

## Prayer List

Gene  
Veda  
Wallace  
Sheila  
Ophelia

## Services:

### Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.  
Assembly 10:00 a.m.  
Assembly 11:00 a.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

## Elders:

Brad Behrens - [bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com](mailto:bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com)  
Michael Odom - [MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com](mailto:MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com)  
Ernie Sprinkel - [preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com](mailto:preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com)

## This Week's Question:

What possessed man ran around naked?

## Answer To Last Week's Question:

Rehoboam - 2 Chronicles 12:15

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# *Pinole Tidings*

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## **Walking With God**

Sewell Hall

Just a few days before his death from cancer, my father was still trying to remain on his feet. As I made plans to drive to a town about twenty miles away, he announced that he was going with me. We tried to dissuade him, but he insisted: "I want to make one last trip with Sewell." Doubtless he was thinking, as I was, of the many pleasant hours we had spent traveling together.

Traveling together is something special for friends. It is one of the few opportunities afforded by our communication-saturated world to get away from intrusions by others. It is the only means of guaranteeing time which cannot be accelerated regardless of pressing responsibilities. Under few other circumstances can a subject be so thoroughly explored, emotions and feelings so fully shared and two busy individuals brought to such an understanding of each other. Even silence shared in traveling is meaningful.

My trips with Dad were taken not only on wheels, but often on foot. We walked together to the tops of mountains and along busy city streets. We walked through hospital corridors visiting the sick and from house to house seeking the lost. In many ways, walking together meant more than riding together.

In the early days of the world, that must have been the only way to go.

I think God made mankind so He could have sons to walk with—not for His pleasure alone, but more for their benefit. He must have been gratified by men like Enoch and Noah.

“Enoch walked with God and he was not, for God took him” (Genesis 5:22). The best comment I have heard on this passage was from a child who said: “God and Enoch were out walking together and God said, ‘Go home with me,’ and Enoch did.” “Noah was a just man, perfect in his generation. Noah walked with God” (Genesis 6:9).

God wanted to walk with Adam and Eve, but “they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3:8).

It says a lot for Enoch and Noah to say that they walked with God. It says that they were willing to walk in God’s direction, for in Him “there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17). It says that they were willing, insofar as possible, to keep God’s pace. It says that they chose God’s company since they walked neither behind Him nor ahead of Him. Doubtless it means that they listened to Him and talked to Him and were aware of His presence, even when they walked in silence.

Enoch and Noah were not the last to walk with God. Though these exact words are not used, can it be doubted that Abraham, Moses, David and a host of others walked with Him? In a special way, the apostles walked with God as they walked with Jesus across the hills of Judea and beside the Sea of Galilee. They scarcely perceived it while they were with Him, but just before His ascension Thomas spoke the sentiment of the eleven when he exclaimed: “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28).

Oh that we might walk with Him! Can we not? Were Enoch and Noah granted some privilege which is denied us in

Christ? The Hebrew writer firmly states: “God ... provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us” (Hebrews 11:40). We may not walk with Him in visible form as the apostles did, but Jesus offers us a greater blessing in His response to Thomas: “Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29).

The New Testament is written that we might be brought into this very fellowship which the apostles enjoyed with God in Christ. John writes: “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3).

How does this enable us to walk with God? John answers, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare unto you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.... If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another” (1 John 1:5, 7a).

But what of my sins? Were Enoch and Noah supermen? How can I, weak and sinful as I am, keep pace with God?

When I was a grown man, Dad and I walked together as equals, but it was not always so. Mother has often told me of the first time we walked together. It was late one Saturday night when, after many a single step, I first learned that I could walk. I walked for hours with a proud mother and father in constant attendance. I wonder how many times he picked me up that first time we walked together.

This is the way we walk with God. “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

We can walk with God if we choose to please Him as Enoch did (Hebrews 11:5); or, as Adam and Eve, we can allow sin to cause us to hide from Him when He calls us. The choice is ours!