

### News & Notes

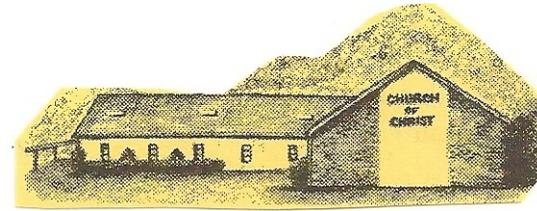
**Upcoming events:** Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice. Ladies' Bible class is held on the 2nd Monday night of every month. The men's Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month (Today).

**Please Pray for:** Charles & Sandy Rawdon, Emilee Ross, Mark Miller, Leon Miller (Recovering from knee surgery), Mike Sadler (Recovering from neck surgery), Linda James, Brian James (Patti's son), Jimmy Johnson (long-time member at the Trilacoochee church of Christ), and Karen Stanley (Bonnie's daughter). Let us be sure to keep these people in our thoughts.

**Group Meeting:** Please make the effort to be involved with our group meetings. Many continue to comment on how well they've been encouraged through the efforts put forth in those meetings. Group (2) meets tonight.

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

**Out of Town:** Audrey Davis, Keri, Olivia, Emma, & Julia Rice.



# 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

## *“Little in Your Own Eyes”*

We've been studying so far in the adult class this quarter about Saul's reign in the United Kingdom period of Bible history. I'd like for us to consider some basic elements of the king's change of attitude to help us learn and apply some simple, yet valuable, lessons.

We know that before Saul was anointed king, he was described as one who was very handsome in appearance. Specifically, God says through the scriptures, "There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people." (1 Samuel 9:2). Outwardly, Saul looked the part of the king in which the people of Israel demanded. Along with good looks, all signs pointed to the fact that he was a very humble man inwardly. When Samuel 1<sup>st</sup> hinted at God's plan for him, Saul discounted it because he was from the smallest of the tribes and from an insignificant family (1 Samuel 9:20-21). It is also worthy to note that Saul *did not even tell his family* of Samuel's anointing him at the first (1 Samuel 10:14-16). As we are introduced to him, Saul was one who

### Assignments for Worship Service

**Wednesday Night: 1/29/14**

Song Leader: Nick Ross  
Opening Prayer: David Williams  
Invitation: Kirk Marschall  
Announcements: Leon Miller  
Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
Parking Lot: Kirk Marschall

**Sunday Evening: 2/2/14**

Song Leader: Nick Ross  
Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams  
Lord's Table: Colby Sadler  
Announcements: Larry Hicks  
Closing Prayer: Mike Sadler  
Parking Lot: Leon Miller

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**Sunday Morning: 2/2/14**

Lord's Table: Colby Sadler (B)  
                  Eddie Lawson (C)  
Serving: Ed Lawson  
           Clay Sadler  
Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
Opening Prayer: Leon Miller

Announcements: Larry Hicks  
Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
                  (9:50) Paul Lloyd

seems righteous, and even reluctant to take on the leadership role set before him. When Samuel sought to proclaim him king publicly, *Saul actually hid* from the crowd and had to be brought out before everyone (1 Samuel 10:17-24)! From studying these verses, we find that Saul started out very humble, indeed. He looked at his family's status, his upbringing, where it was that he came from geographically, socially, and he was small in his own eyes.

Progressing in our study, we've noticed that Saul made some grievous mistakes, one notably being his unlawful sacrifice recorded in 1 Samuel, chapter 13. As a result, "...Samuel said to Saul, **You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you.** For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. **But now your kingdom shall not continue.** The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, **because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.**" (1 Samuel 13:13-14). Here we see that because of Saul's transgression, the kingdom

would be turned over to another. In 1 Samuel 15, we learn of another time when Saul sinned by not keeping the command of the Lord — when he spared king Agag. In rebuking Saul for rejecting the word of the Lord, Samuel points to a change in Saul's attitude as being a problem. "So Samuel said, **"When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?** Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' **Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD?** Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" (1 Samuel 15:17-19). Indeed, Saul began his reign as king with a great display of humility, but it was not long before his attitude changed. His poor attitude played a huge role in his lack of reverence for the Lord's commands.

We would all do well to remember where it is that we have come from!

*Many can relate* to Saul in the aspect of coming from humble beginnings. Maybe your family's name isn't "well-known". Maybe you grew up in an area geographically that doesn't have the best of

reputations. Maybe in your past — your social status was not something to be very proud of. So then, where are you now in regard to those things? Many who have had humble beginnings somehow or another have obtained better social standing; have moved into different areas geographically, obtained positions of leadership, and so on. Are we willing to give the credit where it is due? Sometimes we like to take credit for our successes, but let's not forget that whatever potential and whatever blessings we have — comes from the Lord! "Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1:16-17). Let us always remember where it is that we've come from, and remember where it is that we receive all of our blessings!

*We can all benefit* by way of remembering our past — spiritually! Being mindful of our past helps to keep us humble and should motivate us to do better in the future. Bear that in mind as you consider how the apostle Paul reminded the saints in Ephesus of their past - then encouraged them to press forward. "For **you were once dark-**

**ness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), **finding out what is acceptable** to the Lord. And **have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.**" (Ephesians 5:8-11). Remembering our spiritual past can motivate us to walk in such a way that will please the Lord and lead others to Him. Remembering our spiritual past can also motivate us to study better so as to learn more of how to do those things in a way that is acceptable to God!

If you are a Christian, at some point "you were little in your own eyes". That is a big reason as to why you were baptized "for the remission of your sins", wasn't it? Let us all remember where it is that we've come from, and use that memory as a means to keep us humble while we seek to serve and grow in the Lord!

All Bible quotations from the New King James Version (*Bold emphasis added by me*).

- By Ian Rice