

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Marian Church, Ken Turner, Jeanette Claridy, Madge Hicks, Arlene Turner’s brother (James), Wayne Ryland, Wayne & Christine Ryland’s daughter (Shelly Chalmers), Bucky Day’s mom (Gerri), Larry Wisdom’s sister, and Keri Rice’s mother (Diane Fields).
- ◇ Please be mindful of the Wisdom family. (Angela’s father passed away on January 1st.)
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins:
- ◇ Group 1 meets tonight.

****UPCOMING EVENTS****

- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Singing (*Next Week*)
- 2nd Monday night of each month— The Ladies’ Bible Class. *Next Week— January 14th. (Lesson from pgs. 126-134, “Jeroboam’s Wife– Who Wanted Blessings the Easy Way”)*
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Class
- Fourth Friday of each month at 7pm – Youth Study

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Assignments

Wednesday Night: 1/9/13

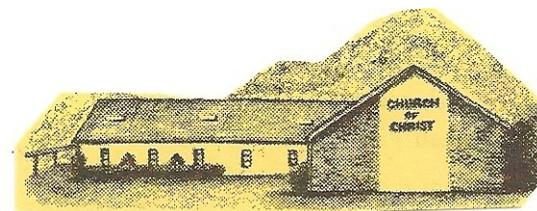
Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Invitation: Keith Marschall
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Daniel Stagers
 Parking Lot: Paul Loyd

Sunday Evening: 1/13/13

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Moses Stevens
 Lord’s Table: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Parking Lot: David Williams

Sunday Morning: 1/13/13

Lord’s Table: Bucky Day (B)
 Jerry Williams (C)
 Serving: Eddie Lawson
 Ed Lawson
 Song Leader: Bob Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Nick Groenhof
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: OPEN
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn
 (9:50) Jim Abram



**Lakeland Hills
LEADER**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELDERS

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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

“Righteousness, Self-Control, and Judgment”

In the twenty-fourth chapter of Acts, we read of how Paul (in Caesarea) was faced with great opposition from unbelieving Jews (from Jerusalem). Paul was accused of being, “a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.” His accusers also charged that Paul, “even tried to profane the temple” (Verses 5&6).

Those who were trying to lay blame onto Paul listened as he gave his defense to Felix, the procurator of Judea. Paul noted that his hope in God was the same as his accusers, “that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.” (Verse 15) Paul would go on to mention his example of always striving to have, “a conscience without offense toward God and men”. After revealing the effort to fulfill a vow and bring alms and offerings to the Jews, Paul asserted that he “neither with a mob nor with tumult” conducted himself among those in Jerusalem. Paul then went on to assert that those who actually started the mob action ought to have been there (at this hearing) to object if they had anything against him! “Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before

the council, unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.'" (Verse 21) Felix understood that the accusations against Paul were rooted in the fact that he was preaching Christ. After hearing both cases presented, he adjourned the proceedings and said, *"When Lysias the commander (the Roman captain who was present during the occasion Paul was initially accused) comes down, I will make a decision on your case."* (Verse 22) So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to treat him with leniency, allowing even his friends to provide for and visit him.

By examining Felix, we find an interesting example of someone's response to the message of Christ. The text that follows helps us understand some valuable lessons that we should give heed to. Verse twenty-two of the chapter reveals that he (Felix) already had a more accurate knowledge of "the Way" (NKJV). This refers to Felix's familiarity with the message of Christ, even before being taught more perfectly by the apostle Paul. What we read further in the text is very revealing of both what that message entailed, and what one's response to that message should be!

*"And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and **heard him concerning the faith in Christ.**"* (Acts 24:24) In this verse, we find that the message given to

Felix and Drusilla was by word of mouth. In other words – Felix was taught by someone else! He did not receive instruction through some miraculous experience or revelation from God above. This fact is consistent with what we read in Romans 10:14-17, where Paul states that preaching must be done in order for one to hear and obey the gospel of Christ. Even when there are instances of miraculous revelation given by God in the New Testament, all instructions of *how to enter into a covenant relationship with Him* are given by the communication of men. Many today claim to have been saved by receiving a divine message or instruction from Christ, but that does not fit with *Paul's own conversion account*. He saw the glorified Christ, but was not saved until he was *"told what you must do"* (Acts 9:6) (cf. Acts 9, 22, 26).

"Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." (Acts 24:25) After hearing the message of Christ, Felix was forced to *reason through* the things Paul presented to him. The import of this concept is that we understand - the Lord does not just pour out certain "feelings or emotions" for anyone to experience, and therefore be swayed into obedience. No, the Lord expects for us to meditate upon and *reason* the scriptures today, just as those in the first century needed to *reason* the message

they had received in the form of teaching. During Paul's prior journeys, his custom was to go into the synagogues and *reason* with both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 17:2, 11, 17, cf. Acts 18:4, 19). The Biblical example of receiving the message of the cross always involved a teacher, a student, and "reasoning". It is a shame that so many today fall prey to the "better felt than told" type of gospel, which is not another (Gal 1:6-8).

"Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." (Acts 24:25) Note what the message Felix heard from the apostle Paul consisted of. The text tells us that righteousness was part of the message! The Bible speaks of righteousness in two senses... One is the righteousness that God gives us through the cleansing that is in Jesus (Rom. 1:16-17; 1John 1:7-9); the other is a lifestyle of righteousness, a life devoted to the doing of righteous deeds! Living such a life requires the element of self-control, as Peter begged the first century Christians to *"... abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul"* (1 Peter 2:11). No doubt, when one humbly examines his works before the expectations of God - he becomes afraid, *"For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ"* (Romans 10:14). Sadly, these elements are left out of much preaching today, while sin gets winked at.

"Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." (Acts 24:25) Felix did like many who hear the requirements of discipleship today! Even though they will tremble at God's word, many will seek an escape with excuses. Felix displayed his true character when deciding to "put off" things until a time that would be more convenient for him. Isn't that what people do today when claiming to "sow their wild oats"? Let us be moved by the examples from God's Word.

If you have a tender heart- please do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Render obedience to the Lord today, and remember that the making of excuses will not fool God Almighty! *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."* (Galatians 6:7) All of us here today have a wonderful opportunity; let us therefore use the blessings we have to glorify our Maker and Redeemer!

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