

News & Notes

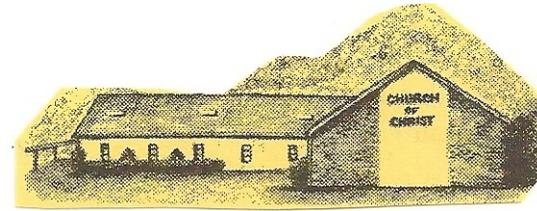
Upcoming events: Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice. Ladies' Bible class is held on the 2nd Monday night of every month. The men's Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month (Next week).

Pray for the Sick: Vivian Dillman, Mark Miller (Leon & Ruth's son was involved in a serious work-related accident last week and recovering well). Jerry Jordan (Ken's brother is battling cancer), Nadine Fields (Moses' sister), and Forrest Cunningham (Butch Morgan's nephew is still recovering from a serious car accident). Let us be sure to keep these people in our thoughts.

Out of Town: Audrey Davis, Mike, Tammy, & Kaitlyn Sadler.

Group Meeting: Please make the effort to be involved with our group meetings. Many continue to comment on how well they've been encouraged through the efforts put forth in those meetings. Group (1) meets tonight.

Please remember: Our shut-ins and check on those not accounted for being absent in the announcements.



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

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 1/22/14

Song Leader: Butch Morgan
Opening Prayer: Eddie Lawson
Invitation: Larry Wisdom
Announcements: Bob Marschall
Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson
Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Evening: 1/26/14

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
Opening Prayer: Butch Morgan
Lord's Table: Eric Stevens
Announcements: Larry Hicks
Closing Prayer: Keith Marschall
Parking Lot: Norm Blackburn

Sunday Morning: 1/26/14

Lord's Table: Eric Stevens (B)
 Bucky Day (C)
Serving: Ed Lawson
 Eddie Lawson
Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson

Announcements: Larry Hicks
Closing Prayer: Colby Sadler
Parking Lot: (9:00) Jim Abram
 (9:50) James VanDoorn

“The Temptation”

(Part 2)

In the third temptation of Jesus, recorded in Matthew 4, "the devil taketh Him unto an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and he said unto Him, 'All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me' " **(Matt. 4:8, 9)**. Satan sought to get Jesus to worship him. If ever the bald-faced audacity of Satan was ever manifested, it was then. The very idea of supreme Deity worshiping Satan is mind boggling. If Jesus had seen fit to fall down and worship Satan, then surely we who are far less in power could do no less than to follow His example. As I said, the consequences of such an action would have shaken the foundations of reason itself.

What was the appeal of this temptation? God had promised Jesus the "obedience of the peoples" **(Gen. 49:10)**; "the nations for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession" **(Psa. 2:8)**. For Jesus to follow God's

way to the throne on the "holy hill of Zion" led to the cross. It was the hard way, the sacrificial way. Satan's way was easy. All Jesus had to do was to fall down and worship him. If He had done that, being who He was, Deity would have been divided. Deity would have submitted to an inferior being's power. The scheme of redemption would have been completely thwarted.

Jesus answered Satan, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve'" (**Matt. 4:10**). For the third time Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy (**6:13**). Moses warned the people that when they went into the land, they were not to follow after the idols. One may make a god out of anything. Satan wanted to exchange himself for God and let Jesus worship him, but Jesus refused. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve."

It will be profitable to look at a few reasons why Jesus was perfect. They are exemplified in the temptation accounts. We blame sin on our human bodies, but Jesus had a human

body and did not sin. Sin comes from the heart. It is the heart which allows the desires of the body to become lust. Surely the divine nature of Jesus is the ultimate explanation of His complete, lifelong perfection. There are, however, two things which we may study with great benefit. One reason why Jesus never sinned is that He was not ignorant. He knew everything that was right. Many times we sin because we do not know. We have not studied and learned. The more we know of God's way the better we will be able to walk in it. Another reason why Jesus never sinned is that He always did what He knew was right. How often do we get to the end of a day and say, "I should have done this or that," and did not do it? We can improve our service to God without learning anything else if we will immediately begin to do more of what we already know we should do. We can then further improve by studying the scriptures more diligently. Let us be imitators of Christ and "resist the devil and he will flee from you" (**Jas. 4:7**).

- By Bob Waldron

Mister "X"

Many congregations (or businesses, schools, etc.) have a "Mister X" — so called because for a time he (or she) may be unknown -- or known, but with insufficient evidence to "pin down."

"Mr. X is disgruntled, dissatisfied; often with an "itch" that no one, including himself, could scratch. Maybe he wants to be in a more prominent position. Or, not wanting the responsibility of leadership, he may want to appear the wise old owl on the sideline, sagely "advising" others without putting his advice before the public where it can be analyzed and reviewed. Maybe he is just an "Objector" — or embittered with personal failures, he "takes it out" on others. Whatever the cause, he is dangerous.

He puts the worst possible interpretation on everything. (No telling what he will say about this article.) He plants seeds of discord in others. If a molehill appears in Bible class on Wednesday, he will visit you on Thursday to talk about how BAD things are. He makes mountains for all who will listen. He urges "Something must be done!" meaning — **you** take

the ball now, and GO with it." He will back you — from a **way** back, safe position of course.

He finds the weak, and compliments them. "'You should have a raise — you should have that prominent position.'" Then, if it suits his purposes, he may suggest to the boss that "some of **them** are dissatisfied — too bad." He may offer to help the situation by "talking to **them** when time is right."

It is difficult to maintain a proper attitude toward Mr. X. If you are kind, trying to be understanding of his weakness, and strengthening him, he may take this as weakness on your part. He is a self-deceived hypocrite, desperately in need of help; but one you must "save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." (Jude 23) "Restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself lest thou also be tempted." (Gal. 6: 1)

It may be necessary to "deliver such a one unto Satan" (I Cor. 5: 51) to spare the innocent, and maybe save the soul of poor despicable Mr. X.

- By Robert F. Turner