

News & Notes

Upcoming events: Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice, once a month is held a younger adult study, and our men's Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month. We invite you to take advantage of these opportunities to grow in God's word together (1Thess 4:11; 1Pet 1:22- 2Pet 2:3; 2Pet 3:18).

Men's Bible Study: Next week begins a new topic for the men's class. Ronnie Henderson will begin teaching us on how to grow as song-leaders. Please make sure to have your Bibles handy for our 1st study (Next Sunday at 4:30pm)!

Keep in Prayer: Dottie Reynolds (Recovering from back surgery), Linda James, Butch Morgan, the Sadler family, Bob Marschall's mother (At home and recovering), & Denise Johnson (of Dade City).

Out of Town: The Day family, Nick & Emilee, Karen Berry, Ken & Diana Jordan, Kirk Marschall, and Ronnie Henderson (preaching for Azalea Park this morning) are all out of town. Audrey Davis had been away for some time, and it is GOOD to have her back home with us!

Group Meeting: Group (3) meets tonight after worship.

Bible Study: The Trilacoochee church of Christ is having a summer **Bible study this week for all ages.** Bob Waldron, Ian Rice, Justin Lewis, and Adam Willingham will be teaching the adult classes, and all who have opportunity are encouraged to attend! Studies will be held from 10-11:30am, Monday thru Thursday.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 7/23/14

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Invitation: Larry Wisdom
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

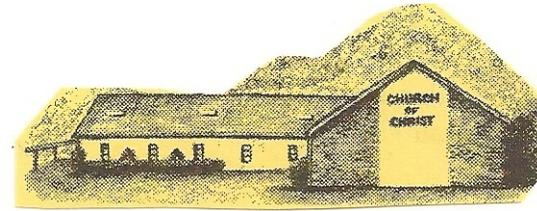
Sunday Evening: 7/27/14

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

Sunday Morning: 7/27/14

Lord's Table: (B) Bucky Day
 (C) Jerry Williams
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 Eddie Lawson
 Song Leader: Bob Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Nick Groenhof

Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norman Blackburn
 (9:50) Paul Lloyd



**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

“Called to Preach?”

Sometime we may hear our neighbors and/or friends speak upon how preaching “is a calling”. When leaving my secular job to begin a preaching work, I was asked by my manager at the time, “When did you realize that you were ‘called’ to preach?” Some have misunderstandings upon the matter of “being called” by God today, so let us give attention to the subject.

The Bible does indeed make mention of individuals being called, yet in two different ways.

The first way the Bible describes individuals being called to preach is directly and personal. Jeremiah wrote of how it was that he received a direct and personal appointment from God be His prophet, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I *am* a youth." But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I *am* a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak." (Jeremiah 1:5-7). There were other prophets of the Old Testament in whom God called to speak and to write the words given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

In the gospel accounts, we read of how Jesus “called” the apostles to be twelve very special men—with a very special task that was **unique to them**. “And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons” (Mark 3:13-15). On the night before His death, Jesus prayed to the Father concerning the apostles, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” (John 17:17-18) To provide for the apostles in their work as “ambassadors for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20), the Holy Spirit was sent to guide them into all truth (John 16:13), and bring to their remembrance all that Jesus said to them (John 14:26). Jesus also promised all of the apostles that whatever they bound on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever they loosed on earth will have been loosed in heaven (Matthew 18:18).

Paul wrote of the apostles and other inspired individuals when writing Ephesians 3:3-5, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I

have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”. These types of direct callings, commissions, and appointments were very distinct and special. No one can claim (scripturally) that they have the ability to bind or loose today, nor does anyone have the ability to confirm such convincing revelation by miracles (2 Corinthians 12:12). It was not expected that there would be endless miracles (1 Corinthians 13:8-10) or that endless revelation would continue (Jude 1:3) throughout the centuries. **People today are not called directly or miraculously, nor are they given authority to "bind and loose" with heaven's authority.**

There is another sense in which the Bible mentions one being called by God. In 2 Thessalonians 2:14, Paul informs us that **God calls men by the gospel**. Among those called by the gospel in today's day and age there will be, “some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edify-

ing of the body of Christ”. (Ephesians 4:11-12) Does God call one to preach today? In a sense, yes... By teaching in His word that those who are themselves saved by the blood of Christ are to have a real concern for souls of others!! This does not mean that all will preach, but that concern will be communicated by some in the form of preaching. God teaches the saved to be concerned about the glory of Christ, and promoting His cause. For some, that will mean preaching the gospel of Christ. Timothy was told to teach, “faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2) This is how preachers and teachers are “called” (in a sense). Moreover, Jesus said that those who are taught and baptized are to continue in being taught to observe all things that He commanded. (Matthew 28:19) This would include teaching others the gospel of Christ, as **all disciples should be teaching others as we have opportunity.**

In the 2nd letter to Timothy, we read of how Timothy was to do the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5). Those who preach and/or teach today should study diligently and prepare so as to present lessons from the scriptures distinctly, give the sense, and cause others to understand the reading (Nehemiah 8:8). Let

them teach and exhort, being careful to rightly divide the word. Some will grow and **decide to preach** “part-time” while working at another job. Others will **decide to preach** “full-time” while being supported financially by the church. Both are scriptural arrangements (1 Corinthians 9:6-18), and there is room for both kinds of work. In conclusion, we could say that those preachers are called today, **in the sense that they've been called by the gospel**. However, they **are not called miraculously**, nor are they given the authority to “bind and loose” with heaven's authority. Nor is anyone today called and sent forth as the apostles were. If anyone claims to have been called by a divine and miraculous intervention, let him show you the proof, as Paul verified with the church at Corinth, “Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.” (2 Corinthians 12:12). If one makes the claim that God has called him directly, you will soon find that his teaching is not in line with the claims he puts forth!

- By Ian Rice