

**News & Notes**

**Kid's Review Class:** Next week, April 5th, shortly after the PM service.

**Afternoon Singing:** Next one will be on Sunday, April 12th, at 5PM.

**Ladies' Bible Study:** The next class will be held at Angela Wisdom's home on April 13th (7pm).

**Prayer Requests:** *Our brethren:* Kayla Cunningham, Marian Church (Still no news concerning a diagnosis for her condition), Mildred Church, Betty Eubanks (Bronchitis) Leon & Ruth Miller, Butch Morgan (Doing much better and would like to thank everyone for prayers and encouragement), Dottie Reynolds), Wayne Ryland (Still not able to get blood pressure regulated), and the Stevens family (Nadene Fields, Moses' sister passed away last week). *Please keep these folks in prayer and reach out to them for encouragement.*

*Our friends and family:* Please continue in prayer for Larry Wisdom's mother (Canera Wisdom), Hal Lewis, Gary Jones, Pat Dickey, Joan Mott (A friend of the Days), Heather Tyre, and Waylon Townsend. Let's also keep in mind the Goodalls, as Vernita's sister has been in critical condition. They traveled last week to be with her...

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

**5th Sunday Night Sing:** Tonight's worship service will consist of more singing than usual, as it is the 5th Sunday of the month. Men will be assigned to lead singing and/or read Scripture throughout the service, and Ben Cunningham will provide the invitation tonight.

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 4/1/15**

Song Leader: Ben Cunningham  
 Opening Prayer: Paul Lloyd  
 Invitation: Nick Ross  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: OPEN  
 Parking Lot: Colby Sadler

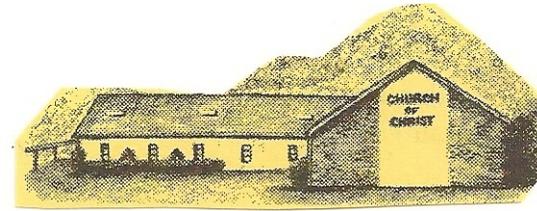
**Sunday Evening: 4/5/15**

Song Leader: Charles Rawdon  
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Lord's Table: Clay Sadler  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: OPEN  
 Parking Lot: David Williams

**Sunday Morning: 4/5/15**

Lord's Table: Clay Sadler (B)  
 Sherman Johnson (C)  
 Serving: Norm Blackburn  
 Bucky Day  
 Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Paul Lloyd

Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Nick Groenhof  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Leon Miller  
 (9:50) Ed Lawson



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**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  
 Moses Stevens  
 David Williams

**EVANGELIST:**

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***“Does It Matter What Denomination You Are In?”***

Some folks believe that it does not make a difference what “denomination” you are in to go to heaven, just as long as you believe upon Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. Is that notion true, though? *Does it matter* which denomination you are in order to go to heaven? That type of question should be answered without bias, so we should turn to God's word in handling it. In this article, we will seek to answer some other relevant questions to help us determine, “Does it matter what denomination you are in, in order to make it to heaven?”

“Does it matter what denomination you are in, in order to make it to heaven?” That question is comparable to asking, “Is one way as good as another?” God tells us in **Proverbs 14:12** that, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*” This passage makes it clear that man must seek after God's way, not merely His own. Jesus stated as much when He said, “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are*

many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (**Matthew 7:13-14**) Surely we can see that one way is not as good as another. Furthermore, it is implied that one must “seek” in order to “find” the narrow and difficult way which leads to life.

“Does it matter what denomination you are in to make it to heaven?” That question is equivalent to asking, “Is one form of worship as good as another?” This question is relevant because varying denomination have varying patterns of worship that have been handed down through the ages. Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees when “He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?” (**Matthew 15:3**) Jesus denounced their perversion of God’s commandments for the sake of their long-held traditions (**See Matthew 15:4-9**), & we can compare that passage with His statement to the Samaritan woman, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (**John 4:24**). God expects for man to worship Him with

the right attitude, as well as according to HIS terms, and His word as well (**Compare prior verse with John 1:1-3; 4:24; 17:17**). Therefore, one form of worship is NOT as good as another!

“Does it matter what denomination you are in to make it to heaven?” That question is equivalent to asking, “Is one faith as good as another?” The apostle Paul informed the saints in Ephesus that, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (**Ephesians 4:1-6**). So many additions and subtractions have been made to God’s word throughout the ages. Most denominations through the years have added creeds to accompany Bible teaching, and have even accepted those creeds as being just as authoritative as the Scriptures. Yet, the Bible itself declares the faith proclaimed in the 1<sup>st</sup> century was “once for all delivered to the saints”, and we are to therefore “contend earnestly” for it (**Jude 3**)! There is only one faith, and it therefore matters very much which one you believe and contend earnestly for!

“Does it matter what denomination you are in to make it to heaven?” That question similar to asking “Is one doctrine as good as another?” The apostle Paul made clear that one doctrine is NOT as good as another. He chided and warned the Galatians in writing, “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” (**Galatians 1:6-8**) Paul warned that Christians need to pay attention to what they hear, and make the proper comparisons/discernment to what he and the apostles taught in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. That warning is echoed by John as well, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (**1John 4:1**) Many false prophets have perverted the doctrine of Christ, and such a person must not to be supported! John also wrote, (By inspiration of the Holy Spirit) “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and

does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; <sup>11</sup> for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.” (**John 1:9-11**) Warnings abound that concern the dangers of false teaching, and the supporting of false teachers. Let us be certain that we remain in the pure doctrine of Christ, and also be certain of the fact that one doctrine — is NOT as good as another!

My hope is that these points of reasoning will cause some to study and recognize that “denominationalism” is fundamentally wrong – because it is a tool of the devil!! Strive to become (and grow) into that Christian who follows “the narrow way”, worships in “spirit and truth”, follows after the “one faith”, and abides in the “doctrine of Christ”... Because one doctrine, one faith, one form of worship, and one “way” is NOT as good as another!!

\* All Bible passages are from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible.

- Ian Rice