

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Heather Capuana, Arlene Turner, Patti James’ son (Brian), Debbie Montgomery , Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , Jane Ross (Nick & Robin’s Grandmother), Nadine Fields (Moses’ sister), Hugh Sills, and Ted Penland, Joshua Dykes (Butch Morgan’s cousin), and Bob Calkins (A friend of the Millers).
- ◇ Karen Berry, Audrey Davis, and Jim Abram are out of town.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins:
- ◇ Group 3 meets tonight.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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Assignments

Wednesday Night: 7/10/13

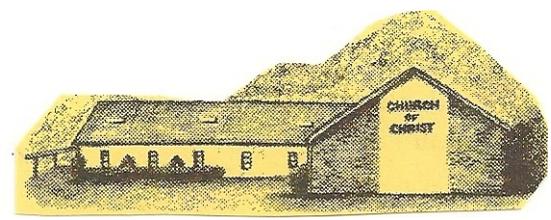
Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Eddie Lawson
 Invitation: Colby Sadler
 Announcements: Bob Marshall
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Parking Lot: Paul Lloyd

Sunday Evening: 7/14/13

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
 Lord’s Table: Larry Hicks
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson
 Parking Lot: Mike Sadler

Sunday Morning: 7/14/13

Lord’s Table: Larry Hicks (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: Jordan Lawson
 Ed Lawson
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Eddie Lawson
 Parking Lot: (9:00) James VanDoorn
 (9:50) Jim Abram



Lakeland Hills LEADER

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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 Marshall Michael Sadler Eric Stevens Moses Stevens David Williams</p>
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EVANGELIST:
 Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“Different People Say Lots of Different Things”

Are you concerned with the direction in which our society is headed? You should, as our culture’s moral compass is not where it ought to be. I believe that our neighbors and friends must be united as believers in Christ if we are going make any difference in the midst of this wicked and perverse generation. There is such a great deal of division within the ranks of those who profess to be Christians, which is a depressing fact. I encourage you to open your Bible and read Jesus’ prayer in John 17:20-21. It is during that prayer that Jesus prayed for all of His followers to be united, so that the world may believe in Him! Do you aspire to fulfill Jesus’ will?

Much conflict in the religious world has come as a direct result of differing attitudes with regard to God’s written word, yet the Bible itself proclaims its holy attributes! God spoke through His Son Jesus (Hebrews 1:1-3), Jesus spoke to His apostles (John 17:6-8), and they were guided by the Spirit when speaking and writing the Bible (John 16:13, 1Corinthians 2:12-13, Ephesians 3:3-4, 2Timothy 3:16). So what is the Bible - other than God’s holy Word? If one wants to know the will of God, then turn to the Bible - it is how He communicates to us! The Bible reveals God’s mind (1 Corinthians 2:7-11)!!

Different people say lots of different things about what you need to do in order to be found faithful in God’s eyes. That said, are they speaking where the Bible speaks?

Some will say such things as, “All you have to do is believe in Jesus - and that is it”! Measure that belief up with what Jesus said according to Mark 16:15-16, “And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will

be condemned.” Consider also the words of James, “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:19-20) Jesus says we must be faithful until death if we are to receive a crown of life (Revelation 2:10). When I study the New Testament, my goal is to see how God harmonizes the scriptures, not how I can contradict them so as to make “my interpretation” fit. I encourage you to do the same.

Some will say such things as, “All you need to do is ask Jesus into your heart to be saved”. Not to be disrespectful, but I respond with this question, “Where is that in the Bible”? I have not read that passage, but if you find it, please help me to see the error of my way! We are all in need of God’s mercy, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) and “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Knowing this to be true, don’t you want to know how to be saved? The apostle Peter preached the 1st gospel sermon concerning the resurrected Christ! When he convinced his audience of their guilt, they wanted to know how to be saved as well. “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38-39) Peter had already told those in attendance to believe (Verse 36), and they questioned what to do next because their consciences hurt (Verse 37). Peter could have told them to do any number of things. Specifically though, he says that they were to “repent” and “be baptized for the remission of their sins”!!

Some will teach that you should, “Say the “Sinner’s Prayer” and you will be saved”. Again, not to be disrespectful, but where is that in the Bible? Bear in mind the further discourse of Peter in Acts 2, “And

with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” (Acts 2:40-41). These individuals were baptized because they were taught it as a means of salvation. If there was a “sinners prayer” that could be said at that point, Peter surely would have mentioned it.

Some folks will proclaim that baptism is not necessary for salvation. Some believe that you only get baptized “after you are saved” as an “outward expression” of your faith. (Again- That terminology is nowhere to be found in the Bible) The apostle Peter had more to say about baptism in the book of 1Peter, “There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.” (1Peter 3:21-22). What is it that Peter said “saves us”? Baptism is not referred to as something that is merely an “outward show” of anything! The apostle Paul wasn't told that baptism was an “outward expression” of faith either... Nor did he delay when given the command! He was in fact told, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16).

Some will say, “There are all kinds of different ways in which you can be baptized... you can either be sprinkled or immersed... it doesn't matter...” (Where are those options made available in the Bible?) Consider that the apostle Paul wrote concerning that, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6). “One Lord”... that being Jesus. “One faith”...

that being one belief system. “One God”... that being Jehovah. In addition, there is only “One baptism”... one way that you may be scripturally baptized, and that is through immersion; for the remission of sins (Acts 8:38-39, Acts 2:38, 22:16).

Some will say that... “Once you are saved, you can’t lose your salvation... Once you’re saved, you’re always saved.” (That concept is not taught in the Bible either) There are countless warnings concerning the fact that a child of God can so live as to be lost! “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:26-31). The “once-saved, always-saved” doctrine is false!

Peter would write that there are “some things” written that are hard to understand (2 Peter 3:14-18). He goes on to say that “untaught” and “unstable” people twist to their own destruction those writings, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. What I gain from that passage is that - there is a standard of truth that God expects for us to comprehend alike!! The very fact that Peter says some of the things Paul wrote are hard to understand... implies that many of the things that he wrote are easy to understand!! In other words, not everything is open for our own interpretations. We are to be unified as believers, yet we must not compromise the message of the Bible! Furthermore, Peter says that people will ignorantly use the scriptures to their own destruction, and for us to

beware! People will twist the scriptures - so be on guard and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!

Jesus prayed for His followers to be united... However, Peter says that twisting the scriptures will lead to destruction. Consequently, we cannot be united - just for the sake of being united! We cannot compromise the Scriptural message!! You SHOULD BE concerned about the religious division within your community. Among those who profess to the Christians, are we speaking “the same thing” with “no divisions” among us (1 Corinthians 1:10)? Paul said that there are serious consequences for not following after the true gospel. Galatians 1:6-10, “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”

Dear friend and neighbor, the Lord has given you an avenue to know His will, and that is through His written Word. Please let us assist you to better understand His will for you. I truly believe that if we can get back to the Bible (and let it be our only guide in all matters of life and faith) then all believers can be united as one in Christ!

- I.R.

All quotations from the New King James Version