

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Linda James, 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.
- ◇ Davis & Kyoko Williams will be out of town until the 29th.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins:
- ◇ Group 3 meets tonight.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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Assignments

Wednesday Night: 5/29/13

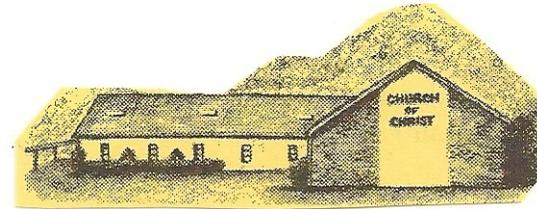
Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Invitation: Eddie Lawson
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Clay Sadler
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Evening: 6/2/13

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Lord’s Table: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Moses Stevens
 Parking Lot: Norm Blackburn

Sunday Morning: 6/2/13

Lord’s Table: Bucky Day (B)
 Nick Ross (C)
 Serving: Jim Abram
 James VanDoorn
 Song Leader: Bob Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Paul Lloyd
 (9:50) Mike Sadler



**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
 Eric Stevens
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“The Unsearchable Riches of Christ”

By R.J. Evans

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

In view of the above text, there is a great store of spiritual wealth for those “in Christ.” Therefore, we must be a Christian so that we might become a recipient of all these spiritual blessings. The Apostle Paul, when writing to the Galatians, tells how a person gets “in Christ”— “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27). Thus, it is only after we have been “baptized into Christ” and “have put on Christ” that the blessings which are reserved for God’s children are received. Paul was extremely appreciative of the

grace that was given to him that he “should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph. 3:8). In this short article, let us consider two of those “unsearchable riches.”

JOY INEXPRESSIBLE. The Apostle Peter told Christians that “Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory” (1 Pet. 1:8). The scriptures record many examples of those who rejoiced in such a manner. This special kind of joy comes only to those who are converted to the Lord. When Philip went to preach in Samaria concerning the kingdom of God, “both men and women were baptized”— “and there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:8). When Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch, and after they both went down into the water and Philip baptized him (Acts 8:35-38)— the eunuch “went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:39). After the Philippian jailor and his family were baptized, “he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household” (Acts 16:34).

The joy that comes with salvation was surely what David was referring to in Psalm 51. As a result of his sins, David had lost salvation and its joy, and now confessing his sins with a penitent heart, asks God to “Restore to me the joy of your salvation” (Psa. 51:12).

Thus, this is a joy that belongs only to God’s children. That is why Christians can rejoice even in the midst of sufferings and persecutions. In Acts 5:41, we are told they were “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.” We can understand and appreciate why Paul tells Christians to “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice!” (Phil. 4:4).

PEACE WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING. Not only does salvation bring joy, it also brings peace. After telling Christians to be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, the Apostle Paul

then states, “and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:6-7). Without question, this peace is found only “in Christ.” Jesus promised His apostles, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (Jn. 14:27).

The more we think of the “unsearchable riches of Christ,” the larger this treasure becomes. The ultimate blessing is the most important of all—Heaven. If you are without Christ, without hope, and without all the other manifold riches that are “in Christ,” we call upon you to obey His gospel now, “for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). Later on in the Roman epistle, the Apostle Paul makes reference to the two blessings we have considered in this article—joy and peace. We close with his inspired

words: “Therefore, having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Rom. 5:1-2).



“...this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Ephesians 3:8)