

News & Notes

Upcoming events: Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice (**Today at 5pm**), the men’s Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month (**Next one - July 27th @ 4:30pm**).

This Week: Our young adult’s study will be held **this Friday** at Chet and Danielle’s residence at **7:30pm**.

Keep in Prayer: Dottie Reynolds (Dottie had successful back surgery this past Wednesday), Linda James (Linda is still recovering from a fall at home in which she broke her arm), Butch Morgan (Who has been ill much lately and could use some encouragement). Please also be mindful of the Sadler family, as Mike’s grandmother passed away last week. Be conscious too of the Marschalls, as Bob’s mother had surgery last week. Jimmy Johnson (of Dade City) has passed on from this life to the next, so let us be praying for (and comforting) his family at this time.

Out of Town: The Lawson family, Audrey Davis, Kirk Marschall, and Ronnie Henderson (preaching for Azalea Park this morning) are all out of town.

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 7/16/14

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Bob Marschall
 Invitation: OPEN
 Announcements: Charles Rawdon
 Closing Prayer: Clay Sadler
 Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

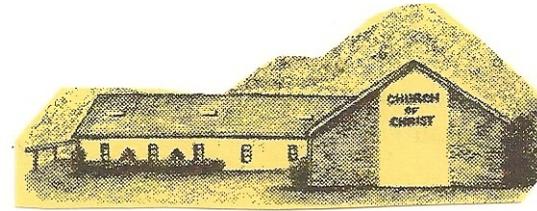
Sunday Evening: 7/20/14

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

Sunday Morning: 7/20/14

Lord’s Table: (B) Bob Marschall
 (C) Keith Marschall
 Serving: Clay Sadler
 Jordan Lawson
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Jeremy Whitehead

Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson
 Parking Lot: (9:00) David Williams
 (9:50) Sherman Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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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

“Devilish Discombobulations”

Confusion is one of the cleverest tools of the Devil. If he can get us confused on a matter he quickly gains an advantage. First of all, confusion breeds discouragement. We get quickly discouraged when we don’t understand things. Second, confusion brings controversy, mainly because misunderstandings grow out of it. And thirdly, confusion breeds disunity. It’s hard to be united on something when everybody’s all mixed up.

The Devil has used confusion to retard and restrict people’s understanding about a multitude of things. I want to discuss just a few to illustrate that fact.

Confusion about sin. Sin has been softened in this generation. In fact, you seldom see the word used. You’ll search several issues of your local paper without even seeing the word. Actually, there’s no such thing as sin to most people. Oh, they might say murder’s a sin or perhaps child abuse or something like that. But pornography? Naa. How about homosexuality? Naa. Cheating? Depends on who’s doing it and why. Lying? Well, sometimes it’s a little wrong, but sin? Naa. Sin is called sin only in the most extreme conditions. What about God’s definition of sin? He says it’s “transgression of the law” (1 Jn. 3:4-5). You mean even the “little” transgressions? Yes, sir, sin is any transgression of the law. “To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not,

to him it is sin," God said (Jas. 4:17). You mean if I know something is good and I don't do it, God holds that against me? Yes, sir. Omission of known good is just as much a sin as murder or child abuse. And Romans 14:23 says that wilfully ignoring what you believe to be right or wrong is a sin, too: "whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Sin is sin. And just because you ignore it doesn't mean it goes away. Don't be confused. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:20).

Confusion about faith. The devil has confused men about faith. For instance, faith, to most people, is merely mental assent, just "accepting Christ." There's more to faith than just the admission that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. For one thing, there's no such thing as a faith that does not work. In fact, James says that "faith without works is dead, being alone" (Jas. 2:17). You mean that faith always does something to prove its validity. Yes, sir. Read how that "by faith, Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should afterward receive for an inheritance, obeyed" (Heb. 11:8) and how that "by faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days" (Heb. 11:30). Faith is not just some feeling better felt than told; it's a conclusion not only that God is, but that He rewards "them that diligently seek Him" (Heb. 11:6).

Confusion about baptism. The devil has even confounded some of my own brethren about baptism. They have reached the untenable conclusion that because they've been bap-

tized, they've been saved. Now that's true, if you want to talk about being saved initially, or being "born again" (Jn. 3:3-5). But that's what baptism does, it brings about the new birth; it doesn't assure your salvation. Once you're born, you have to begin to grow. You mean that when I've been baptized, I've not guaranteed my salvation? That's right, all you did was get ready to grow up in Christ. "If ye then be risen with Christ (I know of no other kind of being "risen" than being baptized), seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God; set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1-2). Paul then enumerates the things that we must "put off" and the things which we must "put on" to insure our salvation. He calls it putting on the "new man" (Col. 3:10). Just as there's more to faith than merely acknowledging Christ as your Savior, there's more to salvation than merely being baptized.

Confusion about judgment. People are confused about the judgment. For instance, they have reduced God's judgment to little more than a kind of slapping of the hand of the sinner. How clever, the Devil! God will not admit the unrighteous into His eternal abode: "Not every one that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21) Make no mistake about it: God cannot tolerate sin. He will punish the sinner with an eternity in hell. "God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:10).

by Dee Bowman

"Paul Was No Pansy"

When converted, "straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God" (Acts 9: 20). He "increased in strength, and confounded the Jews" (v. 22); so they sought to kill him (v.23). How's that for a beginning?

He and Barnabas "had no small dissention and disputation" with Judaizing teachers (15:2); and when he went to Jerusalem about this matter he stood his ground against "those who seemed to be somewhat" (Gal. 2:1-10). Shortly thereafter he "withstood (Peter) to the face, because he was to be blamed" (v. 11). In a matter of judgment his contention with Barnabas about John Mark was so sharp "they departed asunder" (Acts 15:37-f), although this did not hinder his regard for them both as saints (1 Cor. 9:6; 2 Tim. 4:11). There's a man for you. His spirit was "stirred" by idolatry, and he "disputed" with his adversaries (Acts 17:16-17). Yet, he retained a sense of propriety, and at times he ceased to plea, saying, "Your blood be upon your own heads" (18:6; 28:24-28). He shows us one may be intent and firm without losing balance. Paul was an independent man with a strong sense of justice. He refused to leave prison quietly, but said, "They have beaten us openly uncondemned ... let them ... fetch us out" (Acts 16:37). He labored with his own hands to support himself (20:33), yet strongly argued his right to

be supported by others (1 Cor. 9:6-f). He did not hesitate to claim and use legal protection (Acts 22:25; 25:9-11), and spoke sharply against an abuse of law (23:3), while showing respect for the "office" of dignities (23:5). On one occasion he seems to have used a "debate" trick to divide the opposition (23:6); but later acknowledges this may have been out of line (24:20-21). He spoke the truth without compromise or fear, as is seen from his sermon before Felix (Acts 24:24-f). Paul comes through as a rugged individual, with strong convictions and deep sense of purpose. But he leaned on a source of strength greater than his own. "Be not afraid, but speak;" "My grace is sufficient for thee" (18: 9-11; 2 Cor. 12:7-9). If the apostle Paul needed these encouragements, Oh Lord, in thy way, what about me??

-by Robert F. Turner