

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Reagan Cunningham, Kelly Cochran, Kurt Dickey, Betty Eubanks, Juanita Huseman (*sick*), Linda James, Yvonne Jordan, Keith Marschall (*Recovering from procedure done on his knee*), Butch Morgan, Dottie Reynolds, Wayne Ryland (*Ongoing medical*), and Ken Turner (*Ken has some swollen lymph glands and is going to be soon conferring with an oncologist; let's be praying for him in that regard*).

Our family and friends: Susan Bebbly (*Bucky Day's sister; diagnosed with cancer*) Joe Brown (*Cancer*), Elnora Bennet (*Moses Stevens' sister*), Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Chet Sheffield (*out of town*), Shelby Sprott, Brian James (*Cancer has reappeared*), Debbie Montgomery (*The Blackburn's daughter*), and Ardis Tucker.

Ladies' Bible Class: The next ladies' Bible class is going to be February 8th, at Angela Wisdom's home (at 7PM). In preparation, please study lesson number XIII (13) that begins on page # 85 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (*See the sign-up sheet in the foyer*)

Afternoon Singing: Our next afternoon singing will be held at 5pm on February the 14th.

Kid's Review Class: Also on February the 14th, shortly after the evening worship service, in room # 7.

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship.

Gospel Meeting: Please make plans to invite your relatives and friends to our Gospel Meeting that will be held in three weeks (February 19-21). John R. Gibson, of Athens, Alabama will be preaching on the theme, "Christianity in the 21st Century Culture".

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 2/3/16

Song Leader: Nick Ross
 Opening Prayer: Leon Miller
 Invitation: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Eric Stevens
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day
 Recordings: Jordan Lawson
 Usher: Larry Hicks

Sunday Evening: 2/7/16

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Wayne Ryland
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Bucky Day

Sunday Morning: 2/7/16

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)
 David Williams (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 Norm Blackburn
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Jeremy Wharton
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Bucky Day



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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ELDERS

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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
 Charles Rawdon
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

Dealing with the Known and Unknown

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 29:29 KJV) This suggests that there is a portion of God's will and wisdom that He has chosen to keep secret in His mind and a portion He has chosen to reveal.

As much as we might like to know *all* about God and the rest of the spirit world, we are limited to what God has chosen to reveal. All we can know for sure about God is what we can learn from observing His material handiwork (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:20) and reading/hearing His written revelation, the Bible. From observing His handiwork we can learn that there is an intelligent designer (God), something of His nature and attributes, and much about His power. But to know the fulness of His nature, who He is, what He is called, and what His will is for us, we have to turn to His spoken/written revelation in the Scriptures.

As much as it may interest us to try to delve into those things deep in the recesses of His mind, we have to be content with only those things revealed. We have to recognize that much of His nature, wisdom, knowledge and judgment is "past finding out." (Rom.

11:33). It is futile to speculate about what goes on behind the scenes in the spirit world that is not revealed. There are many things (like angels, demons, principalities and powers) that may peek our interest, but we are limited to what is revealed. There is also a lot not revealed about the workings of God's providence.

The word "providence" is not in our most used English Bibles, but the idea is clearly taught. There is both God's general providence (His general care of His creation) and special providence (His intervention in human affairs and "nature" affecting change). Many believe that God created the world and all things therein and then, much like a string propelled toy top, pulled the string, putting it to spinning, then leaving it to spin itself out on its own. No, He still takes a "hands on" approach in the affairs of nations and individuals of His creation. It is also revealed that some things happen by chance (1 Sam. 6:9; 2 Sam. 1:6; Eccl. 9:11; Luke 10:31). His providential working may look like happenings by chance from our vantage point, but is really happening because of God's, behind the scenes, intervention. The story of Joseph is an excellent example of such providential working of God.

The day that we cease to believe in God's "hands on" providence should be the day we cease to ask favors of God in prayer. When we petition Him for favors for ourselves and others we are saying we

believe that prayer really does change things – because God does intervene at times.

Yes, the Bible does show that God has at times changed His mind in answer to prayers of His saints. When I pray for favors "if it is God's will," I am acknowledging that I do not know what God's will may be in each case. He has not chosen to reveal all His will for every circumstance in everyone's life (the world could not hold the book), but we can carry our desires to Him in prayer with the assurance that they will be done – **if** they fit into His will. Otherwise they will not be done. When they are granted, I may not know for sure whether, in the absence of revelation, they came about by intervention or by chance, but I can still thank and praise God for them.

Let us respect and teach all that God has revealed about Himself and the spirit world. Let us obey and teach all His revealed will – asking for forgiveness when we fall short. Also, let us continue to ask God for things we desire even though we may not know His secret will concerning the matter, trusting Him to grant our desire if it is His will – really wanting His will to be done even if it is different from ours.

- By Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

The Church's Purpose

What is the purpose of the Lord's church? Is it to eradicate poverty, disease, social injustice, illiteracy from among men? Is it to bring about a cessation of war and conflict? Is it to campaign for a temptation-free society for Christians to live in?

If the church had as one of its great goals the eradication of disease, the Lord could have easily equipped it to accomplish that goal. Could not the same power that enabled one blind man to see have enabled all blind men to see; that enabled one lame man to walk have enabled all lame people to walk; that cured many people of varied diseases have cured all people of all diseases? And could not this same power have been given to the church in all generations?

If the church has as one of its great goals the eradication of poverty, the Lord could have easily equipped it to accomplish this purpose. After all, He fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes. He similarly fed four thousand on another occasion. Could not He who did these marvelous works have enabled His church in all generations to feed, clothe, and shelter the impoverished masses of the world through miraculous powers?

If the Lord had wanted His church to become a lobbyist group to apply political pressure toward a temptation and persecution-free society in which to live, He would have given instructions in that direction. He did not

even lead His church into a direct effort to destroy slavery, but taught the Christian slave to be a better slave and the Christian master to treat his slaves as he would have his heavenly Master treat him (Col. 3:22-4:1).

The church's purpose is to save souls and prepare people for eternity--It holds out to the impoverished the hope of someday walking a street of gold; to the suffering a time when there will be no pain; to the sorrowing a moment when "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." It tells the tempted and persecuted that there is value in these afflictions, that the testing of their faith is "more precious than of gold," and to rejoice -- It tells all to live godly lives in whatever environment they find themselves. It seeks to change people through the power of the gospel, not society through the coercion of legislators -- Its weapons "are not carnal, but are mighty through God." Its motivating theme: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

When churches become involved in hospital and health clinic work, or when they build schools for the education of their children, or when they see as one of their great missions to provide for the world's poverty, or when they feel obligated to create social upheaval and campaign for human rights, or when they feel called upon to express their views on the government's use of nuclear armaments or whatever, they have a distorted view of the purpose of the church.

- By Bill Hall