

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

April 17, 2016

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS---

- **Jimmy Parker, Terry Langley, Eric Heddon, Roger Key, Sue Whitehead, John Ozley, Sara Ozley, Aladean Jacks, Kynethia Kelley, Amanda Kelley, Myra Garrison, Stefani, Kate Miller, Johnny Richardson, Tim Craven, Mickey Aldridge, Beverly Craven, Tuesday Pierce, Faye Wilkinson Goodwin, Sarabeth Upton, Rhonda Knowles.**
- **Sawyer Jones, Jeremiah Hughes, Robert Langley, Ana Reichelderfer & all of our servicemen and women** who are defending freedom. **Our nation** and its leaders. **Those that preach and teach the gospel**; especially those who labor under hardships. **Ben Brownfield, Shannon Brown, and Terry Tatum** (Christians' at Donaldson) and **Robert Gibson and Walter Aldridge** (released Christians who are struggling).

BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Donaldson Bible Classes** Every Wednesday @ 10:00 & 11:30

Area Gospel Meetings:

Pea Ridge church of Christ.....Bruce Murphy.....April 17-20.....M-W @ 7:00 P.M.
 Springville church of Christ.....John McPherson.....April 22-24.....F-S @ 7:00 P.M.
 North Bibb church of Christ.....Jackie Richardson.....April 17-22.....M-F @ 7:30 P.M.
 Sumiton church of Christ.....Seth Mauldin.....April 17-20.....M-W @ 7:00 P.M.



Those Needing our Prayers.....

John Ozley had his leg removed below the knee on Friday at UAB. He was in a lot of pain Friday night but Saturday the pain seemed to lessen as the day went on.

Fred Hamner, Maddie and Emmie's great grandfather, passed away Saturday morning. No arrangements at this time.

Tammy Andrews who is susceptible to high blood pressure and complications arising from that during her pregnancy.

Sara Ozley as she suffers from multiple hernia's.

Ruth Parsons (Ann's aunt) remains in UAB, no change in her condition.

Roger Key has been more mobile since his medicine change.

Becky Oglesby, Melanie's friend, who has breast cancer) as she has weekly chemo treatments

Ronald Wood, Mike's father, has back to back chemo treatments once a month.

Black Creek 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

10:30 A.M. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 P.M.

4:00 P.M. Worship (3 PM on the second Sunday of every month)

Elders

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

Deacons

Jeff Swindle 475-3043
 Matt Carter 491-0414
 Roger Key 491-3723
 Mike Wood 522-5703
 John Powell 641-5181

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

On Dislocated Hips and Blessings

Genesis 32 tells the intriguing account of Jacob wrestling with a character who, at first, seems quite mysterious. The text says, “a man wrestled him until daybreak” (vs. 24). Hosea 12:4 calls him an angel (or messenger). But when this man saw that he had not prevailed against Jacob, “he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob’s thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him” (vs. 25).

Adding to the mystery, we further learn that when this wrestling match was over, the “man” was more than a man. What Jacob realized was that he had in fact, somehow, been striving with God, and that’s where this can really get confusing. How can Jacob strive against God, and yet prevail? After all, he was told, “you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed” (vs. 28). How can that happen? Does this, in some way, diminish the power of God? Did Jacob really beat God in a wrestling match? Did God really not know the name of Jacob (vs. 26)?

One of the keys in this text is that Jacob asks for a blessing from his opponent. Jacob held onto the “man” insisting on a blessing: “I will not let you go unless you bless me” (vs. 26). This tells us something important because we know that the lesser is blessed by the greater (cf. Heb. 7:7). This means that Jacob himself recognized that the one with whom he was striving was greater than he was and had the power to bless him. Notice also how Jacob responds to the entire situation: “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved” (vs. 30). In other words, Jacob knew that he was really dealing with God, and that the only reason he prevailed was because God let him prevail.

As a testimony to the occasion, the dislocated hip, along with a pronounced limp, reminded Jacob of this occasion for the rest of his life. No one prevails against God unless God permits it, and God allowing this to happen was itself a tremendous blessing.

Yet even that sounds odd to say that God would allow someone to prevail against Him. Why would God allow anyone to so “prevail” against Him? It would seem that we need to understand the idea of “prevailing” in somewhat of an accommodative way because, as we know, no one actually defeats God in any permanent or absolute sense. Why then do we see Jacob winning here? The answer that would suffice is that God was teaching Jacob some significant life lessons here. After all, God isn’t the one who left this event with a limp, and surely He could have dislocated much more of Jacob’s body if He so willed it. As the day was dawning while these events were taking place, God wanted something more important to finally dawn in Jacob’s mind. Isn’t it interesting that the timing of the events coincide with the rising sun? “Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his thigh” (vs. 31). Now he’s coming back to the land and remembering the covenant he had made with God all those years before (Gen. 28:20-22).

The point here is that Jacob prevailed because he finally “got it.” After about 20 years outside of the promised land, he came back and finally began to realize what the promise to Abraham was about (32:9-12). He finally prevailed because he quit fighting against God’s promises and accepted what God had in mind for him all along. Really, his victory was not over God, but with God.

Jacob’s tenacity in pursuing the blessing from God would finally come to fruition. Jacob prevailed when he gave himself over to the blessings of God.

What about us? Do we ever find ourselves essentially “wrestling” with God? There are a couple ways to take this. We might be wrestling with God without really seeking His favor. Our fighting against God, in that sense, would be like what Jesus said to Saul (Paul): “It is hard for you to kick against the goads” (Acts 26:14). For Saul to be blessed, he had to give up his former ways and turn to the Lord. He had to quit fighting against God. If we find ourselves fighting against God in this sense, we’ll never be blessed until we are willing to give up the struggle.

However, we can also see this in the sense of persistence. There will be times when, due to our persistence, God will give us the desires of our prayers (see Luke 18:1-8). We recognize that what we pray for needs to be according to His will (1 John 5:14) and with the right motives (Jas. 4:3).

As we seek the Lord, perhaps the sun will rise with us as we learn even more what it means to serve Him and to receive His blessings in our lives. There may be painful reminders of our struggles, but the blessings will always be greater and more enduring. Seek the Lord with all diligence and know that He is God.

By Doy Moyer