

News & Notes

Upcoming Events: Our monthly singing will be today at 5pm, and the Ladies' bible class will be held at the Rice's home tomorrow evening at 7pm. The next men's class will be November 23rd, at 4:30pm.

Prayer Requests: As many of you know, James P. Needham (author of today's bulletin article) passed away last week, so please keep his family in your prayers. Martha Smith fell last week, and was hospitalized for a short time. She has since been transferred to Valencia Hills Health and Rehab, and is welcome to have visitors. Please continue to pray for these others, too: Wayne & Christine Ryland, Linda James, Butch Morgan, and Dottie Reynolds; Butch has informed me that Mildred Church's health is in decline. Let's also remember family and friends on our list: Ted Penland (Butch Morgan's son-in-law), Naydene Fields, Brian James, Hal Lewis, Gary Jones, Jeff Sprott, and Noot Ross. Expecting mothers, Kayla Cunningham and Kassandra Groenhof, need our prayers and support as well.

Out of Town: Bob Marschall and Larry Wisdom are away, tending to work responsibilities.

Gospel Meetings: There are several gospel meeting announcements on the bulletin board in the foyer. The Plant City church of Christ and the Lake Wales church of Christ both begin their meetings today, and run through Wednesday evening.

Group Meeting: Group (1) meets tonight after worship.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 11/12/14

Song Leader: Ben Cunningham
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Invitation: Ian Rice
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson
 Parking Lot: Colby Sadler

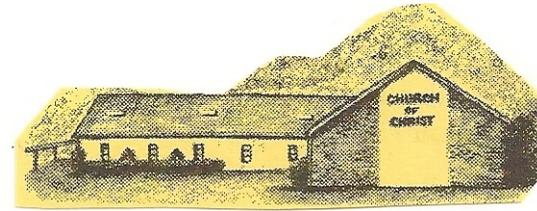
Sunday Evening: 11/16/14

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Lord's Table: Keith Marschall
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Morning: 11/16/14

Lord's Table: Keith Marschall (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: Eddie Lawson
 Ben Cunningham
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Ben Cunningham

Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Paul Lloyd
 (9:50) Mike Sadler



**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

“Churchanity”

We were taught in school that "words are signs of ideas." This being true, it is easy to detect unscriptural ideas by listening to people talk, or reading what they write. It was for this reason that Paul instructed Timothy to "hold fast to the form or pattern of sound words ... One of the "earmarks" of apostasy is a failure to heed this admonition and begin using words which do not express scriptural ideas, or else use scriptural words with unscriptural application.

One of the most frequent errors occurring among Christians today concerns the church. There cannot be much doubt but what many people are considered members of the Body of Christ who have never really been instructed to any great extent in the way of truth. Speech betrays them in this matter. One hears such expressions as "The church of Christ believes," "The church of Christ teaches," "The church of Christ advocates," "Church of Christ preachers," "Church of Christ members," "Church of Christ buildings," "Church of Christ radio and television programs Church of Christ publications Church of Christ's," "I am a church of Christ,"

"Church of Christ schools," "Church of Christ churches," etc. Before me is one short article of some two or three hundred words written by a very popular preacher, in some circles, in which the expression "church of Christ" appears about a dozen times. Practically every sentence contains the expression, or its equivalent. Truly, many are practicing "Churchanity" instead of Christianity.

One would be led to believe from the frequency with which the expression "church of Christ" is used that it is found upon every page of the New Testament, when in reality it is found only once, Rom. 16:16, and then it is not used as it is used in the above expressions. Many have taken Paul's statement and made a sectarian name of it.

Christ did not say "Go ye into all the world and preach the church of Christ . . . but rather instructed that "the gospel" be preached to every creature. If "church of Christ preachers" go out and preach "the church of Christ" people are likely to be converted to the "church of Christ" instead of being converted to Christ as a result of

preaching the gospel. We do not need, nor does the Lord desire, converts to a church, a body of people, but rather converts to the Lord, to the Cause of the Lord, to His truth! When this is done people will certainly be identified with the Lord's body, or church, but will not be converted to a group of people, or a popular denomination.

"The church of Christ teaches" is a very frequent utterance used by so many of us, and one which expresses an unscriptural idea, as it is generally used. The only way we can conceive of the church's teaching any thing is from the standpoint of her teaching what is found in the will of Christ. This being true, isn't it reasoning in reverse to say that "the church teaches" it. Isn't it nearer the truth, and easier for people to comprehend to simply say "The Lord, the New Testament or the Bible teaches"? Saying that "the church teaches" has led people to believe that certain doctrines originated with the church thus identified. Beside, when one says "the church of Christ teaches" a certain thing he automatically gives people the idea that every group of people under that name teaches it; when in reality it is not likely true.

So often we hear someone "wax eloquent" by saying "The church of Christ takes the Bible, and the Bible only as its all-sufficient standard of faith and practice, thus you will find unity in the church of Christ." Brethren, this just isn't so! All "churches of Christ" don't take "the Bible and the Bible only" as their all-sufficient standard of faith and practice." Some even argue that we don't need Bible for everything we do; others not only say such, they practice their philosophy. And another thing, "the churches of Christ" are not united; some are as far apart in both teaching and practice as the poles!

In recent years we have begun to hear people say, when asked what they are religiously, "I'm a church of Christ, or "I'm a church of Christer." If this is not a sectarian concept of the church, what is it? It seems unpopular to identify ourselves as Christians any more, so we try to make ourselves members of some denomination. But someone says, "If I say I am a Christian they'll ask what kind of a Christian." Yes, to be sure! And this gives a wonderful opportunity to preach the gospel, which is also unpopular these days

which might be the reason for such unscriptural expressions.

Again, people talk about brethren being "church of Christ preachers." If this doesn't make a denomination of the church, and a denominational preacher out of the preachers what would it take to do it? When we say a brother is a gospel preacher, we tell what he preaches, the gospel. So, likewise when we say a brother is a "church of Christ preacher" we say "he preaches church of Christ." Much more could be said, but let this serve as a strong warning to use "Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you (Tit. 2:8).

-James P. Needham