

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– The Claridy and Marschall families, Ken and Arlene Turner, Madge Hicks, Arlene Turner’s brother (James), Wayne & Christine Ryland’s daughter (Shelly Chalmers), Ed Lawson, David Williams, Linda James, Edith Miller, Nadeen Fields (Moses’ sister) Bucky Day’s mom (Gerri), Larry Wisdom’s sister, and Keri Rice’s mother (Diane Fields).
- ◇ Jordan Lawson was sick; and Heather Capuana & Daniel Staggers were out of town Wednesday night.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins:
- ◇ Group 2 meets tonight.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1st and 3rd Friday each month - Teen Bible Study
- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Singing
- 2nd Monday night of each month— Ladies’ Bible Class.
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Class

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Assignments

Wednesday Night: 2/6/13

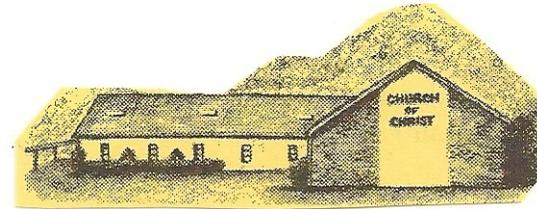
Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
 Opening Prayer: Clay Sadler
 Invitation: Ian Rice
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Daniel Staggers
 Parking Lot: James VanDoorn

Sunday Evening: 2/10/13

Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
 Lord’s Table: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Jordon Lawson
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Morning: 2/10/13

Lord’s Table: Mike Sadler (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: Norm Blakburn
 Keith Marschall
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Moses Stevens
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Sherman John son
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Jim Abram
 (9:50) Ed Lawson



Lakeland Hills LEADER

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELDERS

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405
 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378

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

“Emotional Passages”

Through recent reflection and study, I found a number of passages that cause feelings of great emotion. One of the greatest issues for me during study has been how to put complete trust in God for my life as well as the life of those I love. During my study and reflection, I have finally complied a few scriptures that have moved me in a very powerful way towards letting go the notion that I control my life and moving towards truly putting things in God’s hands. I write this to share some of those thoughts in hope that such a study will spark the same type study for those struggling with a similar dilemma. I would also encourage folks not to wait for a dark hour for such a study to commence. Speaking from experience, not having the proper relationship with the Lord prior to times of trial does not help in the learning process at all. Too often, I, like many others, found myself clinging to the Word because of personal tragedy.

First, I would like to look at the story of Job. In chapter one of Job we are introduced to a man whom God had blessed abundantly. For a man of his time Job had many material possessions as well as a large family. God’s blessings were

great in fact; that the Devil referred to God's blessings and suggested Job's faith was based solely on his abundance. Later in the same chapter, we read verses after verses where Job is confronted seemingly in an instant with the loss of another blessing. This continued until all that Job had was taken away, even to include his family. When I read the account I cannot help but be moved by the plight Job must have gone through. Job was a man of God, so much so that God in the beginning of the chapter bragged on his faith to the Devil. All of us have or will experience personal tragedy in our lives. Most of us, likely will never experience a tragedy to the magnitude of that of Job thankfully. Will we react the same way? The Lord again with possessions and a family later blessed Job. God took care of him, and He will take care of us.

Next, consider the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Three men set over the affairs of the province of Babylon (Dan. 2:49). King Nebuchadnezzar made an image to be worshiped by all the people when they heard the musical signal they were to worship the image. In the face of great pressure from the people of the ruling land at that time, to include the King, their faith never wavered. When the music sounded the three men of faith did not bow down and worship

the image; even with the threat of death. The King was furious, bought the men forward, and commanded the music signaling the worship to commence. Again, the men did not worship sealing their fate with the fiery furnace. In Dan. 3:15 the King arrogantly asked "who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?" In verse 17 and following the men answered that God was able to take care of them. They even acknowledged that God had the power to choose to save them or not. Even knowing this fact, their faith never wavered a bit. Those men understood what it meant to put their lives in God's hands.

In addition, in I Kings 18:18 and following we read of the story of Elijah, a prophet of God. During this time the people's hearts had turned again to idol worship, specifically that of the idol Baal. A contest was laid out on Mount Carmel where Elijah challenged the people to put their faith back to the true and living God. A familiar story to most ensues with the prophets of Baal fervently calling on the false god to send fire to their altar for their sacrifice. After attempting for the span of half the day, it was Elijah's turn. After repairing the altar of the Lord he instructed the altar and the trench he had dug around it to be soaked and filled with water. In versus 36 of chapter 18 we read one of the most

moving cries to God recorded, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done these things at Thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again." Elijah placed his life, trust, and faith in God; the God that answers with fire.

Finally, we read a parable told by Jesus to those who trusted in themselves. In Luke 18:10-14 we are told of two men who went to the temple to pray; the Pharisee and the publican. The Pharisee spent his time speaking to God to be seen of men. He took a prominent place so he likely would be seen and heard by those around him. We know this by the contrast given about the publican. It is said the publican stood afar off and would not raise his eyes towards heaven. A necessary inference from this passage can be that the publican did the opposite of the Pharisee. It is a privilege to speak to God. It is a privilege not taken advantage enough by Christians today. Another lesson from this account is prayer is not reserved for the bad times only. Prayer is also not an opportunity to self-promote. In Philippians 4:12 we see that Paul learned to be hungry and full, humble and abound. Paul did not however take the attitude of the rich man with the dilemma of where to store the crops "he" grew. Instead, Paul said he

could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. This is the key! Putting all things in Christ's hands is recognition of where all things come from. Understanding this principle makes placing our lives in his hands as the alpha and omega the only option rather than a seemingly impossible task. Who else has the ability to rule our lives if not Christ? If we do not put our trust in the Lord then we are the blind guides spoken of in Matthew 15:14.

Finally, worry of what tomorrow will bring is a futile endeavor. In Matthew 6:27-34 and in Luke 12:22-32 we are reassured by the fact that God controls all. It is sobering to think that the Lord who was so meticulous in the creation of the earth and all its contents takes the time to watch each one of our lives. How can we easily believe Genesis 1:1 and not believe God will take care of us? If we believe that God in fact created us and the earth we occupy, then why don't we believe He will take care of us? Like all of those in times past that we read of, God will take care of us. James 4:6-8 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

-JW