

### NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Louise Mosley, Christine Golden’s family, Leon Miller, Mike Sadler, Rachel Miller, Ned Hicks, Brian James, Kathy Gray, Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , Nadine Fields (Moses’ sister), Jimmy Johnson (member at the Trilacoochee church of Christ), Paulette Sills, Dorothy Wilson (a friend of Marian Church in MI), Hal Lewis (Suzette’s brother), Karen Stanley (Bonnie’s daughter), and Jerry Jordan (Ken Jordan’s brother who has stage 4 throat cancer)
- ◇ Paula Sullivan, James VanDoorn, and David & Kyoko Williams are out of town.
- ◇ Group 1 meets tonight.
- ◇ Please remember our shut-ins and check up on those who are absent.

**\*UPCOMING EVENTS\***

- Last Friday of each month - Teen Bible Study
- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Song Practice
- 2nd Monday night each month - Ladies’ Bible Class.
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Bible Class

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### Assignments

Wednesday Night: 11/20/13

Song Leader: Charles Rawdon  
 Opening Prayer: Butch Morgan  
 Invitation: James VanDoorn  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

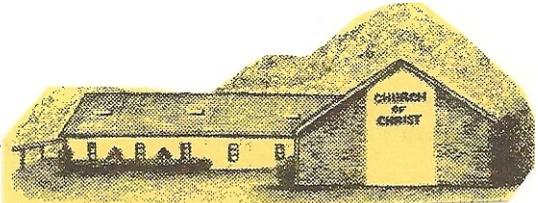
Sunday Morning: 11/24/13

Lord’s Table: Nick Ross (B)  
 Clay Sadler (C)  
 Serving: Jordan Lawson  
 Jim Abram  
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom  
 Opening Prayer: Butch Morgan  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
 (9:50) Colby Sadler

Sunday Evening: 11/24/13

Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Lord’s Table: Nick Ross  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Nick Groenhof  
 Parking Lot: David Williams

*\*Sister Ruby "Christine" Golden, age 87, died of complications of Alzheimer's Thursday (November 7, 2013). Please remember to keep her family in your prayers.*



## Lakeland Hills LEADER

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336  
[www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com](http://www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com)

<p><b><u>ELDERS</u></b>          Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405          Leon Miller (863) 640-6378</p>	<p><b><u>SERVICES</u></b>          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><b><u>DEACONS:</u></b>          Robert Marschall          Michael Sadler          Eric Stevens          Moses Stevens          David Williams</p>
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**EVANGELIST:**  
 Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

### *“Avoid Vain Thoughts”*

*“I hate vain thoughts; but thy law do I love.” (Psalm 119:113 - KJV)*  
 An individual’s thoughts are very important. In fact, the scripture teaches that as a man “thinks in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7). Thus, the Psalmist had strong feelings concerning vain thoughts—he hated them. He stated in Psalm 94:11: “The Lord knows the thoughts of man, That they are vain.” What are some of the possible reasons why the Psalmist had such an aversion to “vain thoughts”? Let us consider the following:

#### ***VAIN THOUGHTS WASTE TIME...***

Probably nothing wastes more time than just sitting around letting vain thoughts run through our minds. We are warned against wasting time. The Apostle Paul said, “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time” (Col. 4:5). Time should never be wasted with vain thoughts because that precious time is badly needed to cultivate love, meditate on God’s word, pray, and be ready to do any good work. Thus, vain thoughts should not be permitted to steal and waste precious time that is needed to serve, grow, and worship.

### ***VAIN THOUGHTS OPEN THE WAY FOR SIN...***

Sin often shows up in a person's life after the mind has been dwelling on things and on places it should not have been. That is why we should be so careful about what we see, what we hear, where we go, etc. I am reminded of the warning given in Proverbs 4:23-27: "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put away perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil." Sin often starts with the eyes. Jesus said, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matt. 6:22-23). Jesus specifically stated "that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matt. 5:28). This

reminds me of what happened to David with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11). Thus, when the eyes feast on what is sinful, it then lodges in the heart. James describes what happens when a person sins— "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (Jas. 1:14-15). Concerning the words we speak, Jesus said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34). The Apostle Paul said that as we engage in a spiritual warfare, our weapons are for "bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

The Psalmist surely realized the need to avoid vain thoughts when he prayed— "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer" (Psa. 19:14). The prophet Jeremiah asked— "How long shall your vain thoughts lodge within you?" (Jer. 4:14). The Lord places great emphasis on maintaining pure thoughts, as opposed to having sinful thoughts. Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see

God" (Matt. 5:8). The fact that a person's thoughts can be sinful are indicated by the words of Jesus in Matthew 15:19: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

The remainder of our text says, "but thy law do I love." Having vain thoughts can bring misery into our hearts and lives. But on the other hand, when we use our time to meditate on God's word, it can bring us joy (Jer. 15:16); peace (Psa. 119:165); wisdom (Psa. 19:7); and rewards (Psa. 19:11). The Apostle Paul gives us a solution to having "vain thoughts." In order to *avoid vain thoughts* let us practice what he commands in Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

-By R.J. Evans

### **WHAT MUST I DO TO BE A CHRISTIAN?**

- ◇ Jesus taught obedience (Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; Matt. 28:20)
- ◇ Jesus taught that unless we believe in Him, we will die in our sins (John 10:31-39)
- ◇ He taught repentance (Luke 13:3; 24:46-47)
- ◇ He taught confessing Him before others (Matthew 10:32-33)
- ◇ He taught baptism as a necessity (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:5)
- ◇ He teaches faithfulness unto death (Revelation 2:10)