

News & Notes

Upcoming events: Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice. Ladies' Bible class is held every second Monday of the month, the men's Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month (**Today**), and our next Young Adult's study will be on **June 27th**.

Keep in Prayer: Linda James has been dealing with back pain while sitting in the pew and that is why she has missed services recently. Those who have been absent and accounted for illness recently are Butch Morgan, David & Kyoko Williams, Joey & Sunny Day, and Colby Sadler. Please keep these folks in prayer and reach out to encourage them sometime.

Out of Town: Ronnie Henderson has been asked to preach for Azalea Park in the a.m. on Sundays until Brother Needham can regain some strength. Steph Marschall is also out of town today.

Group Meeting: Group (3) meets tonight after worship. Please make it a point to help out in this work — *as well as* continuing in prayer, making calls, and visits. On the bulletin board are thank you letters from those who we've been sending cards to in our group meetings (Jerry Jordan, Bonnie Meagher, Naydene Fields, and Denise & Jimmy Johnson).

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 5/28/14

Song Leader: Kirk Marschall
Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
Invitation: Leon Miller
Announcements: Bob Marschall
Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

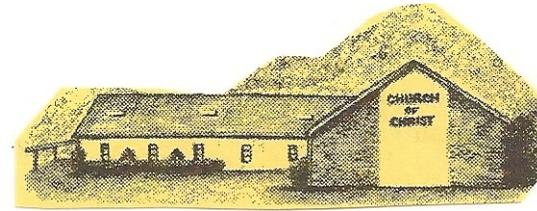
Sunday Evening: 6/1/14

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof
Opening Prayer: Rodger Robinson
Lord's Table: Nick Ross
Announcements: Larry Hicks
Closing Prayer: Butch Morgan
Parking Lot: Paul Lloyd

Sunday Morning: 6/1/14

Lord's Table: (B) Nick Ross
(C) James VanDoorn
Serving: Ben Cunningham
Ed Lawson
Song Leader: Bob Marschall
Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson

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



Lakeland Hills Leader

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ELDERS

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405
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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

“More fair-minded... In that”

In the seventeenth chapter of Acts, we read of how the Apostle Paul and his companion Silas had preached the gospel of Christ in Thessalonica. Although *some of the Jews* in that city did believe the message, many were jealous of the fact that *many Greeks* were converted and uproar ensued. As a result of this tumult, Paul and Silas were forced to leave the area and then made their way to a place called Berea. It is in **Acts 17:10-12**, where we read of a stark contrast between those who heard the preaching in Thessalonica, versus those who heard the preaching in Berea. The contrast is made within the Bible text — as the Bereans are described as being “more fair-minded” (or more noble-minded according to the KJV) that those in Thessalonica. How about that? How would *you* like for God to consider you as “fair-minded” in how you receive the proclamation of His word? In this article, let's give earnest thought to what the Bible text reveals, and consider the following three points to apply to in connection with why it is that the Bereans are described as being “more fair-minded”.

Their minds were set on eagerly receiving the word of God.

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, **in that they received the word with all readiness**, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” (Acts 17:11, NKJV). In looking to some different English translations of this verse, we can see some different wording that helps in painting a brighter picture for what *type of mindset* these Bereans had. Both the American Standard and the King James Version of the Bible mention them as having received the word “with all readiness of mind”. The English Standard Version tells us that these hearers of God’s word received it “with all eagerness”. It is sad when we see that so many of our friends and/or neighbors around us do not wish to engage in a Bible study... It is *even more* of a sad and troubling thing to notice when *God’s own people* have this attitude!! Consider that in the book of Isaiah, the prophet addressed the same concern amongst his own generation when God called them “a rebellious people”, “children who will not hear the law of the Lord” (**Isaiah 30:9**). If you are a Christian who has made a regular habit of neglecting the Sunday morning and/or Wednesday evening studies with the saints... please re-consider your mindset! Solomon wrote concerning the benefits of searching for; and obtaining wisdom above all else, “My

son, **if you receive** my words, and **treasure** my commands within you, so that you **incline your ear** to wisdom, and **apply your heart** to understanding; yes, if you **cry out for discernment**, and **lift up your voice** for understanding, **if you seek** her as silver, and **search for** her as for hidden treasures; **then you will understand** the fear of the Lord, **and find** the knowledge of God.” (**Proverbs 2:1-5 NKJV**) If we desire to be noble and/or “fair-minded” in God’s eyes, then we must have a mind that is eager to read, study, and hear God’s word proclaimed with all readiness.

They were grounded in the scriptures.

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, **in that they** received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.**” (Acts 17:11, NKJV) These Bereans were not ones who would just be tossed to and fro by every form or wind of doctrine. They obviously had reverence for the written word, and relied heavily upon the scriptures to determine whether or not the teaching brought forth was in harmony with them. This is an important point that Christians must not neglect! There is great danger that can come about if the teaching is brought forth without some level of scrutiny. Paul wrote of how some want to “pervert the gospel of Christ”, and that type will “be accursed” (**Galatians 1:7, 8**). The

apostle Peter wrote about false teachers, and warned the 1st century brethren not to be carried away with error -- but to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 3:17-18**)! Understand, there are lots of perversions of the gospel being taught by our denominational neighbors, but then again -- there are also many who would profess themselves to be teachers of what is good in the Lord’s body who twist the Scriptures to their own destruction, too (**2 Peter 3:16**)! Remember that God has spoken of how we are not to lend our support to the ones who go beyond the teaching of Christ (**2 John 9-11**)! We will not be able to recognize error unless we are well grounded in the scriptures. If we desire to be noble or fair-minded before God, we cannot be a gullible bunch!

They responded when the message was brought forth.

“Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.” (Acts 17:12, NKJV) Many of the Jews, as well as many prominent Greek men and women (God-fearers), believed the message. Now, we can necessarily infer that these individuals *also acted upon their belief* in repentance, turning to God, being baptized for their sins, and *doing the works* befitting repentance (**Acts 2:36-38; 3:19; 8:12; 37-39, 9:18; 10:47-48; 13:48; 16:15, 32-33; 17:30-31;**

18:8; 19:4-5; 22:16; 24:25; 26:18-20). When hearing the word of God proclaimed, we must desire eagerly to hear it proclaimed; we must search the scriptures to make sure that the message is in harmony with the written record; but we must also **recognize the need for change** within our lives **and act accordingly** too!! In **Isaiah 30:9-10**, the rebellious people of God in that generation were described as not wanting to make the necessary changes in their lives. They would not “hear” the law of the Lord! They did not desire for the prophets to speak to them “right things”. Instead they would say, “Speak to us smooth things”. This is sadly the attitude of some who disdain “hard preaching”, or who refuse to make some necessary change in their lives. **God’s word should** make us all feel uncomfortable at times when change is needed. Being up front with God and being up front with each other is what will challenge us to turn from sin, as well as inspire us to grow in love!

If we will to be a more noble and/or fair-minded people, then we must develop a mind that is eager to receive the word of God, we must also be grounded in the written word, and we must be honest with ourselves in taking the necessary steps for change!

-By Ian Rice