

Noteworthy

Afternoon Singing: Today at 5pm in the auditorium.

Ladies' Bible Class: The ladies' Bible is tomorrow night (November 9th) at the Rice's home. In preparation, please study lesson number X (10), that begins on page # 63 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". *(See the sign-up sheet in the foyer)*

Prayer Requests: Margaret Blackburn (sick), Reagan Cunningham, Kelly Cochran, Kurt Dickey, Betty Eubanks, Mary Henderson (had cataract surgery last week), Linda James, Kirk Marschall, Butch Morgan, Dottie Reynolds, Arlene Turner (will have procedure on the 13th), 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 (at LRMC), and Canera Wisdom (Larry Wisdom's mother).

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

Gospel Meeting: The Plant City Church of Christ begins their meeting today with Gary Henry, and it will run through Friday evening. Details are included on the flyer in the foyer. Let us be encouraged to attend when possible.

Miscellaneous: We will be taking pictures today for families who would like to update the pictorial directory.

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: 11/11/15

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Nick Ross
 Invitation: Ian Rice
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Sherman Johnson

Sunday Evening: 11/15/15

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Lord's Table: Nick Ross
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd
 Parking Lot: Ed Lawson
 Recordings: Bucky Day
 Usher: David Williams

Sunday Morning: 11/15/15

Lord's Table: Nick Ross (B)
 Trent Stevens (C)
 Serving: Ben Cunningham
 Ed Lawson
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Jeremy Wharton

Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Mike Sadler
 (9:50) Norm Blackburn
 Recordings: Bucky Day
 Usher: Norm Blackburn



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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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

Attitudes Toward Bible Study

In the thirteenth chapter of Acts, we read of how the Apostle Paul and Barnabas preached the word of God to both Jews and Gentiles at Antioch of Pisidia. After the Gentiles begged Paul and Barnabas to return the following Sabbath, they were persuaded to return, and when they did – they found a wonderful surprise! *“On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.” (Acts 13:44)*

But when the Jews saw the swelling multitude of Gentiles, they were filled with envy (Acts 13:45), and since the Jews rejected God's word, it then began to spread to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46). What is particularly sad though, is that the Jews' rejection underscored the spiritual condition they were in. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul judged those Jews who'd rejected the word as being, *“unworthy of everlasting life” (Acts 13:46)!* There are sober lessons that can be learned by simply observing and contrasting the Jews' and the Gentiles' reaction to God's word.

The Gentiles in Antioch of Pisidia begged that words might be preached to them. They returned eagerly to hear the next week, and when they received the mes-

sage, *“they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.”* (Acts 13:48)

Can you and I be described in that way? Can we be described as begging to hear the word of the Lord proclaimed week after week? Do we invite others to join us in hearing the word proclaimed? And upon hearing the message, do we accept the truth of God’s word; or do we get allow ourselves to get “filled with envy”, “contradict”, speak against, and oppose the things spoken by the messenger (Acts 13:45)?

An additional thought: It seems as though a growing trend in the church today is for folks to simply skip the Bible class altogether -- and just attend the worship service. Excuses could be cited, but really, who wants to hear them? Wouldn’t it be wonderful if everyone came together excited to study God’s word?

Surely no one wants to be judged unworthy of everlasting life, but what does it say of you (or me) if we do the things contrary to those eager Gentiles in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:42, 48)? Let us flock to hear God’s word, and accept it, understanding that Jesus has the words of eternal life (John 6:68)!!

- Ian Rice

Chameleon Christians

The chameleon will be remembered as the small lizard with the remarkable faculty of being able to change its color in such a way as to blend with its surroundings. Some who like to be known as Christians manifest a similar characteristic.

This chameleon Christian assumes the color of those with whom he associates and whose favor he courts, whether saints or sinners. What they are governs his words and actions more than what he is. His conduct always conforms, even in the company of carnal—minded companions. He blends by proving himself proficient in the smutty language of worldlings and by expressing delight in their vulgar humor. When with the crowd that walks after the flesh, he keeps in-step; he runs with the pack into the same excess of riot (2 Pet. 2:10; 1 Pet. 1:4). His abused taffy-like conscience will allow just about anything a situation may seem to justify. He is adept at mixing with the world and identifies with those of darkness with such ease that they never suspect him of being a Christian.

But, there is another kind of chameleon Christian. This one is more subtle and sophisticated and his conforming is less obvious because it is done on a much higher plane. He seeks identity with the successful, the influential, and the elite within the world community. While this blending is often done under the guise of social, civic, or business obligation, it is with careful tact and discretion —**and with a view toward gaining approval and acceptance, whether for reasons of pride or profit.**

But, regardless of how this blending is motivated or accomplished, it is always hurtful to the believer — whether realized or not. Courting the world’s favor means partaking of its flavor. Be not deceived: bad company corrupts good morals (1 Cor. 15:23, NASV). One must be like the world to be liked by the world (Jn. 15:19) —and just about anything that gains the approval and esteem of the world can become a hindrance to serving God (Oh, how we need to learn this! — and teach it to our young). **Nothing** can justify seeking man’s approval above God’s — it is sinful and so are the motives that prompt it. There are simply no **right** ways to

achieve **wrong** objectives or to express wrong motives! This urge to please men is not only wrong, it is intensely strong — strong enough to keep some from confessing Christ (Jn. 12:42); strong enough to cause another to deny his discipleship while blending by the enemy’s campfire (Jn. 18:17-27) —and strong enough to tempt any disciple to fashion himself according to this world, wherein he makes wrong friends and wrong enemies. (Jas. 4:4).

What most blending believers fail to realize is that their efforts to identify with the world are far more successful than they ever intended. In convincing some that they are of the world, they also convince God! They forget that by walking in darkness with the world they sever their fellowship with God (1 Jn. 1:6). The name and claim may not change, but the chameleon Christian soon becomes the chameleon worldling — a sinner who sometimes seeks to pass himself off as a Christian.

- Dan S. Shipley