

News & Notes

Men's Class: Men's class will be conducted at the building today (4:30pm).
Afternoon Singing: Our next Sunday afternoon singing will be at the building on Jan. 11th (5pm).
Ladies' Class: Next class will be on Monday, Jan. 12th, at Karen Berry's home (7pm).
Young Adults' Study: Next study will be at Colby and Kaitlyn Sadler's house on Friday, Jan. 23rd (7:30pm)
Prayer Requests: *Our brethren:* Kayla Cunningham (Please continue to pray things go well during her pregnancy), Martha Smith, and Norman Blackburn. Also remember Linda James and Butch Morgan, as they have ongoing health issues.
Our friends and family too: Larry Wisdom's mother (Canera Wisdom; diagnosed with cancer in the advanced stages), Ted Penland (Butch Morgan's son-in-law), Heather Tyer (Family friend of Butch Morgan), Janelle Hastings (Hospice is in home), Naydene Fields, Brian James, Hal Lewis, Gary Jones, Jeff Sprott, and Waylon Townsend.
Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship.
Happy New Year! With the year 2015 approaching, I hope everyone is keeping God foremost in all of their plans. (**James 4:13-17**) There are some Bible reading plans available at both entrances of the building.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 12/31/14

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Invitation: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Ben Cunningham
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

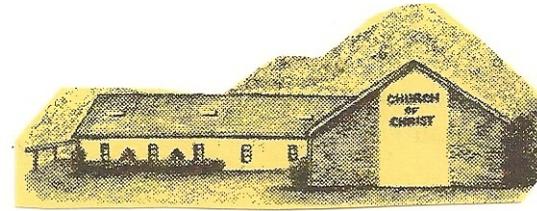
Sunday Evening: 1/4/15

Song Leader: Charles Rawdon
 Opening Prayer: Ben Cunningham
 Lord's Table: Keith Marschall
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: David Williams
 Parking Lot: Norm Blackburn

Sunday Morning: 1/4/15

Lord's Table: Keith Marschall (B)
 Eddie Lawson (C)
 Serving: Trent Stevens
 Jordan Lawson
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams

Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Paul Lloyd
 (9:50) Mike Sadler



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336
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

Wednesday Night

I plead innocent to the charge of legalism. I understand Scripture nowhere requires—either by command, example, or necessary inference—a mid-week service, much less one on Wednesday night. I have worshipped with churches where the mid-week service was on Tuesday nights, and I felt no conscience problem in missing “Wednesday night.” I have sometimes been traveling and missed mid-week services altogether, still with no pang of conscience. I would not accuse a church of being unscriptural if it had no mid-week services. At the same time, I feel pretty strong about attendance at midweek services when I am at home or in some other place where the saints are meeting for a service.

It's a matter of priorities. If an opportunity should arise to serve the Lord better in some other way on a Wednesday night, I might choose to miss the service—provided, of course, I could not do both. But if the choice is between meeting with the saints and some temporal pleasure or unnecessary secular involvement, I feel that I should attend the service. And I would be concerned about my spiritual values if I chose otherwise.

I know a lady who was honored to be chosen as citizen of the year in the town where she lived, but she turned down the honor because it involved a ceremony on Wednesday night. I know

high school graduates who have chose to miss their graduation exercises because they were conducted on Wednesday nights. How do you feel about those decisions? Do you consider them extreme? What do you think the Lord would say about them? I feel that He would say what He said of one who chose to hear Him rather than prepare an extravagant meal: “Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42).

At this point, we are often challenged: “Do you think it is a *sin* to miss on Wednesday night? Do you think one will go to *hell* who does not attend?” Now who is the legalist? Is serving the Lord a matter of keeping certain rules and obeying certain laws which serve as minimum requirements so that we can then refuse to take another step on the ground that “we have done our duty”? Is Christianity not a matter of seeking “first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”? Is it not a matter of loving the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength?

Paul prayed for the Philippians: □ that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and in all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense until the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1:9).

I believe the persons mentioned, who gave priority to Wednesday night services over secular honors, were showing spiritual discernment and approving the things that are excellent in contrast with things which are strictly temporal.

Frankly, I worry about Christians who choose not to attend *any* service when they could do so. These are the people who are most likely to become weak and eventually leave the Lord. I am concerned about those who feel no inclination to set aside secular pleasures to attend all of the services of a gospel meeting. I am disturbed by those who miss Sunday morning Bible classes, or choose to spend all of Lord’s Day morning sleeping or traveling, even if they do “take the Lord’s Supper on Sunday night.” I am also troubled by Christians who choose to spend Sunday evenings visiting or watching television rather than attending the services. I believe that they are weak and need help to develop stronger spiritual values.

I admit I am also concerned about Christians who attend “every time the doors are opened” simply because they feel it is a “legal requirement.” I have seen people actually resent any additional classes that are announced, or any projects planned which will take another night out of their week.

What an encouragement those Christians are who do attend all the services! Especially those aged and infirmed ones whom all of us would excuse if they did not come, but who

come simply because they would rather be there than anywhere else in all the world. They preach powerful sermons, just by their presence.

- Sewell Hall

The following are some thoughts that hopefully will provide us all with some encouragement. I recommend that you read all of the passages that go along with these thoughts...

“God Says”

You say, “It’s impossible.”
God says, “All things are possible.”
(*Luke 18:27*)

You say, “I’m too tired!”
God says, “I will give you rest.”
(*Matthew 11:28–30*)

You say, “Nobody really loves me.”
God says, “I love you.”
(*John 3:16; 3:34*)

You say, “I can’t go on anymore.”
God says, “My grace is sufficient.”
(*2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 91:15*)

You say, “I can’t figure things out.”
God says, “I will direct your steps.”
(*Proverbs 3:5–6*)

You say, “I can’t do it.”
God says, “You can do all things through me.” (*Philippians 4:13*)

You say, “I’m not able.”
God says, “I am able.”
(*2 Corinthians 9:8*)

You say: “It’s not worth it.”
God says, “It will be worth it.”
(*Romans 8:28*)

You say, “I can’t forgive myself.”
God says, “I forgive you.”
(*1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1*)

You say, “I can’t manage.”
God says, “I will supply all your needs.”
(*Philippians 4:19*)

You say, “I’m afraid!”
God says, “I have not given you a spirit of fear.” (*2 Timothy 1:7*)

You say, “I’m always worried and frustrated.”
God says, “Cast all your cares on me.”
(*1 Peter 5:7*)

You say, “I’m not smart enough.”
God says, “I give you wisdom.”
(*1 Corinthians 1:30*)

You say, “I feel all alone.”
God says, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” (*Hebrews 13:5*)

- Author Unknown