

### NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– The Ryland and Lawhon families, Madge Hicks, Patti James’ son (Brian), 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), and Bob Calkins (A friend of the Millers).
- ◇ Ian Rice is holding a Gospel Meeting for the Oak Grove church of Christ in Pensacola, FL this week.
- ◇ Group 2 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. (*On hold throughout summer*)
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Bible Class

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### Assignments

Wednesday Night: 8/14/13

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson  
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Invitation: Sherman Johnson  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Jordan Lawson  
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

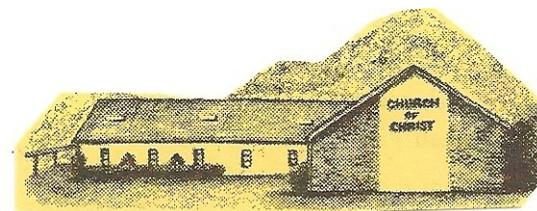
Sunday Evening: 8/18/13

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson  
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Lord’s Table: Charles Rawdon  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Bob Marschall  
 Parking Lot: Mike Sadler

Sunday Morning: 8/18/13

Lord’s Table: Charles Rawdon (B)  
 Clay Sadler (C)  
 Serving: James VanDoorn  
 Jim Abram  
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Larry Hicks  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Ben Cunningham  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
 (9:50) David Williams

***Our 28th Annual Singing will be held at the building on Friday, August 30, 2013 @ 7pm. Make your plans now to come and worship God in song!***



# 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)

**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

### ***“Holiness or Hell”***

Several years ago I heard a woman, who had what I believe was an erroneous conception of sanctification, use the expression, “Holiness or hell.” While that was a rather strong way of expressing it and I do not believe she properly understood what the Bible means by holiness, she did have a good point. “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). Those who are unwilling to follow the ways of the Holy One cannot be pleasing to Him. “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15, 16).

What is this holiness God demands of us? It begins when one turns from the life of sin and is baptized into Christ. In this act of trusting obedience one is sanctified or set apart as one of God’s saints. That people are sanctified or made holy by God when they are baptized may be seen in a look at the Corinthians. When Paul wrote to them in 1 Corinthians 1:2 he addressed them as “those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.” In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 he wrote that these saints had previously been involved in various sins, but were now washed, sanctified, and justified. But when did this sanctification take place? The reference to washing was a clear allusion to baptism (see Acts 22:16) and in Acts 18:8 we read that the Corinthians “hearing, believed and were baptized.” When the Corinthians trusted the Lord’s promise and were baptized into Christ they were pronounced just (i.e. not guilty of sin) and holy (i.e. they were set apart as saints).

As a saint one's life is to be completely consecrated to God. Submitting to the rule of God becomes the most important guiding principle in one's life. The kingdom of God and His righteousness are the priorities in his life (Matthew 6:33). Decisions about family, work, study, attendance, contribution; indeed, all of life must be based on the realization that as a saint one is dedicated to God. It is vital that we understand and embrace this principle: holiness in daily practice must flow from a heart that in gratitude for deliverance from sin is single-mindedly devoted to God.

But while holiness begins with an act of God's grace as we submit to the gospel and is to result in a changed attitude toward all of life, there are many practical ways in which holiness must be seen. Sainthood service to God is not limited to the following, but it must include the following four areas that we will explore in this and some future articles. As saints we are to manifest purity in speech, moral behavior, dress, and work.

Because we are set apart to the praise of the Holy One we will use language that causes the name of God to be hallowed, just as Jesus taught us to do (Matthew 6:6-9). The word hallow is defined as "to make holy." We are not practicing holiness when we do not treat God and His name as holy. Do not allow God or Lord to become common terms used to express surprise, anger, etc. Sanctified speech must first sanctify God.

Having been hallowed God in our speech, we must then imitate the God who cannot lie (Titus 1:2) by "putting away lying" (Ephesians 4:26). Honesty is a rare commodity today, but as God's holy ones it must be the rule of life and not the rare exception.

Those practicing holiness in their lives and speech will also put away "all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking... with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31). James wrote of the folly of seeking to bless God while cursing those who were made in His similitude (James 3:9). It is easy to slip into the trap of speaking evil of others, but saints of God will diligently seek to avoid that deadly trap.

When we think of holiness and speech we must also think in terms of cleanness. Cursing and dirty talk can be heard everywhere, but we read in Ephesians 5:3, 4 that such is not "fitting for saints." If our Holy God is not amused by filthy conversation and sexual innuendo, should our sanctified lips be speaking such?

Having said that we are not to show disrespect for God's name; we are not to lie; we are not to speak evil of others; we are not to use cursing or dirty talk; some then conclude that sanctified speech is defined more by what it is not than by what it is. But consider two important positives that must characterize sanctified speech.

Saints seek to speak that which "is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29). All too often we do not give enough thought to speaking words that will benefit others. While it is important to avoid speaking evil of others, it is equally important that we learn to use our tongues for the building up of others as we properly season our speech that it might do the most good possible (Colossians 4:6).

When Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:3, 4 that filthy talk was not fitting for saints, he added that "giving of thanks" was fitting or appropriate. Since God has delivered us from sin and con-

demnation, our tongues should now be devoted to praising and thanking Him. In the words of a song we sometimes sing, "Saints, lift your voices, tho' dark your days! Lift up your spirits, sing out His praise."

-by John R. Gibson

### ***"No Time Nor Place to Quit!"***

"While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being" (Psa. 146:2).

The above words of the Psalmist reveal his plans to faithfully serve the Lord as long as he lived. No doubt, he realized that faithfully serving the Lord brings many blessings and joys now, as well as the eternal reward in heaven later. To be a child of God who faithfully serves the Lord is more important than anything else one can do in this life. Yet, there are some Christians who are not always faithful to the Lord. In my own mind, I can think of a large number who I've known through the years who have fallen away and no longer serve God.

It is easy serving God when all is going well. But everyone needs to realize that self-denial and cross-bearing are involved (Matt. 16:12, 15). The Apostle Paul tells us that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12).

A child of God must be so careful not to allow the attractions of this world to get in his way (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Therefore, all Christians must be sincere and serious about serving God, as well as dependent upon Him for strength. The wise man

stated, "If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small" (Prov. 24:10).

Jesus had so many factors working against Him during His time on this earth, but He never fainted. Men despised and rejected Him (Isa. 53:3), and ultimately crucified Him. While on earth He quoted the words which had been prophesied concerning Him in Psalm 69:4— "They hated Me without a cause" (Jn. 15:25). But through it all, in His prayer to His Father, He could say, "I have finished the work which you have given Me to do" (Jn. 17:4). Nothing ever caused Him to give up and quit!

Jesus was faithful all the way because He had a Cause to live and die for— "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God" (Heb. 10:9). It is for the same Cause that faithful Christians are assured— "that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight" (Heb. 13:20-21). Moreover, it was doing His Father's will that concerned Jesus the most. He stated, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (Jn. 6:38). We should have the same desire—to always obey and do the will of God.

May we always faithfully trust and obey God so that nothing will ever hinder or stop us. There is just too much at stake. There is no time nor place to quit! "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

- by R.J. Evans