

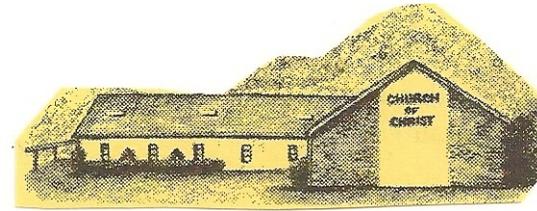
News & Notes

Upcoming events: Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice. Ladies' Bible class is held every second Monday of the month, and the men's Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month (Next Sunday). Young Adult's study every 3rd Friday of the month.

Keep in Prayer: Our members: Nick & Emilee Ross, Diana Jordan, Linda James, and Butch Morgan. Many of our family and friends are also in special need of prayer: Karen Stanley (Bonnie's daughter), Jerry Jordan (Ken's brother), Nadine Fields (Moses' sister), Gary Jones (Paul Sullivan's brother), and Jimmy Johnson (Jimmy underwent his last treatment this past Thursday).

Out of Town: Ronnie Henderson is preaching at Azalea Park church of Christ this morning.

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship. We encourage all in this group to please meet and participate in this very important work.



Lakeland Hills Leader

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELDERS

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405
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SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Morning Services 9:50 A.M.
Evening Services 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday
Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
Michael Sadler
Eric Stevens
Moses Stevens
David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“The Observance of Easter; from Heaven or from Men?”

Today is Easter Sunday! That's right, the big day is here and many churches have made special plans to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus today. In the minds of so many of our friends and neighbors, this is the biggest of all religious holidays. That said, some churches *haven't* planned to do anything different today than they would from any other Sunday. They will still assemble to worship the Lord, but they will not have a special "Easter service".

The reason for this is actually very straightforward and clear... Jesus Christ did not give us the authority to partake in this yearly observance of His resurrection. Although it may seem like a noble thing to do, there is simply no mention of it in the New Testament. Jesus did not declare a command

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 4/23/14

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
Opening Prayer: Jeremy Whitehead
Invitation: Ronnie Henderson
Announcements: Bob Marschall
Closing Prayer: Jordan Lawson
Parking Lot: Norm Blackburn

Sunday Evening: 4/27/14

Song Leader: Nick Ross
Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
Lord's Table: Nick Groenhof
Announcements: Charles Rawdon
Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd
Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

Sunday Morning: 4/27/14

Lord's Table: (B) Nick Groenhof
(C) Clay Sadler
Serving: Trent Stevens
Jordan Lawson
Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson

Announcements: Charles Rawdon
Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn
(9:50) Ed Lawson

to do it; there is no example of any churches observing it; and nowhere do the scriptures even imply that it should be done. If this one day out of the year is *so* holy, and this observance is such a good thing, wouldn't you expect to find something written about it in the Bible? "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped** for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17; NKJV)

Some will point out that the word "Easter" *is used* in the Bible... And that *is true*; the word "Easter" CAN be found ONE time when using the King James Version of the Bible (Acts 12:4). That said, *every other noteworthy translation* of the Bible uses the word "Passover" in this verse, and that's really the better translation. The word "pascha" is the Greek spelling of the Aramaic word for the Passover, from the Hebrew

"pasach", meaning "to pass over, to spare", referring a feast instituted by God in commemoration of the deliverance of Israel from Egypt (VINE'S). That Greek spelling of the *same word* is translated twenty-eight other times in the New Testament...where even the King James Version there renders the word "Passover" (STRONG'S). Furthermore, the context of Acts 12 confirms—it was "during the Days of Unleavened Bread" (Acts 12:3)... so it was something the Jews took part in; not Christians.

When it comes to any religious practice (not just Easter), it would serve us well to ask, "... By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?" (Matthew 21:23). Remember that authority can only come from one of two sources, "from heaven or from men" (Matthew 21:25); it's either "according to Christ" (Colossians 2:8), or "according to the commandments and doctrines of men" (Colossians 2:22). And the source of teaching DOES matter—just listen to Jesus:

"And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9; see also Colossians 2:8, 20-23; and Titus 1:13-14). Do not be mistaken, this yearly celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection is not from the Lord; it is from man—and as a result becomes vain worship. I am certain that many who take part in this observance are sincere people, but no amount of genuine sincerity is able to change a commandment of men into a commandment of Christ.

Jesus DID authorize us to do something in remembrance of His death and resurrection, and it's called the Lord's Supper, "Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:25). The Lord did give command to do it ("do this": Luke 22:19, 1 Corinthians 11:25); He told us what to eat (unleavened bread and fruit of the vine); He gave direction concerning the order and manner of observance, and He also provides (through the written word) examples of His local churches doing it,

on the first day of every week (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 10:16-22; 11:17-34).

So then, today is "Easter" Sunday, and on this day many churches are doing something Jesus DID NOT say to do. Sadly, (on most Sundays) many of these same churches will neglect what Jesus DID say to do. Let us learn to more appropriately ask the questions, "By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?" With the correct authority and attitude in teaching others, we can "by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Note: The main points and many of the observations above were derived from an article written by Bryan Gibson titled, "Easter is Coming".

- Ian Rice