

News & Notes

Upcoming events: Every time there are five Sundays in the month we have a PM worship service with more singing than usual. *(Tonight's worship service will be one of those occasions.)* Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice (Next one will be *July 13th at 5pm*), the men's Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month (Next one - *July 27th at 4:30pm*). The men's Bible study will now turn our focus toward training the men of the congregation in how to be better song-leaders.

Keep in Prayer: Linda James is at home now and her arm will thankfully not require surgery. Please keep her in prayer and provide her with some encouragement. Also continue praying for other members too: Diana Jordan, Ed Lawson, Dottie Reynolds, and Butch Morgan.

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

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

The congregation here is blessed to have able men who are willing to provide sound lessons to the flock when called upon (*2 Tim 2:2*). This morning **Larry Wisdom** will deliver the AM sermon, with **Ronnie Henderson** giving the invitation in tonight's song service. Next week, **Charles Rawdon** will deliver the AM sermon, with **Ronnie Henderson** preaching in the PM.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 7/2/14

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
 Opening Prayer: OPEN
 Invitation: OPEN
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Clay Sadler
 Parking Lot: David Williams

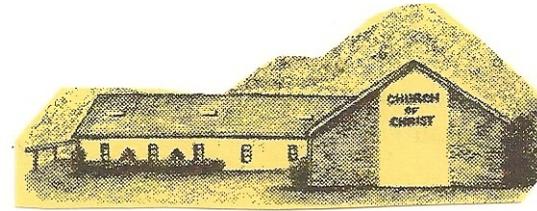
Sunday Evening: 7/6/14

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Lord's Table: Colby Sadler
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson
 Parking Lot: Mike Sadler

Sunday Morning: 7/6/14

Lord's Table: (B) Colby Sadler
 (C) Eddie Lawson
 Serving: Kirk Marschall
 Trent Stevens
 Song Leader: Bob Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot

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



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336

www.lakelandhillchurchofchrist.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

“The Sin of Tolerance”

Tolerance is often seen as a good thing, but it's NOT—if we're talking about tolerance of sin. It's impossible to hate something (sin) and be tolerant of it at the same time (Hebrews 1:9; Psalms 119:104). The truth be told, it is a sin to tolerate sin—to put up with it, to not do anything about it, to become comfortable with it, to not speak out against it. To tolerate sin is to insult the very purpose for which Jesus died (1 John 3:4-8; Titus 2:11-14). Divorce (without Scriptural cause—Matthew 19:9), adultery, sex before marriage, homosexuality, gambling, wickedness in places of authority, false religions, profanity, covetousness, lukewarmness, selfishness, dishonesty, immodesty, etc. Have we become tolerant of these things? Perhaps their prevalence has made us sort of numb to these things, and when that happens, we begin to tolerate them in others, and before too long, we tolerate them in ourselves. What we should be instead is intolerant—of all these things, because they are all sin.

What Intolerance Does NOT Mean

It does NOT mean the spirit of James and John, when they wanted to command fire to come down from heaven and consume the Samaritans (Luke 9:53-56). Love, mercy, compassion, longsuffering—we don't throw these virtues out the window just because we're intolerant. We don't want anyone to perish; we want them to repent (2 Peter 3:9).

It does NOT mean we resort to carnal tactics—"the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God..." (2 Corinthians 10:4). And that mighty weapon is the gospel, "the power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16), so let's get busy teaching it—patiently, and in all its fullness.

It does NOT mean we forget our own sins. Remember, intolerance of sin also applies to us, and remember, too, that it's hypocritical to point out others' sins, while ignoring our own. "Showing all humility to all men" (Titus 3:3)—it's much easier to do that when we remember that we've got some repenting to do, too.

What Intolerance Does Mean

It means being more careful what we allow into our minds (Proverbs 4:23), be-

cause a steady diet of these things is often what leads to tolerance.

It means working diligently to keep sin out of our own lives (Hebrews 12:4). How could we do otherwise, if we truly hate it, if we understand that Jesus came to "destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8)?

It means speaking out against sin, like the Old Testament prophets, like John the Baptist (Mark 6:17-18; Luke 3:7-20), like Jesus, and like all the New Testament apostles and prophets, who spoke with the authority of Jesus, both in their preaching and writing. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and then read the letters of Jesus to the seven churches of Asia (Revelation 2-3). See if you think Jesus was the least bit tolerant of sin. He spoke out against hypocrisy (Matthew 23), deceit (Mark 7:22); covetousness (Luke 12:15), lukewarmness (Revelation 3:16), lewdness (Mark 7:22), adultery (Matthew 5:27-32), divorce (Matthew 19:3-12), pride (Luke 18:9-14), false teaching (Matthew 16:12; Revelation 2:14-15), and everything else that is opposed to the will of God (Matthew 7:23).

Jesus doesn't tolerate sin, and neither should His disciples.

-By Bryan Gibson

"All On The Same Team"

Much of our failure to reach others with the gospel is due to the great gulf between us. The unconverted senses an aloofness on our part, and we on his. His problems (we are convinced) are foreign to us; and our solution (he is convinced) is for the birds. We widen this gap by housing our solution in a plant in which, should we drag him there with a bulldozer, he would feel totally out of place. Sometimes we seem to think our citizenship is strengthened because he is alien.

And yet, success in reaching our fellow man (a goal we avow) depends largely upon establishing rapport—a sympathetic relationship that encourages communication. We must convince him that we sincerely desire for him the blessings we both sorely need. In a very real sense, we are on the same team—sinful creatures in a great survival drama.

I know there is no fellowship between darkness and light—we can enter no sharing relationship with the world's sin. But the **desire** for a one family relationship should strongly motivate our reaching out for every living soul. Can we be less interested in sinking neighbors because we have managed to find some solid footing? If, in our smugness, we refuse

to extend a helping hand, we need to restudy Luke 15.

And if there is a sense in which we are on the same team with aliens, how much more is this true with respect to erring brethren. What attitude would we that they should show toward us, should we be found in like position? (Matt. 7:12; 2 Thess. 3:14-18)

I know of no single attitude that could save more souls, or do more for the cause of Christ today, than the proper development of love for all sinners. It would not keep us from preaching truth or fighting error. It would not cause us to share evil, but it would increase compassion and concern for the sin-enslaved. Our efforts would proceed from an open heart, rather than from a clenched fist. For we have known sin, and but for God's grace would yet perish. And we would long to make our brother in Adam, our faithful brother in Christ.

- By Robert F. Turner