

**News & Notes**

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

**Young Adult Study:** Please see Ian Rice if you plan on participating in our up-coming "young adult" study. We need an estimation of how many will be involved so we can get everyone study material.

**Keep in Prayer:** Our members: Linda James, the Cunningham family, and Butch Morgan. Please continue efforts in reaching out to Jim Abram. Many of our family and friends are also in special need of prayer: Karen Stanley (Bonnie's daughter), Brian James (Patti's son), Jerry Jordan (Ken's brother), Nadine Fields (Moses' sister), Jimmy Johnson, and Paulette Sills.

**Out of Town:** Karen Berry will be out of town for a couple of weeks.

**Group Meeting:** Group (2) meets tonight after worship. We encourage all in this group to please meet and participate in this very important work.

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 3/12/14**

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson  
 Opening Prayer: David Williams  
 Invitation: Leon Miller  
 Announcements: Charles Rawdon  
 Closing Prayer: Ben Cunningham  
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

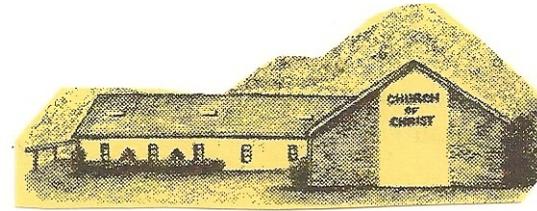
**Sunday Evening: 3/16/14**

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof  
 Opening Prayer: Charles Rawdon  
 Lord's Table: Bob Marschall  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd  
 Parking Lot: David Williams

**Sunday Morning: 3/16/14**

Lord's Table: Bob Marschall (B)  
 Keith Marschall (C)  
 Serving: Ed Lawson  
 Jordan Lawson  
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot

Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Jeremy Whitehead  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
 (9:50) Paul Lloyd



**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

***“Bearing The Marks Of The Lord Jesus”***

“From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.” (Galatians 6:17). In the book of Galatians, Paul had been answering those who were questioning his apostleship and the authority by which he preached. He summarized his reply by saying, “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 1:11-12). As he approaches the end of this epistle, it might appear that he uses a different approach. He had been thundering against the disputers of his authority. Now, he bares his arms and scarred bosom saying look on them and know that I am a slave to Christ, having the right to speak as the representative of Christ, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

These words probably refer to the cruel custom of branding slaves, as we do cattle with initials or signs, to show ownership. No doubt Paul had physical scars as the result of the stonings and beatings, which he had unjustly received at the hands of those, who set themselves against the truth that he preached. A very similar thought

is expressed in II Corinthians 11:23-28, as Paul sums up the tokens of his apostolic commission and his zeal for the Lord. Paul realized that the marks he bore in his body were the result of his faithfulness in Jesus Christ.

Every Christian should bear in his body the marks of the Lord Jesus. We are not speaking of physical marks, but certainly we are not to consider ourselves completely immune to such! “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (II Timothy 3:12). How do we know what might befall us in following Christ? The present administration of government, which now exists in our country, shows no real respect for the teaching of the scriptures. The freedom of religion, which we now enjoy, might become a thing of the past. However, for the present, we are thinking of the marks of the Lord Jesus as being those things which identify us with faithfulness in Christ. What are some of these marks?

#### **There Is The Mark Of:**

**Submission.** True Christians respect the will of God, and submit to it in whatever they are commanded to

do. Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” (Matthew 26:39). This spirit of submission should characterize our lives! James wrote: “Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” (James 4:7-8). Submission does not end with one obeying the commands of the Lord in becoming Christians. Paul wrote to the Ephesians regarding submission! “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.” (Ephesians 5:21-23). If we truly submit to God, we do not ignore any subject which involves submission. The practice of submitting to some things, which are commanded, and ignoring others, is more rebellion than submission. “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to

do.” (Luke 17:10). “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” (I John 5:3). The mark of submission is not beyond our ability to bear. God does not ask of us to submit to anything other than that which is for our good, and within our ability to perform.

#### **We Are Also To Bear The Mark Of:**

**Self-denial.** “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” (Matthew 16:24-25). Self-denial is not to be denied! It is a mark of one who bears the marks of the Lord Jesus. Though there are things in the world which are appealing and tempting, the Christian is to learn to say “NO” to any of them that would seduce him from Christ. Paul recognized this virtue by saying, “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (I Corinthians 9:27). Let us be happy to bear in our bodies the marks of the Lord Jesus. “Bear” is a remarkable word. It

suggests more than a sense of toleration and patient endurance. It implies bearing with a sense of triumph as a victorious warrior would show scars as signs of his courage and bravery. With a legitimate triumph, Christians joyfully bear before men the marks of submission and self-denial. “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.” (I Peter 4:3-4). Before becoming Christians, one’s lifestyle did not evidence the marks of the Lord Jesus. But now in Christ, others may think it strange that you do not practice with them the things which you once did. They may speak evil of you, but faith in the Lord can cause us to bear with it, and keep on bearing in our bodies the marks of the Lord Jesus. It should be an honor to bear these marks, and we must never be ashamed of Christ and the truth that is in Him.

- By Bobby K. Thompson