

News & Notes

Upcoming events: Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice, the men’s Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month (*Today at 4:30pm*), and our next Young Adult’s study will be on *June 27th (This Friday/7:30pm/Chet and Danielle Sheffield’s house)*.

Keep in Prayer: Our members: Diana Jordan, Ed Lawson, Mike Sadler, Dottie Reynolds, Linda James (Back Pain), and Butch Morgan (Medical conditions). Please remember also our family and friends in whom we’ve been praying for.

Out of Town: Jeremy Whitehead, Audrey Davis, Kirk Marschall, the Goodalls, and Ronnie Henderson (preaching for Azalea Park this morning) are out of town.

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship. Please make it a point to be more involved with this work, and also reach out to those of our number counted absent who were not accounted for.

The Trilacoochee church of Christ is planning for their upcoming Vacation Bible School to be held from July 21-24. There will be Bible classes for all ages, including a different visiting preacher each morning for the adults. The times to meet are Mon-Thurs from 10-11:30am. We’ve been invited to attend and help the brethren there in getting the word out.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 6/25/14

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Invitation: Kirk Marschall
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

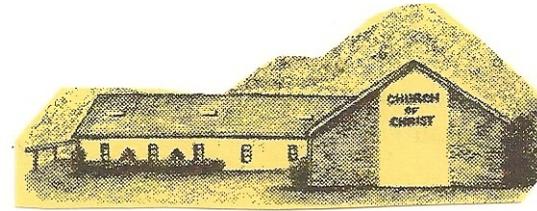
Sunday Evening: 6/29/14

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Lord’s Table: Ben Cunningham
 Announcements: Charles Rawdon
 Closing Prayer: James VanDoorn
 Parking Lot: Bucky Day

Sunday Morning: 6/29/14

Lord’s Table: (B) Ben Cunningham
 (C) Jeremy Whitehead
 Serving: Jordan Lawson
 Clay Sadler
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Butch Morgan

Announcements: Charles Rawdon
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Mike Sadler
 (9:50) Ed Lawson



**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

“Why I Believe That God Is”

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”(I Peter 3:15). According to this verse, Christians may be called upon to give an answer for the reason of their hope. Involved in giving a true answer, one is called upon to acknowledge faith in God. He is to be ready to give a reason for the hope that he has, and why he believes God exists. Christians need to think about the reason for their hope, and that their hope depends upon the existence of God. We should be ready and willing to tell people of the hope we have and the reason for it. When you are asked, why do you believe in God, what is your explanation? What answer do you offer when faced with this question? As Christians, we have sacred responsibility in giving plausible and reasonable answers to the question. God expects Christians to honor Him by being ready always to give an answer for the reason of our hope. This is always to be done always, with respect and reverence for God. It is to come from those who sanctify the Lord God in their hearts, and are not ashamed of acknowledging God in their lives.

I Believe That God Is, Because:

I was taught to believe. As a child, I was reared in a home where God was honored and revered. I thank God for a mother and father who never questioned the existence of God. This respect and honor, they passed on to their children. The scriptures direct such teaching to be a part of a child's righteous education which comes from a godly home. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6). "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:1-4). These and other scriptures teach the value of children being taught of the existence of God. I am thankful that I had parents who believed that God is and taught their children to believe that He exists. I regret that some children have not been so fortunate, and have not had godly parents to teach them to

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). It is also regrettable that some children, having been taught the truth of the existence of God, have departed from the faithful by no longer recognizing God's existence in their lives. The parental teaching has apparently been to no profit in the lives of so many! Those of us, who have had teaching in their younger lives to believe in the existence of God, have perhaps been accused by unbelievers that we were "brainwashed" or believed under duress. This has prompted many to reaffirm their faith in God, and be ready to give an answer for the reason of our hope. Other than parental teaching, **I Believe That God Is, Because:**

Of mind over matter. The world is composed of mind and matter. It is obvious that matter does not create matter. There is mind behind every creation of matter. One group of thinkers suppose that matter is eternal and has created mind, intellect and life. The other group suppose that mind—Almighty God—has existed from all eternity and has created the material universe. Which position is the more reasonable? "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." (Genesis 1:1-3) A reasonable explanation for the existence of this earth is found in Genesis. There is no explanation for concluding matter creates matter. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:18-20). All the works of man are examples of causation. We see a house and we know it has a builder. Every house is built by some man, and though we never find the builder, yet we well know he exists. I look at this computer. It did not build itself. This computer had an intelligent maker. He possessed power. These things are self-evident. Though I may never see that computer maker, yet I know he existed and I know something about him from the product he made. In the same way, we may know that God exists and we may know something about Him by seeing the things which He has made. "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalms 8:3-4).

- Bobby K. Thompson

"Let no corrupt word proceed..."

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." (Ephesians 4:29 NKJV)

The original word that is rendered "corrupt" in this passage means "rotten, putrefied, corrupted by one and no longer fit for use, worn out, of poor quality, bad, unfit for use, worthless", according to Thayer's Greek definitions. (The New American Standard Bible expresses it as "unwholesome".) Count it a good thing for you not to use filthy words... Count it also a good thing for you to avoid using any/all euphemisms. But do you gossip (big-mouth), belittle (put down), scoff (poke fun at; make fun of), slander (insult) others? If so, then your language is just as worthless as one who "cusses" over and over again. God has given us the blessing of being able to communicate our thoughts and feelings through various forms of communication. The very ability to speak in of itself should not be under-valued (Mark 7:31-37). Let us use every opportunity we have to impart grace to our hearers. Carefully choosing our words is something that the Lord has indeed spoken upon, so let us be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and speak that which is good for necessary edification.

-By Ian Rice