

News & Notes

Kid's Review Class: Tonight, shortly after the evening worship service, in Room # 7.

Afternoon Singing: The afternoon singing will be conducted next Sunday, March 8th, at 5pm.

Ladies' Class: Class will be next Monday, March 9th, at Keri Rice's home (7PM).

Men's Class: The next one will be March 22nd, at the building, at 4:30pm.

Prayer Requests: *Our brethren:* Kayla Cunningham, Marian Church (Still waiting on some test results to determine the root of her illness), Mildred Church, Linda James, Linda McKenzie, Ruth Miller, Butch Morgan (Health struggles have been much worse lately), Dottie Reynolds, and Wayne Ryland (Hoping to get his blood pressure regulated).

Our friends and family: Please continue in prayer for Larry Wisdom's mother (Canera Wisdom), Naydene Fields, Hal Lewis, Gary Jones, Bobby Melvin (Louise Mosley's son), Pat Dickey, Joan Mott, Heather Tyre, and Waylon Townsend.

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

Out of Town: Kirk Marschall; Keri, Olivia, Emma, & Julia Rice; & Rebecca Wisdom.

Bob Marschall is requesting members to contact him concerning songs that the congregation knows well, but we have not been singing. Please contact him with any information that you feel may help improve that aspect of worship. You can email him at rmascha@tampabay.rr.com.

March 22nd will conclude our Men's classes. Beginning in April we will provide, for men of the congregation, an opportunity to preach every 4th Sunday of each month (During the PM service). If you would like to present a lesson, please see the elders and let your request be known.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 3/4/15

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Nick Ross
 Invitation: Nick Groenhof
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

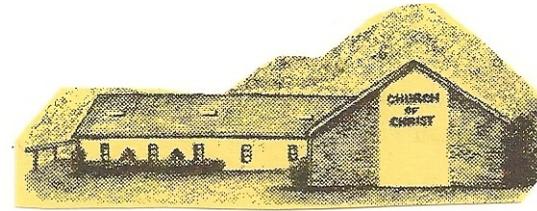
Sunday Evening: 3/8/15

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Bob Marschall
 Lord's Table: Nick Ross
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd
 Parking Lot: David Williams

Sunday Morning: 3/8/15

Lord's Table: Nick Ross (B)
 Rodger Robinson (C)
 Serving: Ben Cunningham
 Ed Lawson
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson

Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Leon Miller
 (9:50) Norm Blackburn



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

Buy the Truth and Sell It Not

One of the most important attitudes one can have in striving to go to heaven is that of intense zeal for the truth of God. Too often, people settle on something far less than the truth. Remember, a counterfeit, though it may look relatively genuine, is nevertheless worthless. Likewise, we cannot enjoy the benefits of truth just by getting pretty close. We must take our position firmly and foursquare on the truth. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" **(John 8:32)**.

There are many among us who, like Pilate, would ask, "What is truth?" **(John 18:38)**. Many do not believe in absolute truth. The Bible, however, is absolute, unchanging truth. "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" **(Psalms 119:89)**. The belief that there is absolute truth is fundamental to one who desires to "buy the truth and sell it not" **(Proverbs 23:23)**.

One Can Be Wrong

It is a fact that anyone can mistakenly be wrong. Paul, when speaking of his past manner of life, before his conversion, said, “I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day” (**Acts 23:1**). Yet he was before a “persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious” (**1 Timothy 1:13**). How could he have lived in all good conscience when he had been so wrong? The answer is simple. He thought he was right. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (**Proverbs 16:25**). The fact that we can be wrong means that it does not behoove us to close our minds to further investigation. Jeremiah said, “Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (**Jeremiah 6:16**).

Faith vs. Opinion

Naturally, study brings us to certain conclusions. All of us live by certain principles. But upon what do our conclusions rest? All too often they rest upon mere opinion. Realize that if

something is a matter of faith, then God must have said something about it. We cannot know the words of eternal life by opinions. One man’s opinion is just as good as another man’s; but no man’s opinion is worthy to be compared to God’s.

You would not want to risk crossing the ice over a river merely because somebody thinks you can. Neither should we risk trying to go to heaven by the opinions of men. The difference between an opinion and conviction is that an opinion is usually a spur-of-the-moment conclusion someone comes up with based upon skimpy premises, if any. A conviction is a conclusion based upon evidence which has been thoroughly studied and meditated upon. God has given us a wonderful book. It furnishes man with doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, that he may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

The Bible is our evidence. It is the truth. When believed, it becomes subjective faith. The Bible did not come from men, so there need be no ques-

tion about its reliability. It was given unto men though, and designed so they could understand it when they read it (**Ephesians 3:3-5**). This is not to say that all the Bible is simple to understand. There are difficult portions of it that demand much study. The matters of conversion to God and everyday living are simple and easy to understand. What many find difficult about such matters is the application of that which may be so simple to understand.

Feelings — A Poor Standard

Do not base your conviction upon some peculiar feeling you might have. Feelings are a poor standard of truth. We have already mentioned Paul. We might mention Jacob also who believed with all his heart that his son Joseph was dead, but that did not make it true. Remember, God has given us revelation, facts. Our convictions must rest upon these facts or else we will find ourselves upon shifting sand.

Conscience — Not a Reliable Guide

Neither is conscience a reliable guide in determining whether your convictions are sound or not. The conscience is

very pliable to begin with. Our conscience is usually formed at a tender age. At that time it may be trained to approve good or evil. When we reach maturity our conscience alters and becomes almost unchangeable. From then on it tells us only whether we have done as we learned to do or not.

Changing the conscience then is a slow, difficult project. If your conscience were trained correctly, well and good. If it were trained incorrectly, then it will approve even when you do things that are really wrong, because it was taught that which was wrong. “Let your conscience be your guide” is therefore poor advice.

This brings us back again to the fact that we must ultimately make our stand upon the word of God. Everything is to be judged by it.

- Bob Waldron