

## News & Notes

**Upcoming Events:** Young adult bible study will be **this Friday, Nov. 7th, 7:30pm**, at the Wisdom's residence. Our next monthly singing will be Nov. 9th at 5pm (Next Week), and the next Ladies' bible study will be held Nov. 10th (Next Week), at the Rice's home. The next men's class will be November 23rd, 4:30pm, at the building.

**Prayer Requests:** Please continue to pray for and encourage those in whom prayer has been requested: Charles Goodall's recent illness most likely will affect his and Vernita's assembling at the evening services. Linda James has been doing better lately, Butch Morgan has been ill again lately, and Dottie Reynolds can still benefit from prayers and encouragement efforts. Let's also remember family and friends on our list: Naydene Fields, Brian James, Hal Lewis, Gary Jones, Jeff Sprott, and Noot Ross. The Ross family is adjusting to parenthood very well. Also be praying for our expecting mothers, Kayla Cunningham and Cassandra Groenhof (San's due date is November 11th—next week!).

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

**Gospel Meetings:** There are several gospel meeting announcements on the bulletin board in the foyer. The Fortune Road church of Christ (in Kissimmee), and the University church of Christ (in Tampa), both begin their meetings today, and run through Wednesday evening.

## Assignments for Worship Service

### **Wednesday Night: 11/5/14**

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson  
 Opening Prayer: Ian Rice  
 Invitation: Larry Hicks  
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom  
 Closing Prayer: Clay Sadler  
 Parking Lot: David Williams

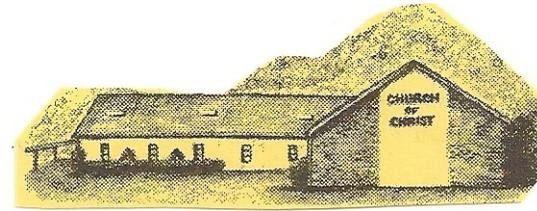
### **Sunday Morning: 11/9/14**

Lord's Table: Colby Sadler (B)  
 Eddie Lawson (C)  
 Serving: Trent Stevens  
 Keith Marschall  
 Song Leader: Nick Groenhof  
 Opening Prayer: Jeremy Whitehead

### **Sunday Evening: 11/9/14**

Song Leader: Nick Ross  
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Lord's Table: Colby Sadler  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson  
 Parking Lot: Mike Sadler

Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
 (9:50) Paul Lloyd



# 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

### EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

### 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

## *“Trusting in the Lord’s Promises”*

When reading the gospel account of Matthew, we find that Jesus Christ told His disciples on three distinct occasions how He would be put to death, by crucifixion, and that He would be resurrected from the dead on the third day (Matt. 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19). Given some other passages in the book, He probably alluded to His death on many other occasions as well (Matt. 10:38; 17:12). In light of this, it's fascinating to see how His disciples sorrowed after His death, and to read of their doubting His resurrection afterward (Luke 24:9-12, 36-43; Mk 16:13). They had *been told* numerous times. They had been *assured* that this was all part of His plan. They had been *reassured* that He would be resurrected, and yet they responded with doubt?! Now before we ponder whether or not they were listening attentively, lacked in faith, or were deficient of perfect understanding, let me suggest some parallels in how *we can do the same thing with many other promises* Jesus has made.

We, today, as the Lord's followers, have been assured of some things that *we* will have to contend with. We may even get down and discouraged sometimes; but let's not prove ourselves to doubt the Lord's promises! The following examples concern the promise of various trials, and how the Bible teaches that we should be prepare now to deal with them.

Throughout the Bible, we have been warned of how Christ's followers must endure various temptations to sin. So many passages admonish us not to sin, yet at times we feel as though we've been caught off guard somehow. *God also warns* that our adversary walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1Peter 5:8). Maybe we haven't taken the warnings seriously enough! We've been warned over and over again. However, if we do find that we've stumbled, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1John 2:1b) in which we can be reconciled. If you have stumbled – then make the necessary *immediate* correction (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:22-24; 1John 1:9). Do not be swallowed up with too much sorrow once you've done the works befitting repentance (2Cor. 2:7). Rather, be determined to learn and grow from your mistakes... Surely there are measures you can take so as to not to succumb to certain pressures again (Matt. 6:13; 1Cor. 6:18; 10:13; 15:33). We have been warned repeatedly that *temptations will come*, so let us prepare and deal with them as the Lord has prescribed. Don't be caught off guard! Live soberly, meditate on what is good and holy, and remember that the Lord has told us of what we can expect from Satan. The apostle Peter wrote of how *we are to prepare* for Satan's devices. We must cast our cares upon God, beware of Satan, and withstand his advances by being steadfast in the faith (See 1Peter 5:6-9)!

God has also *confirmed* that we will suffer persecution for being Christians. "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3:12) This surely speaks to feeling sorrow and hurting, yet we have also been *assured* of the outcome for those who endure (Psalms 34:19; Rev. 2:10). Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10), and we are in good company if we suffer such (Matt. 5:11-12). We've been informed, so it should be no surprise that within America there is an increasing level of persecution against Christians. In school, at work, and in public service; our society is becoming more and more anti-God. (It is also very sobering to think of how the intensity of conflict in the Middle East has affected some of our brethren, too.) We understandably get discouraged when thinking about the various forms of persecution, but remember that God has said these things WILL happen. So then, let us pray more! Let's meditate on God's promises more! Let our *preparation* be concentrated toward boldness, so that we can speak how we ought to speak (Ephesians 6:20). Let's *prepare now*, so that we will never leave any confrontation feeling ashamed of the Lord and His words (Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26). Pray for our brethren also, that we may have the strength to emulate those first century disciples who rejoiced

in their suffering (Acts 5:41). Inspired of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Peter wrote, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy." (1 Peter 4:12-13) We've *been told* that persecution is coming for us all, but we've also been *assured* also of ultimate victory if we're faithful to the end!

Whether it is temptation, persecution, sickness, death of a loved one, the tragic loss of things dear, or the severing of relationships with friends & family because of our faith, many times our sorrows are justified. Just as it would have been sorrowful to see Jesus scourged, crucified, and dying on the cross - many of our own experiences and/or failings bring about pain and discouragement.

Thinking back to the Lord's disciples, why were they told of His impending crucifixion so often? Did they imagine His words as being figurative? Did they disregard them because they were so unpleasant to hear? Whatever the reason, our Lord was specific in describing what would eventually take place. Things would still be difficult for them to bear though, and *they all* had trouble initially believing He was resurrected (it wasn't just Thomas—See Luke 24:9-

12, 36-43; Mk 16:13). The purpose of this short article is not to minimize our human emotions... Rather, I wish for us to appreciate that God has given us all the information we need to prepare for difficult times. He has always done that for His people! God wills for us to be informed, to make preparations now, and to put our trust in Him when the difficult times do come. Won't you put your trust in Him today? Read your Bible, and pray every day. The Lord has *promised* that difficult times will come... But He has also *promised* to grant us eternal life if we trust and follow Him.

"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**, as His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been **given to us exceedingly great and precious promises**, that **through these** you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (2 Peter 1:2-4 NKJV)

-Ian Rice