

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Reagan Cunningham, Kelly Cochran, Kurt Dickey, Betty Eubanks, Mary Henderson, Rowena Lawson (has been having complications with her pregnancy), Linda James, Kirk Marschall, Butch Morgan, Dottie Reynolds, Wayne Ryland, Suzette Stevens, Arlene Turner, and Jeremy Whitehead.

*Our friends and family:* Jim Abram, Joe Brown (bone cancer), Diane Anderson (Linda's sister), Elnora Bennet (Moses Stevens' sister), Sarah Casselberry (in Winter Haven ICU), Mildred Church (shut-in), Shelby Sprott, Alma Townsley, Ardis Tucker (in Rehab), and Canera Wisdom (Larry Wisdom's mother).

**Out of Town:** David and Kyoko Williams will be out of town, visiting with family, until the end of the month.

**Group Meeting:** Group (3) meets tonight after worship.

**Afternoon Singing:** Next one will be December 13th at 5pm.

**Kid's Review Class:** Will also be held on December 13th, shortly after the evening worship service.

**Ladies' Bible Class:** The next ladies' Bible class is going to be on December 14th at Audrey Davis' home (7PM). In preparation, please study lesson number XI (11) that begins on page # 71 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (See the sign-up sheet in the foyer)

**Opportunities to Serve:** There are some new duties for the men to be engaged in. Please take note of when you are scheduled (for recordings and ushering).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 11/18/15**

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson  
 Opening Prayer: Charles Goodall  
 Invitation: Sherman Johnson  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Wayne Ryland  
 Parking Lot: Eric Stevens  
 Recordings: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Charles Rawdon

**Sunday Evening: 11/22/15**

Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton  
 Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson  
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Wayne Ryland  
 Parking Lot: David Williams  
 Recordings: Nick Ross  
 Usher: Ben Cunningham

**Sunday Morning: 11/22/15**

Lord's Table: Charles Rawdon (B)  
 Ben Cunningham (C)  
 Serving: Ed Lawson  
 Trent Stevens  
 Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Larry Wisdom

Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Wayne Ryland  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Paul Lloyd  
 (9:50) David Williams  
 Recordings: Nick Ross  
 Usher: Charles Rawdon



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**ELDERS**

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405  
 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378  
 Larry Wisdom (863) 583-4311

**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 Habitual Fault-Finder”***

Have you ever found yourself under the watchful eye of a habitual “fault-finder”? Someone who persistently looks to see if you have made (or will make) a mistake? Jesus addressed this issue in His "Sermon on the Mount".

He said, "Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. <sup>3</sup> And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. <sup>6</sup> Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces." (Matthew 7:1-6)

Some erroneously use this passage to teach that one must never make judgments, but verses five and six actually teach that we ARE to make certain judgments. *"Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. 6 Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces."* (Matthew 7:5-6) If one is to keep the teaching of *this* passage, then he MUST make the appropriate judgment in determining who the dogs and swine are!

The point that Jesus made was to ultimately warn against hypocritical judging. And in doing so, He described the "fault finder" - a hypocrite. The hypocrite of *this* passage is one who, without exception, seeks to find faults in another while never seeing or addressing *his own* problems. This concept may give us pause to think about the old sayings, "He

who lives in a glass house should not throw stones", or, "The pot should not call the kettle black"!

There could be any number of reasons as to why people get caught up in hypocritical "fault-finding". And we need to be careful, because getting caught up in this sort of thing can happen to the best of us. Because of their own insecurities, some may try to build themselves up—by tearing others down. Some otherwise may get into conversations that they should not be engaged with in the first place (1 Timothy 5:13), and therefore seeds of discord have taken root (Proverbs 6:19); thus, bad fruit is now manifesting itself (Matthew 12:33; and Galatians 5:15). Then again, some fault-finders are simply motivated by their own envy of others. Envy will destroy the soul, as Solomon said, *"A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones."* (Proverbs 14:30) Whatever the excuse, the habitual fault-

finder allows *his own sins* to eat away at his heart, just like rotteness would in his bones. That is a miserable way to live. But since misery loves company, others will be made miserable too—in having their lives destroyed by the habitual "fault-finder"!

The one who persistently "inspects" others to "find" their fault is indeed blinded by the plank in his (or her) own eye (Matthew 7:5). What a pity that the habitual fault-finder can never see the good around him (or her) – because he (or she) is always looking for evil.

If you have found yourself in the crosshairs of such a one, take comfort in knowing that Jesus understands your plight. In fact, Jesus had to contend with "fault-finders" in His earthly ministry too. Luke chapter fifteen begins, *"Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sin-*

*ners and eats with them."* (Luke 15:1-2) This is only one instance of Jesus being unjustly criticized. But on this occasion He turned the circumstance into an opportunity to teach some very valuable lessons! The parables of "The Lost Sheep", "The Lost Coin", and "The Prodigal Son" — were all presented in response to the unjust criticism directed at Jesus.

Let us remember that there is nothing wrong with making righteous judgments, as we should all be doing that every day (John 7:24). However, Jesus condemns knit-picky, penny-anny, fault-finding attitudes. So, please do not become a habitual "fault-finder" yourself. And finally, when you find yourself being unfairly scrutinized, find a way to learn from the scrutiny -- even when it hurts.

*(All passages quoted are from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible)*

- Ian Rice