

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

March 27, 2011

Remember in your prayers:

- **Ruby Gilbert’s** condition is no better. Please keep her, Charlotte and Terry in your prayers.
- Our sympathies and prayers go to Keith family in the death of **Barney Keith**. Barney preached at many places during his long stay on this earth and was loved by many.
- Brother **Billy Norris** (Bunny Richardson’s father) is not doing well at all. His condition is grave.
- **Sarabeth** hopefully will get some news on her condition tomorrow.
- **Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides, Xabien Hall, Paul Odom, Conard Rice, Chera Deane Waits, Barbara Addington, & B.J. Parker** 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:

- **Wednesday:** Our weekly visit to the prison to teach the men.

Area Gospel Meetings:

Mount Olive.....Larry Rouse.....Monday-Thursday @ 7:30 PM.



MY DAD KNOWS.....

Hilding Halverson once wrote, “When my son was a small boy playing with his buddies in the back yard, I overheard them talking; and the conversation was, amusingly, one of those ‘My dad can whip your dad’ routines. I heard one boy proudly say, ‘My dad knows the mayor of our town!’ Then I heard another say, ‘That’s nothing; my dad knows the governor of our state!’ Wondering what was coming next in the program of bragging, I presently heard a wonderfully familiar voice (that of my own little son), saying, ‘That’s nothing; my dad knows God!’ I swiftly slipped away from my place of eaves-dropping, with tears running down my cheeks. I dropped on my knees in my room and prayed earnestly and gratefully, ‘Oh, God, I pray that my boy will always be able to say, “My dad knows God.””

Would your children say that you know God? Would they say that knowing others is nothing in comparison to knowing Him? It all depends on the way they have seen you live and the priority you have given to God over other people and things in your life. The apostle Paul wrote, *“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ... that I may know Him...” (Philippians 3:8, 10)*. In the context Paul basically said, “I have accomplished a lot of things in my life, but they are nothing compared to knowing Christ.” Do you know God? Is everything else as nothing in comparison? You children know the answer, and so does He.

By **Troy Nicholson**

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)

God's Providential Use of Nations

As informed Bible students have observed so many times in the past, the providential activity of God is beyond human analysis. I sometimes refer to it as a provable-nonprovable proposition.

This is what I mean: the Lord's providential operations are **certain**; for, in principle, Bible examples demonstrating such are very clear. The experiences of Joseph are sufficient within themselves to establish this point (see Genesis 45:5-9; 50:20).

It is equally certain, however, that providential actions are **veiled** from human perception at the time they are transpiring (Ruth 2:3; Esther 4:14). Paul, in referring to the conversion of Onesimus, could not be sure whether providence figured into the glorious event or not (Philemon 15). He suspected that it did, but he could not positively affirm it.

One aspect of Jehovah's providence is his **international** operation. He is "ruler over the nations" (Psalm 22:28), and civil powers rise and fall at his behest (Daniel 2:21; 4:35). The general rule seems to be, "righteousness exalts a nation" (Proverbs 14:34), but "nations that forget God" are consigned to Sheol, i.e., the region of the wicked dead (Psalms 9:17).

Let us note several categories of this mysterious process of national providence.

The Use of Righteous Nations

The Lord can use a **righteous** nation to overthrow a **wicked** one. This certainly was the case in Israel's early history when God led his people into Canaan and commanded them to destroy the tribes of that land (Deuteronomy 20:16-17). The ultimate potential redemption of humanity was at the root of this moral surgery. The failure of the nation to carry out completely the instructions was a source of severe hardship in the years that followed.

The Use of Wicked Nations

Jehovah may use an **evil** nation to chastise a relatively **better** one. There is no question but that the nations of Assyria and Babylon were far worse than both Israel and Judah, yet the Lord employed both of these pagan powers to punish his people who gradually (and sometimes **more** than gradually) were drifting into apostasy.

The Assyrians came marching against the northern kingdom of Israel under Tiglath-pileser (2 Kings 15:29; 16:7-9), and then twelve years later under Shalmaneser and Sargon. The capital city of Samaria was under siege for three years. It subsequently fell, and over twenty-seven thousand Jews were taken to Assyria as captives. All of this

was because "they obeyed not the voice of Jehovah their God" (2 Kings 18:9-12).

A little more than a century later, Judah fell as well. Through the prophet Jeremiah, Jehovah pledged that he would send his "servant," Nebuchadnezzar, against Judah, bringing desolation upon the land, and most of the people would be taken captive into Babylon.

This punishment was "because you have not heard my words" (Jeremiah 25:8ff). It is estimated that some seventy thousand Hebrews were transported into the pagan king's land. The prophet Habakkuk disputed with God about the use of a heathen king to chastise his own people; but the Lord assured him such was necessary, and Nebuchadnezzar would be dealt with in due time (Habakkuk 1:5-11; cf. Jeremiah 25:12ff).

When the Jewish nation reached the zenith of its rebellion, even to the extent of murdering its long-awaited Messiah, God determined to send the Roman armies (called "his armies") to destroy many of the Jews and burn their city (see Matthew 22:7). According to the Jewish historian, Josephus, more than a million Hebrews were slain and thousands more were sold into slavery.

The Lord had instructed Jewish Christians to "flee" the city (Matthew 24:15ff). What do you suppose would have been the fate of these children of God had they insisted they were patriots

and therefore had the right to defend their Hebrew kinsmen and their homes against the evil empire of Rome?

Does the Principle Still Prevail?

Now here is the intriguing question: is God **still** working internationally—raising up and overthrowing powers, consistent with his ultimate will for mankind? Paul argues that he **is**.

The apostle contends that God "made of one [literally, out of one male] every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitations" (Acts 17:26). The providential purpose in this international orchestration is revealed in v. 27.

How, then, does one **know** which nations to favor and which to condemn? He doesn't! That is God's affair. He acts consistent with his own sovereignty and purpose (regardless of whether we understand the reasons or not), and no one is wise enough to question him (see Daniel 4:35; Romans 11:33-35).

The Christian's duty is to love the Lord, do his will, serve his kinsmen in Christ, work for the conversion of the lost, and conduct his attitude and life so as to facilitate his enemies' salvation, if at all possible. Unfortunately these are biblical truths which all too many appear to have forgotten—if indeed they ever understood them. **By Wayne Jackson**