

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*arm fracture*), Karen Berry (*recovering from procedure done last Tuesday*), Joe Brown (*a cold prevented him from having procedure last week*), Kelly Cochran, Kurt Dickey, Betty Eubanks, Linda James, Rowena Lawson (*new convert*), Paul Lloyd (*back pain*), Leon Miller (*progressing well*), Bonnie Meagher (*doing better, but still suffering effects of pneumonia*), Butch Morgan, Wayne Ryland (*more health difficulties lately*), Suzette Stevens, Mike Sadler (*sick*), Ardis Tucker, Ken & Arlene Turner, and Jeremy Whitehead.

Our family and friends: Susan Bebbby (*Bucky Day's sister with cancer*), Elnora Bennet (*Moses Stevens' sister*), Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Diane Fields (*Keri Rice's mother awaiting results from biopsy*), Brian James (*digressing lately*), Debbie Montgomery (*the Blackburn's daughter*), and Ardis Tucker.

Ladies' Bible Class: The next ladies' Bible class will be April 11th, at Kyoko Williams' home (*at 7PM*). In preparation, please study the lesson that begins on page number 101 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 April 10th (*@ 5pm*) in the auditorium.

Bible Class Review: The younger kids are all invited to the next Bible review class on April 3rd (*next week*) in classroom number 7, shortly after the evening services.

Group Meeting: Group (1) meets tonight after worship. All are encouraged to participate in this good work.

Out of Town/Working: The Day and Ross families have been out of town. Larry and Cindy Hicks are traveling, and Paula Sullivan is traveling too (*Paula is scheduled to be back on 4-4-16*).

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 3/30/16

Song Leader: Nick Ross
Opening Prayer: OPEN
Invitation: Bob Marschall
Announcements: Eric Stevens
Closing Prayer: Bucky Day
Recordings: Jordan Lawson
Usher: Larry Hicks

Sunday Evening: 4/3/16

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: 4/3/16

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

"Dress for Worship"

Would you feel comfortable being led in worship by a man wearing shorts, a worn-out t-shirt, and flip-flops? Perhaps some feel that one's dress during worship is not that big of a deal... that there are "bigger fish to fry". Christians discuss such matters often, but unfortunately the dialogue seldom is conducted with Bible reasoning. Are there any Scriptures that may *set a precedent* for everyone's dress during the assembly today? Let us consider the matter while searching the Scriptures (Acts 17:11); but also with sound reasoning (Isaiah 1:18; Hebrews 5:14)!

(Please read all Bible passages noted.)

Let us begin by acknowledging that *God is very much concerned* with how both men and women dress (Genesis 3:21). Under the Old Law, God gave certain commands in order to hide one's nakedness (Exodus 28:42); certain precepts were given also that prohibited one from dressing in the clothing of the opposite

sex (Deuteronomy 22:5); other specific commands even prohibited against wearing clothes woven of wool and linen together (Leviticus 19:19; Deuteronomy 22:11); in addition, those who led in acts of worship were required to dress in very distinctive ways (Exodus 28). God indeed set forth a standard of dress for His covenant people under the Mosaic Law.

May we be careful in speaking (Proverbs 29:20) of such matters as they pertain to the Christian. In truth, we serve God through a better covenant which was established on better promises (Hebrews 8:6). Also, Christ has wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us, and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross (Colossians 2:14). However, the Old Testament is for our learning (Romans 15:4), is our school-master (Galatians 3:24); and those Scriptures should instill reverence in our hearts for how we approach God!

Under the Old Law, God had to rebuke His people for not giving their best to Him in worship. One prophet wrote of the priests neglecting to honor God; in that they offered to Him less than what they would dare to offer their secular officials. *Malachi 1:6-8* reads, "*A son honors his father, and a servant his master. **If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence?** Says the Lord of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' ⁷ 'You offer defiled food on My altar. But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible.' ⁸ **And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?**" *Says the Lord of hosts.* ⁹ "*But now entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, will He accept you favorably?" says the Lord of hosts.*" Such passages should instill the desire to honor and reverence God, especially during worship.*

In looking to 1 Corinthians 11:17 through 1 Corinthians 14, it is clear that God expects the assembly of the saints to be conducted in reverence for Him, even today. Let us also remember that He is still very much concerned with how *Christians* are to dress (1 Corinthians 11:2-16; 1 Peter 3:3-6). There are many passages that could be added to the discussion, but for the time and space given, may these questions prove to be helpful:

- Would it be proper for one to have a *casual mindset* during worship (1 Corinthians 14:37, 40)?
- Would it be proper for one *not to prepare his mind* before taking the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:24-29)?
- Is it proper to give God *anything less than our best* in worship (Malachi 1:6-8; 1 Corinthians 14:15, 20, 25b)?

These are some principles that should be guiding us in our approach to worship. I certainly do not wish to bind where God has not bound in

matters of dress for the assembly (Matthew 18:18); but if one has a casual mindset, it *may be reflected* in their dress. Likewise, if one is not mentally prepared for worship; that too *can be reflected* in their choice of clothing. We should strive to *always give* God our best, but aren't the worship assemblies to be considered *special* occasions? I pray that none will dismiss the convictions that our conscientious brethren hold on such matters (1 Corinthians 8:13). Moreover, I pray that we will all give God our very best in worshipping Him!

All passages quoted are from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible (Bold Emphasis was added by me).

- Ian Rice