

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– The Ryland and Lawhon families, Madge Hicks, Patti James’ son (Brian), Kathy Gray, Debbie Montgomery , Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , Jane Ross (Nick & Robin’s Grandmother), Nadine Fields (Moses' sister), Hugh and Paulette Sills, Ted Penland, Joshua Dykes (Butch Morgan’s cousin), and Bob Calkins (A friend of the Millers).
- ◇ Group 3 meets tonight.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Last Friday of each month - Teen Bible Study
- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Song Practice
- 2nd Monday night each month - Ladies’ Bible Class. *(On hold throughout summer)*
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Bible Class *(Next Week)*

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Assignments

Wednesday Night: 8/21/13

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Butch Morgan
 Invitation: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Daniel Staggers
 Parking Lot: Norm Blackburn

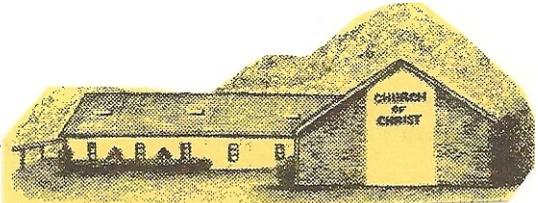
Sunday Evening: 8/25/13

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Lord’s Table: Ben Cunningham
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Kirk Marschall
 Parking Lot: Colby Sadler

Sunday Morning: 8/25/13

Lord’s Table: Ben Cunningham (B)
 Colby Sadler (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 Jordan Lawson
 Song Leader: Nick Ross
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Butch Morgan
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Jim Abram
 (9:50) Paul Lloyd

Our 28th Annual Singing will be held at the building on Friday, August 30, 2013 @ 7pm. Make your plans now to come and worship God in song!



Lakeland Hills LEADER

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336
www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

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| <p><u>ELDERS</u> Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378</p> | <p><u>SERVICES</u> 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.</p> | <p><u>DEACONS:</u> Robert Marschall Michael Sadler Eric Stevens Moses Stevens David Williams</p> |
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EVANGELIST:
 Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“Two Men Attend Worship Services”

Two men attend worship services. The first man attends wholly out of a sense of duty. He understands the teaching of Hebrews 10:25: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," and is determined to obey faithfully that teaching. He will not allow any-thing within his power to stand in the way of his attending the worship periods of the church.

The second man recognizes his duty in this matter, too, but his primary motivation in attendance is his love for the Lord and his joy in blending his voice and heart with other Christians in praise and adoration to the Lord. He delights in worship and the spiritual strength he derives through worship.

The first man is mentally passive throughout the worship service. If the words of the song happen to catch his attention, he observes and appreciates them; otherwise, he just sings along with little concern for what he is singing. If the sermon is interesting, he listens; otherwise, he just relaxes, and hopes the time won't drag too badly. He does meditate briefly concerning Christ's suffering and death as he partakes of

the supper, for somehow the importance of the memorial feast has been impressed upon his mind.

The second man comes mentally prepared to worship. He pays close attention to the words of each song and makes the sentiment of the songs his own sentiment. In fact, he sometimes studies the words of frequently used songs so he will be sure he understands their meaning. Depth of meaning is of greater importance to him than a catchy tune or rhythmic beat. He listens to each phrase of the prayer that is led, and if he can approve the petitions of the prayer, he unites with the one who leads with his "Amen." He discerns the Lord's body as he breaks bread, and he listens carefully to the sermon, volunteering his attention, hiding the word in his heart, that he might not sin against God (Psalm 119:11). If his mind wanders occasionally, he brings it back to the worship. He worships with a consciousness of God as the object of his worship, the One toward whom these expressions of adoration are directed.

The first man reduces his service to a mere code of external rites, while the second man obeys "from the heart," combining the outward with the inward. The first man is more likely to be satisfied with his service to the Lord, for he

has accepted the easier standard, but it is the second man who enjoys God's approval. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

We ask the reader: "In which of these two men do you see a reflection of yourself?" The need is obvious! We must cast off our laziness and indifference, revitalize our spirits, and bring ourselves to worship God acceptably. There is a considerable difference between mere attendance of a worship service and truly acceptable worship.

"Two Men Try to Worship"

Worship under the best of conditions can sometimes be difficult. Distractions, human error, and sometimes funny situations can occur to take one's attention away from the Lord. Attitudes, however, can prove to be a major factor in acceptable (or non-acceptable) worship. For instance ...

Two men sincerely try to worship. The first man, though, is frustrated throughout. His frustrations begin with the opening announcements when the man in charge takes ten minutes to say what any normal man could say in three. He is hardly over that when the song leader adds to his frustrations, selecting a song

he is sure contains an unscriptural phrase. The man who presides at the table doesn't help when he uses the term "loaf" instead of "bread," and then the man who is called on to "give thanks for the bread" gives thanks for everything but the bread. The preacher makes a major contribution by totally misapplying a passage of scripture ("He probably didn't spend enough time on that one," the man thinks). When the worship period is finally dismissed, he tries to share his frustrations with those around him, but no one seems to care.

The second man observes many of the mistakes the first man observes. In fact, without fanfare he just doesn't sing the questionable phrase in the song and he silently thanks God for the bread when he realizes the leader's failure to do so. But while observing mistakes, he focuses attention on the good sentiments of the songs that are used, and on the death of his Savior during the Lord's Supper. He makes the prayer that is led his own and appreciates the good thoughts presented in the lesson. He has come to worship God. He makes allowances for human frailty on the part of the leaders in worship, appreciates their sincere efforts, and refuses to let their mistakes keep him from his purpose.

The first man is to be pitied. His ability to "worship" is dependent on the ability of

the leaders in the worship period, and any half-observant person knows how inept that leadership can be at times. He comes to worship, but spends the hour criticizing. He blames others for that which is really his own problem. Consequently, his problem with worship becomes a problem also with his brethren; but one cannot have a problem with his worship and his brethren without having a problem in his relationship with God.

The second man, by maintaining a positive attitude toward his brethren, even when they make mistakes, is able to worship acceptably and is drawn closer to God by his worship.

We are not condoning sloppily conducted worship periods. Leaders in worship should seek to avoid mistakes and to do their work effectively. But acceptable worship depends far more on the heart and attitude of the worshiper than on the abilities of leaders. Our first man may point the finger of blame at others, but his real need is a total change of attitude within himself.

- by Bill Hall