

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Larry Wisdom’s sister, Angela Wisdom’s dad, and Keri Rice’s mother (Diane Fields).
- ◇ Please also pray for Ken and Arlena Turner; Ken has been diagnosed with the early stages of dementia.
- ◇ Continue to be mindful of Jeanette Claridy; she is now in a rehab facility in Winter Haven.
- ◇ Bucky Day’s mom (Gerri) will be having surgery this week (the 20th) for lung cancer.
- ◇ Billie Gibson (Marc’s mom in Ohio has been diagnosed with cancer)
- ◇ Larry Hicks, James VanDoom and Paula Sullivan are out of town; The Rice family will be traveling this week as well.
- ◇ Please remember also the needs of our shut-ins:
- ◇ Group 3 meets tonight.

UPCOMING EVENTS *

- 2nd Sunday each month - After-noon Singing
- *The Ladies’ Bible Class will meet on December 10th.*
- Fourth Friday of each month at 7pm –Youth Study.
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Class

* * * * *

Assignments

Wednesday Night: 11/21/12

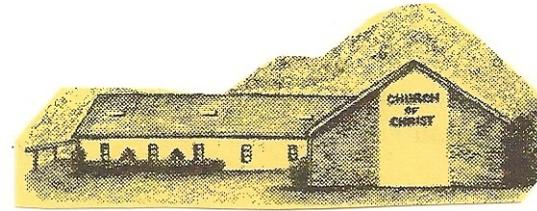
Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Jeremy Wharton
 Invitation: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Moses Stevens
 Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

Sunday Evening: 11/25/12

Song Leader: Kirk Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Jeremy Wharton
 Lord’s Table: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Moses Stevens
 Parking Lot: Mike Sadler

Sunday Morning: 11/25/12

Lord’s Table: Bucky Day (B)
 Eddie Lawson (C)
 Serving: Jim Abram
 Jordan Lawson
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Butch Morgan
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn
 (9:50) Ken Turner



Lakeland Hills LEADER

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

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

“Yet He Does Not Know It”

“Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake un-turned. Aliens have devoured his strength, But he does not know it; Yes, gray hairs are here and there on him, Yet he does not know it” (Hosea 7:8-9).

Our text speaks of God’s people having lost their strength without realizing it. This is a sad, but true condition.

When the Israelite nation entered the land of Canaan, they went up against Jericho, did what God told them to do, and experienced a great and miraculous victory (Josh. 6). The next city they came up against, Ai, was much smaller— “a piece of cake.” But the men of Ai drove them off, killing “about thirty-six men” (Josh. 7:5-9). The reason the men of Ai were able to drive them off was that sin had entered the camp of Israel (Josh. 7:10-20).

They had lost their strength and didn't know it!

One of the most physically strong men that ever lived in Israel was Samson, who was constantly feared by their enemies, the Philistines. When they finally found out his source of strength, through the cunning assistance of Delilah, they were able to cut his hair, the source of his strength. Awakening out of his sleep, and thinking he was as strong as ever, he found himself weak because "he did not know that the Lord had departed from him" (Jud. 16:20). He had become weak and did not know it!

When Saul was Israel's first king, he had led his nation to a great victory against the Philistines with his son, Jonathan, as commander. But, later, Saul was lifted up with pride and started disobeying what God had instructed him to do. This was a great mistake, because then God withdrew His power from Saul. After Saul had transgressed against God, Samuel told him: "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel" (1 Sam. 17:17). Saul lost his power and posi-

tion as king!

Jeremiah was a faithful prophet of God who preached to God's people. His plain, straightforward preaching could have been a great blessing to them. But when Jeremiah tried to show them the sin in their lives, they were shocked and surprised. They had backslidden from the Lord and were not aware of it. Notice how God explained their condition to Jeremiah: "And it shall be, when you show this people all these words, and they say to you, 'Why has the Lord pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or what is our iniquity? Or what is our sin that we have committed against the Lord our God?'" (Jer. 16:10).

They were apostates and didn't even realize it!

All of the above examples should serve as lessons for us today. Many think they are pleasing God, when in reality, they are not (Matt. 7:21-24). Some have the idea that they can closely associate with those of the world and not be affected; they are so wrong— "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'" (1 Cor. 15:33). Others think they can go places and engage in questionable activities and not be affected; they are so

mistaken. Paul tells us to "Abstain from all appearances of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). If we think we can do anything in which we cannot give glory to God, we are misinformed. Paul said, "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Many think they are in fellowship with God, but in reality, they are not walking in the light of truth. "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 Jn. 1:7-8).

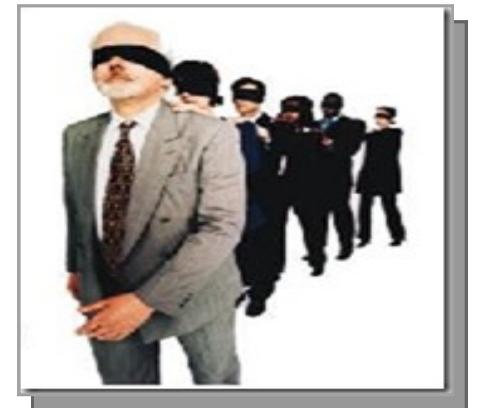
Hence, there are many situations that we create that weaken our faith and influence, and we may not even be aware of them. What about the times such as willfully forsaking the assemblies of the church (Heb. 10:25)? Attending social functions where there are "revelries and the like" (Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Pet. 4:3)? Dressing in a provocative, immodest manner (Matt. 5:28; 1 Tim. 2:9)? And the list could go on and on.

Many are very religious, but religiously wrong and in error as they "practice

lawlessness" (Matt. 7:21-23). Churches may think they are doing great things, but the Lord has removed their "lampstand from its place" (Rev. 2:5). A congregation may have a great reputation among men as being "alive," but in reality, they "are dead" spiritually (Rev. 3:1).

The Bible warns against being deceived. In fact, we are told: "There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). Let's make sure that we always abide in and obey the truth so that we will not be lost and living in sin— "Yet he does not know it."

R.J. Evans



Think about the sad condition of the one who is spiritually blind, "Yet he does not know it" (Hosea 7:8-9)