them, "Why do ye such things? For I hear of your evil dealings by all this people...it is no good report that I hear. Ye make the Lord's people to transgress" (1 Samuel 2:23,24).

What a tragedy! The sons of this "man of God" were a stumblingblock to the Lord's people! However, the sons (though vile and wicked indeed) were not altogether to blame, for we are told in First Samuel 3:13, "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not." Eli did not "curb" his children. He apparently just let them have their way. Perhaps he had the idea that "boys will be boys." Yes, but those boys grew up to be men — "vile men"!

This case alone should be enough to convince us parents that placing restrictions upon our children is needful if we expect them to grow up to be useful citizens and individuals whose manner of life will be worthy of "the gospel of Christ."

Fathers and mothers, think on these things!**- by *John Iverson***