

**NEWS AND NOTES**

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Addy Anthony, Ronnie Henderson, Linda James, Daniel Stagers, Madge Hicks, Patti James’ son (Brian), Debbie Montgomery , Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , June Ross (Nick & Robin’s Grandmother), Nadine Fields (Moses’ sister), Hugh Sills, and Ted Penland, Bob Calkins (A friend of the Millers), and Bob Waldron.
- ◇ Bob & Steph Marchall, Audrey Davis, Marian Church, Ruth Miller, and Keri, Olivia, Emma, & Julia Rice are out of town.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins:
- ◇ Group 2 meets tonight.

**\*UPCOMING EVENTS\***

- Last Friday of each month - Teen Bible Study *(June 28th)*
- ⇒ 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Song Practice *(Today) \*\**
- 2nd Monday night each month - Ladies’ Bible Class. *(On hold throughout summer)*
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Bible Class *(June 23rd)*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Assignments**

Wednesday Night: 6/12/13

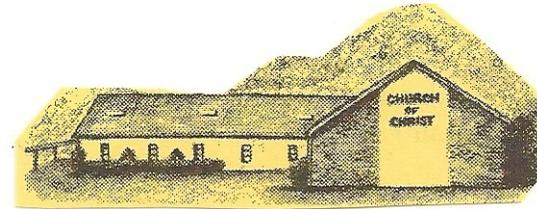
Song Leader: Eddie Lawson  
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Invitation: Clay Sadler  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Parking Lot: OPEN

Sunday Evening: 6/16/13

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof  
 Opening Prayer: Rodger Robinson  
 Lord’s Table: Jeremy Wharton  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Daniel Stagers  
 Parking Lot: Jim Abram

Sunday Morning: 6/16/13

Lord’s Table: OPEN (B)  
 Bucky Day (C)  
 Serving: Keith Marschall  
 Ed Lawson  
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom  
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
 (9:50) Colby Sadler



**Lakeland Hills  
LEADER**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

[www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com](http://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

**“Hard Pressed Between the Two”**

*By R.J. Evans*

“For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith” (Phil. 1:23-25).

Paul wrote these words during his first imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28). There are a number of things in these verses that we learn about Paul. Let’s observe some of them:

He did not mind leaving this earth. The average person has a strong desire to live, and does not want to die any sooner than necessary. For that reason, humans go to the doctor when they are sick, take all kinds of

medications to prolong life, and endure many other painful treatments.

Paul's desire was sincere. It was not as though he had some morbid, death wish—ready to commit suicide and take his own life. Nor did he want to escape the troubles and problems of life. He experienced much suffering during his life, but he could still rejoice because of his relationship with the Lord. Paul knew the joys of being in a right relationship with God, and as a result could say, “as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things” (2 Cor. 6:10). Paul clearly understood that the joy of being in Christ increases so much more in the life beyond the grave—“which is far better” (Phil. 1:23). Though Paul lived in the flesh in this world, because of his faithfulness to Christ, he was “not of this world” (Jn. 17:14).

Paul had a strong love for Jesus. His desire for leaving this fleshly life on earth was so that he could “be with Christ” (Phil. 1:23). Jesus had appeared to him on the road to

Damascus so that he would be qualified to serve as an apostle—he had to be an eye-witness of the resurrected Christ (Acts 1:22; 26:16). In fact, he was the last person to see the resurrected Christ, as he explained to the Corinthians: “Then last of all He was seen by me also as by one born out of due time” (1 Cor. 15:8). Also, it must be noted that the Lord's appearance to Paul on the road didn't save him. The Lord told him to “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do” (Acts 9:6). And after three days, Ananias came and told Paul what to do in order to be saved— “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Later on, Paul had the unique experience of being “caught up in Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” (2 Cor. 12:4). Paul walked in the “light” of the truth of God's Word and lived in

“fellowship” with Jesus Christ, the Son of God (1 Jn. 1:6-7; 1 Cor. 1:9). His love for Christ was so strong that he was willing to endure indescribable sufferings for Him. When warned by his brethren not to go to Jerusalem, Paul answered, “What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 23:13).

Paul was more interested in the welfare of others than his own interests. The “hard pressed between the two” of which Paul spoke, was a desire to stay here in the flesh for the benefit of others and the desire to go on and be in the care and keeping of Christ. One desire was for his own benefit, the other was for the benefit of others. Staying here on this earth would cause him more suffering, but it would be for “the progress and joy of faith” in others (Phil. 1:25). Think of the spiritual profit Paul was to churches and Christians everywhere. Thus, he continued to

“endure hardship” (2 Tim. 2:3), to “die daily” (1 Cor. 15:31) and “labor and toil...night and day” (1 Thes. 1:9).

This man of God was what he was by the grace of God (1 Cor. 15:10). By the same grace, may we seek to lift our affections above this world. It was Paul who said: “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2). May we live in such a way that our sojourn on this earth will make a difference to the glory of God and for the good of others.



“For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

- Philippians 1:23 (NKJV)