

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

May 15, 2011

Remember in your prayers:

- **Sara Ozley** had a procedure to relieve her back pain this week. She will be staying with Sandra while recovering. **Josh Sanders** fell off a ladder and suffered a concussion Friday. He is staying with an aunt in Centerville. **Marguerite Thompson** has blood clots in her leg and is recovering at home. **Rose Stegall** is staying with Sandra until she can return to her home. **Roger Key** had a second injection into his back this week. **Jason Morgan** is recovering at home from blood clots. **Billy Norris'** (Bunny Richardson's father) condition has worsened. **Gwin Lacy** remains in grave condition. **Randy Kiker** is home and doing some better. **Sarabeth Upton's** tests this week were all good. The doctors will continue to search for her problem. **Rhonda Knowles** continues to need our prayers.
- **Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides, Xabien Hall, Paul Odom, Conard Rice, Barbara Addington** (is not doing well), **Lea Cooper**, and **Marvin Dryer's mother**, as they battle cancer.
- **Heather Flowers**, and **Laura Russo** 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. Those who have **lost loved ones and belongings** due to the tornado in our area.

Our prayers are with **Murry and Cheyenne** as they begin their new life together.

BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Summer Bible School Planning Meeting** today @ 4:15
- **Summer Bible School** Monday- Friday 9:30-11:00 AM; July 18-22, 2011

Area Gospel Meetings:

Perry Hill Rd. church of Christ.....Gardner Hall.....May 15-20...M-F @ 10:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
So. Cullman church of Christ.....Ken Weliever....May 15-18...M-W @ 7:00 P.M.

BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD..." (PSALM 33:12)

"When America ceases to be good, it will cease to be great," said Alexis de Tocqueville. In this statement we are reminded that the greatness of a nation does not rest in its military power, social advancements, political acumen or its national wealth. A nation's greatness is found in the quotient of its righteousness. Righteousness is the determining factor in a country's future. Solomon, the wisest of men, said "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

Theodore Roosevelt warned, "The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life." Is it possible that this day is drawing near? To a great extent our objectives have become: success, status, and security. These are followed closely by self-indulgence, pleasure, and comfort. Our permissive society turns freedom into license, rights into riots, and pornography into profit.

Concerned about a higher standard of living, we often fail to live by a standard. Riches are elevated above righteousness; power over piety; and science above the Savior. We abandon the moral law then shake our heads in disbelief as crime increases. Look out, America! Remember the words of Will Durant: "No great nation has ever been overcome until it has destroyed itself."

If you really desire to be a patriot; if you are truly concerned about America; if you earnestly want God to bless her – Then live a life in harmony with the will of God.

- by John Gipson

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)

What Can Keep Me From Backsliding?

Backsliding is an unacceptable and horrible realization for the child of God. Peter tells us, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (2 Peter 2:20-22) The imagery of Peter as he uses the proverb to illustrate his point shows us that one that was a child of God and turned away is like a dog that turns again to his own vomit. A dog has not much discrimination to what it eats. But, what is horrible is a dog that has eaten something that didn't settle well and came back up and he goes to eat it again. What a disgusting situation! That is the picture of one that goes back to the world after knowing the truth. How can we keep from getting into this situation? Here are some basic guidelines that we can follow to help us keep from backsliding.

Paul tells us, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." (1 Thess 5:22) We must keep ourselves from all evil. Sometimes we as Christians want to get as close to the edge as we can without actually sinning. We may want to flirt with sin. This is because of our passion for our own way. We need to be strong enough to make up our mind to do what God wants from us, and stay away from all appearances of evil. Keep from the temptations as much as possible. We need to decide that we are Christians, children of God, and stop walking close to the edge before we fall off.

Some think that they are just too strong to fall. They may say, "Oh, so and so wasn't strong

enough, but I'll never fall". This is a dangerous statement and frame of mind. Peter had this same mind when he said, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended." (Matt 26:33) We all know this story! Just a few hours later he denied the Lord three times! Paul commands, "if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Gal 6:1) We must remember that we are only human and we can make mistakes. We will fall if we don't watch.

We must be faithful in our assembling. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb 10:24-25) A major purpose of our assembling ourselves together is for the purpose of strengthening ourselves and one another as good Christians. This is where we come to remember God and his sacrifice. Where we come together to be uplifted and teach each other in song, and where we come together to grow in knowledge of his will. Paul told Timothy, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (2 Tim 4:2) This is where we can receive this convincing, rebuking, and exhortation. The first step to falling is to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

We need to remember that we can keep from backsliding, but we must be watchful. Do not flirt with sin. Keep your own soul under godly surveillance and be faithful in your attendance. Let's be supportive of one another and help each other make it to our celestial home when we leave this one. by **-Shawn Daniels**

Who's on Your Ship?

The tempest may rage. The winds may howl, and the waves may toss the ship of our life around from time to time. The fact of the matter is

that regardless of your status as a child of God, you will face tremendous problems and struggles in life. Of course, some problems are brought on by bad choices and sinful activities, but even the most godly see the rage of the sea from time to time.

Sometimes God sends trouble as a way of waking us up and getting us to pay attention to our course. You can see this fact when looking at His dealings with His people all through the Old Testament. When Israel began to sway, God would allow trouble to strike, which in turn caused them to seek Him and turn from sin. This pattern continued all through the Old Testament.

An illustration can be seen in the story of Jonah. Do you remember how that God commanded Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and warn them that they would be destroyed in 40 days? Jonah, however because of his hatred towards that city, ran the other way and went towards Tarshish, which is located in present day southern Spain. He did not want to give the city of Nineveh the opportunity to repent, and he hoped to wait it out as far away as possible.

The Bible tells us, "But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. So the captain came and said to him, What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish." (Jonah 1:4-6)

The story goes on to tell us that the crew began to cast lots to see who brought that evil on them, and the lot fell on Jonah. Jonah confesses to them that he indeed is the troubled passenger that brought the rage upon them. He implored them to cast him off the ship, which they were reluctant to do so at first but after so much turbulence finally pushed him overboard.

This teaches us something about our lives. When we have sin in our life and the turbulence of trouble come upon us, it takes the tossing of that sin overboard before we can find relief. Like them, we try to appease God by tossing over the cargo first. We say we will give up this luxury or give up that want and hopefully show God that we are miserable as if this is what God wants. When in reality it is the sin in our life that God truly wants us to remove.

But even the most godly of people still have difficult troubles; what do these people need to do? Let us look at another illustration found in the Scriptures.

Luke records to us that Jesus and His disciples departed on a ship, "and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. And they went and woke him, saying, Master, Master, we are perishing! And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, Where is your faith? And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?" (Luke 8:22-25)

This illustration shows us a completely different picture. Deep inside the ship sleeping was the Creator of the seas rather than a disobedient servant. The seas still became turbulent, but when Jesus is on board the ship the turbulence must obey His voice!

This is where we must turn when our life is filled with trouble. We must grab on to the one that can save us from those troubles. Remember, the ship cannot go down as long as Jesus is on board. If deep down in your ship sleeping you have Jonah and not Jesus, I plea with you to throw your sins overboard and let Christ dwell in its place. You can do this by trusting in the work of Christ and being obedient to His commands. Turn away from your sins and become one with Christ in baptism. (Acts 2:38 ; Rom 6:3-4 ; Gal 3:27) by **-Shawn Daniels**