

News & Notes

Upcoming events: Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice (Next week). Ladies' Bible class is held on the 2nd Monday night of every month (Next week). The men's Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month.

Pray for the Sick: Marian Church, Butch Morgan, Mark Miller (Leon & Ruth's son was involved in a serious work-related accident and recovering well). Jerry Jordan (Ken's brother is battling cancer), Nadine Fields (Moses' sister), and Forrest Cunningham (Butch Morgan's nephew is still recovering from a serious car accident). Let us be sure to keep these people in our thoughts.

Group Meeting: Please make the effort to be involved with our group meetings. I just received another comment last week on how well one has been encouraged through the efforts put forth in our meetings! Group (3) meets tonight.

Please remember: Our shut-ins and check on those not accounted for being absent in the announcements.

Exciting News: Let's be sure to encourage and support Nick and Emilee Ross as they are now expecting their first child!!

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 2/5/14

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof
 Opening Prayer: Clay Sadler
 Invitation: Jordan Lawson
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Jeremy Whitehead
 Parking Lot: James VanDoorn

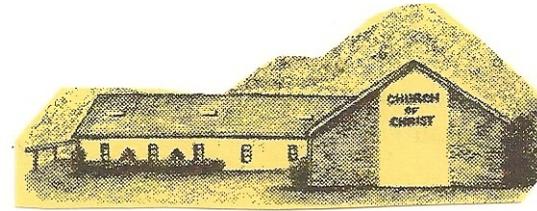
Sunday Evening: 2/9/14

Song Leader: Butch Morgan
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
 Lord's Table: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Morning: 2/9/14

Lord's Table: Mike Sadler (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: Sherman Johnson
 Kirk Marschall
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens

Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Paul Llyod
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Jim Abram
 (9:50) Ed Lawson



Lakeland Hills Leader

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ELDERS

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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

“Written for our Example: Joseph’s Example”

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4). Though we are no longer bound to worship according to the Law of Moses, there is a great deal we can learn from people in the Old Testament. Men like Joshua show us that no task is too big for the Lord, and His faithful are never forsaken: we simply need to *“be strong, and of good courage”* (Joshua 1:6,7,9,18). Women like Abigail show us the benefits of wisdom and goodness, and display the need to do these things even when our own family may work against us (1 Samuel 25:4-35). There is much we can learn from the faithful who lived and served the Lord before us.

Let us consider the example of Joseph, Jacob's beloved son. His faith in God is a bright light shining throughout the later chapters of the book of Genesis (37-50), and he displays some traits that Christians today would do well to imitate. Notice the following characteristics of this Godly man:

His attitude toward sin. Sold as a slave and taken to Egypt, Joseph soon became a servant in the house of Potiphar, that captain of Pharaoh's guard. It did not take Potiphar long to realize that the Lord was with Joseph, and everything the young man did prospered (Genesis 39:3). Joseph, a man who was young, handsome, and successful, soon became the overseer of all Potiphar's house.

After time passed, Potiphar's wife sought to convince Joseph to commit fornication with her (39:7,10,12). Notice the way this Godly young man responds: "*How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*" (vs. 9). To commit fornication with the women would have been a sin against Potiphar (breaking the trust placed in Joseph), a sin against Potiphar's wife (making her an adulteress), and even a sin against Joseph's own body (1 Corinthians 6:18). But above all these, Joseph understood that such actions were first and foremost against the God of Heaven – an offense that Joseph was not willing to involve himself in.

Joseph tried to be reasonable with the woman and explain that such an action would be sin. When it was obvious that she did not care (vs. 10-12),

Joseph did what Godly people do: he put distance in between himself and the sin. He got out of there! There comes a time when the talking is over; we may not be able to dissuade someone from sin, but we sure don't have to stick around for it. Joseph's actions concur with Paul's admonition: "*Flee sexual immorality.*"

His willingness to forgive. Joseph had been terribly mistreated by his brothers. They despised him for the favoritism shown by their father, Jacob (37:4). They hated him even more when Joseph told them of the prophetic dreams he had that depicted him in a position of authority over his family (37:5-10). They intended to kill Joseph outright (37:20), but Reuben convinced them to throw him in a pit instead (37:21-22). Shortly afterward, the brothers saw an opportunity for profit and sold Joseph to a group of Ishmaelites traveling through the land to Egypt (37:28).

Even after all of this, Joseph sought to do good to his brothers. After Joseph had risen to the position of governor in Egypt, he urged his brothers to bring their families to Egypt so that he might provide for them and protect them through the famine in the land: "*You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your chil-*

dren's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine" (45:10-11).

Joseph forgave his brothers completely. He saw that they were changed men when they stood by Benjamin, rather than becoming jealous of him and mistreating him as they had his full brother, Joseph, all those years earlier (Genesis 43:34-44:34). Joseph was even moved to tears when he learned that his brothers were afraid that he would seek vengeance against them after their father's death (Gen. 50:15-17).

His immovable faith. In addition to suffering the misdeeds of his brothers, Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and confined to prison. Even so, he never lost his faith; in fact, that faith was ever on display. He was kind and showed compassion to others who were suffering in the prison: "*Why do you look so sad today?*" (Genesis 40:7). With an amazing display of faith, he understood and accepted that all he had undergone in Egypt was part of God's plan for rescuing his family: "*And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all*

his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt" (Genesis 45:7-8). How many of us would have been tempted to throw our hands in the air, curse our horrible fate, and descend into the mire of self-pity? Not Joseph; his faith did not waver.

Sometimes, people find their faith lacking when they approach death. But in Joseph's good example, perhaps the end of his life is the most impressive. As he was dying, Joseph sought to comfort his brethren by reminding them that God would not leave them in Egypt: one day, the people would return to Canaan, the land that had been promised to them (Genesis 50:24). So sure of this was Joseph that he made the children of Israel promise to take his bones with them when they departed the land. Of all the moments in his life that encourage us to faithful living, it is this one that the Hebrew writer refers to: "*By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones*" (Hebrews 11:22).

Joseph trusted in the Lord...not just when things were easy, but throughout his entire life. Will we learn from his good example and do the same?

By Lance Blackburn