

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Rudy Mosley, Mike Sadler, Rachel Miller, Patti James' son (Brian), Addy Anthony, Kathy Gray, Debbie Montgomery , Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom's aunt) , Jane Ross (Nick & Robin's Grandmother), Nadine Fields (Moses' sister), Hugh and Paulette Sills, Ted Penland, Joshua Dykes (Butch Morgan's cousin), Bob Calkins (A friend of the Millers), Dorothy Wilson (a friend of Marian Church in MI), Hal Lewis, Jane Halbert, Georde Wilson, and Melanie Moore
- ◇ Group 3 meets tonight.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Last Friday of each month - Teen Bible Study
- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Song Practice (*Today*)
- 2nd Monday night each month - Ladies' Bible Class. (*Beginning Next Month!!*)
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men's Bible Class

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Assignments

Wednesday Night: 9/11/13

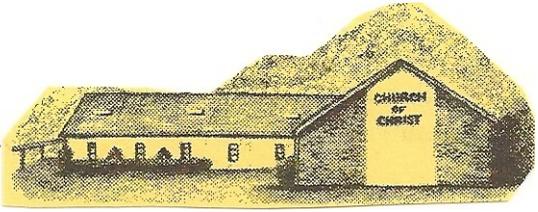
Song Leader: Butch Morgan
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Invitation: Bob Marschall
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Larry Wisdom
 Parking Lot: Jim Abram

Sunday Morning: 9/15/13

Lord's Table: Colby Sadler (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: OPEN
 Jordan Lawson
 Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Ben Cunningham
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Jim Abram
 (9:50) Mike Sadler

Sunday Evening: 9/15/13

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Nick Groenhof
 Lord's Table: Colby Sadler
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: James VanDoorn
 Parking Lot: Paul Lloyd



Lakeland Hills LEADER

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST
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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 Marschall Michael Sadler Eric Stevens Moses Stevens David Williams</p>
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EVANGELIST:
 Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“BRYLCREAM RELIGION”

"A little dab will do you," is an often heard advertising slogan for Brylcream hairdressing. There are many people who obviously think of saving faith in these same terms, for they have nothing more than a "little dab" of religion.

An alarming trend toward nominal Christianity is increasing. It is made up of people who have become members of the church whose participation in the Lord's work goes little further than attending fairly regularly on Sunday mornings and giving financially what they consider a fair amount for "admission" to the services.

Though they are not Bible students, they usually consider themselves qualified to be critics of the preaching and program of work. While they may not visit the sick and wayward themselves, they become offended if no attention is given them while they are ill. Regardless of the fact that they are not actively participating in the work of the church, they usually consider themselves faithful because "a little dab will do you."

There is hardly a more effective instrument of the devil in destroying zeal and fervor than "name only" Christianity. It not only deceives the indifferent member into thinking his salvation is secure, it also is cancerous in nature spreading from one member to another.

Myriads of people are looking for an easy way to heaven, and this "Brylcream Religion" appeals to them. It satisfies their conscience and allow them to be saved (they think) on the "lay away plan" -- when it is convenient.

CHRISTIANITY INVOLVES DOING.

The person with this attitude never comprehends true Christianity, nor does he ever receive the full benefits of its blessings. The "pure religion and undefiled" of James 1:27 involves DOING. The real joy of being a Christian can be realized only by "visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction"; not by delegating the work to the preacher or somebody else. The greatest thrill in seeing others obey the gospel is shared by the one who has had a personal hand in converting the lost soul; not in waiting for others to teach them. Though having visitors when ill brings comfort, there is a more abundant sense of pleasure felt by the person doing the visiting. The deepest inspiration or edification from worship is obtained by those who participate in the singing, teaching, or bountiful giving; not by those who have come to "enjoy the services" as spectators. Not only does the person with a "little dab" of religion fail to reap the great joys of Christianity in this life, he will also lose his soul eternally.

The Bible teaches that Christians are to seek God first in their lives. (Mt. 6:33) The life of a Christian involves daily service, not part time activity. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). A living sacrifice describes active and interested participation. It is impossible to be a

faithful Christian without belonging wholly to the Lord and His cause. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor. 6:19,20). Other statements show our manner of labor, "...always abound in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15: 58), and "...to be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1).

"LITTLE DAB" WON'T DO

The average Christian is familiar with the above passages, but in application he tends to omit himself from their pointed meaning. We know that a "little dab" of religion would not be sufficient for the preacher or leaders of the church but through some unexplained way, we feel we can enter the pearly gates with this small amount. By inspiration of God James was addressing Christians when he wrote, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (Jas. 1:22,23). Let us not confuse a slogan for hairdressing with the word of God. Hairdressing is only for the head--not for the soul.

- Robert Harkrider

"Three Answers To One Question"

Could one question be given three differing answers, and all answers be correct? Seems unlikely doesn't it? Yet this is the case in the N.T. book of Acts when the question, "What must I do?" (to be saved) is asked.

The expressed answer given to the Philippian jailer was "*Believe!*" (See Acts 16:25-34 for full account.) Some insist that this expressed reply is complete, and hence salvation is by faith only. However, a consideration of the expressed replies given this question on other occasions will show the fallacy of such reasoning.

When some of the Pentecost multitude asked, "What shall we do?" they were told, "*Repent, and be baptized.*" (See Acts 2:6-38-f. for details.) And when Saul asked what to do he was directed to Ananias, who told him to "*Arise, and be, baptized.*" (See Acts 9:1-18 22:6-16 for the record.)

If only the expressed reply is to be considered we would have to conclude that the jailer was saved by faith alone, and that those on Pentecost were saved by repentance and baptism (i.e., without any faith) and that Saul was saved by baptism alone, without either faith or repentance. Of course *none* of these conclusions are valid.

A fair study of the context shows that the same elements, and *all three* of these elements, were present in *each* of the cases examined. One must have faith in Christ to be saved, but faith that is not strong enough to cause one to obey the Lord's commands is a "dead" faith. (Jas. 2:24-26)

Why Did The Answers Differ?

Because the questions were asked by people in different circumstances. A man in Burnet may ask how far is it to San Antonio?" and be told, "100 miles." In Marble Falls this question would get a different answer. And in Blanco, the same question would get a third, and different answer. Yet all would be part of one great truth.

There is no indication that the Philippian jailer had either knowledge or faith in the Christian system; so he was told to believe, and then "they spake unto him the word of the Lord." He repented, as indicated by washing their stripes, and he was baptized, as stated in Acts 16:38. Thus he *truly believed*. (vs. 34)

But those on Pentecost heard the preaching of Christ before they asked their question. The preaching "pricked" their hearts; i.e., they believed. Then they were told "repent and be baptized."

And Saul (later called Paul) had already believed, and had spent three days penitently praying, when he was told, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins."

Where Are You??

Your status or condition before God must be considered in answering *your* question, "What must *I* do?" The Lord will save "all who will obey;" (Heb. 5:9) and has given one gospel to all. (Gal. 1:8 Rom. 2:11) Have you proven your faith by full and complete obedience to His will?

- Robert F. Turner