

Noteworthy

Young Adult Study: This Friday at Bucky and Robyn Day’s home (May 29th; 7:30pm).
Kid’s Review Class: Next one will be June 7th in classroom #7, shortly after the PM service.
Afternoon Singing: The next afternoon singing will be June 14th, at 5pm in the auditorium.
Prayer Requests: *Our brethren:* Marian Church, Mildred Church, Betty Eubanks, Mary Henderson, Linda James, Leon Miller, Butch Morgan, Dottie Reynolds, Wayne Ryland, Danielle Sheffield, and the Wharton family. Jim Abrams is now at a rehab facility and can receive visitors. He is at Wedgwood Healthcare Center, 1010 Carpenters Way, Lakeland, FL 33809. Mike and Denise Jacobs have gone home, but will return shortly, Lord willing. *(The Jacobs would like to thank everyone for your prayers, support, visits, and encouragement during the last few weeks!)* Let’s also pray for the Cunningham family, as an announcement was made Wednesday concerning Reagan’s breathing difficulty.
Our friends and family: Continue also in prayer for Elnora Bennet (Moses Stevens’ sister), Pat Dickey, Hal Lewis, Joan Mott (A friend of the Days), Betty Parrish (Diana’s mom), Heather Tyre, Waylon Townsend, and Canera Wisdom (Larry Wisdom’s mother).
Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship.
Traveling/Out of town: Betty Eubanks, Steph Marschall, Kirk Marschall, Neil & Areah Miller, and Paula Sullivan. It is good to see the Ross and Williams families made it back safely from their travels.
Fourth Sunday: Today is the 4th Sunday of the month, so we will have an extended song selection during the PM worship and Jordan Lawson will present the sermon.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 5/27/15

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Invitation: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

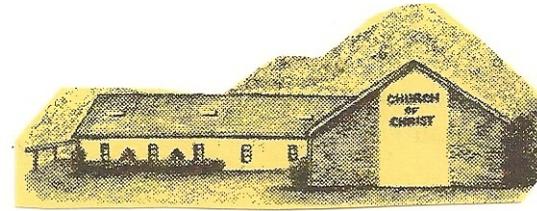
Sunday Evening: 5/31/15

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Eddie Lawson
 Lord’s Table: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd
 Parking Lot: David Williams

Sunday Morning: 5/31/15

Lord’s Table: Bucky Day (B)
 Jerry Williams (C)
 Serving: Trent Stevens
 Jordan Lawson
 Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton
 Opening Prayer: Colby Sadler

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



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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

“Loving To Have It So”

Concerning the sins and unfaithfulness of Judah, the Lord had this denunciation against them: “The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?” (Jeremiah 5:31). The prophets were prophesying false things and the priests were following their directions. What was the attitude of the Lord’s people? They loved to have it so! They were rejoicing in hearing false things rather than hearing the truth. The prophet Jeremiah was true to God. He called upon the people to turn from this wickedness. “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.” (Jeremiah 6:16). The people would not walk therein because they loved the false things which were being taught. When digression and apostasy come, there are brethren who are ready to dump the responsibility of such in the laps of preachers and elders. I have heard some brethren say that if the church could get preachers and elders to contend for

the truth, and do right, digression and apostasy would not ever exist. It is not to be denied that a certain amount of responsibility is to be found in such categories. However, no departure from the truth is going to exist without God's people permitting it to happen. Yes, prophets spoke false things and the priest sanctioned such, but the people loved to hear those things. They loved to have it so! They encouraged the preaching of false things. The basis of the charge which Paul gave to young Timothy is very similar to this passage in Jeremiah. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy

ministry." (II Timothy 4:1-5). He speaks of those who would not endure sound doctrine. After their own lusts they would listen to teachers who would turn away their ears from the truth. They would prefer fables rather than the truth of God's word. The teachers and preachers would be fruitless without the itching ears to hear their false messages. As in days of Jeremiah, there are those who today support such teachers because they love what they hear. "They love to have it so!" Why is it that they love to have it so? **It May Be Because:**

It may be easier to obey.

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24). There is a class of people who profess to be Christians, but they want to be Christians without being told to deny themselves. Denial is no part of their philosophy of life. They want to do what they want to do, and they love preaching which does not disturb them by speaking of denial and sacrifice. They have visions of floating to heaven on a bed of ease without making denials and sacrifices a part of

their lives. They encourage preaching which omits such because they love to have it so. Why is it that they love to have it so? **It May Be Because:**

It doesn't condemn them.

When we are wrong, we need to be told. So much preaching today is that which makes brethren feel good without any condemnation. Sins are not being mentioned which are condemning. Preachers do not condemn practices because they know what the people want and they are people pleasers. "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10). Rather than concentrating upon pleasing God, we can find ourselves thinking more of what pleases men. "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;" (Titus 1:13). I was told by a brother that he could not remember when the word "fornication" was used in a sermon from the pulpit of a certain congregation. If people are trying to please God, doesn't this seem strange? It is often mentioned in the scriptures, and we are told to flee fornication. (I Co-

rinthians 6:18). Perhaps some preachers have concluded that they were to flee from mentioning the sin in their messages. Fornicators love to have it so, and they may exist in congregations. Why is it that they love to have it so? **It May Be Because:**

It is popular. The messages of the prophets, who spoke falsely, may have been more appealing. So many times, the truth is not. Few are those who will walk in the strait and narrow way. In quests for numbers, congregations want to hear that which attracts the worldly minded. They want to hear that of which they will not be ashamed. But remember, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38). **We need to love what pleases God rather than what pleases us! We need to love and demand true preaching.**

- Bobby K. Thompson