

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Norm and Margaret Blackburn, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*back*), Betty Eubanks, Linda James (*on-going medical*), Gus Johnson, Paul Lloyd, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Wayne Ryland (*please keep any visits short*), Mike Sadler (*neck*), Suzette Stevens, and Ken & Arlene Turner.

Our family and friends: Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Charles Goodall's aunt, Brian James (*cancer*), Jesse Jordan, Rowena Lawson's mother (*Lourdes*), Ardis Tucker (*at Arbor Hills, room # 221*), and Charles Woods (*Ed and Terrell's brother-in-law in need of a heart transplant*).

Out of Town: Ed Lawson, Bonnie Meagher, and David & Kyoko Williams are all out of town. The Rice family will be in Brooksville this Wednesday, as Ian will be preaching there.

Bible Class Review: The next kid's review class will be October 2nd (*next week*), shortly after the evening services, in classroom # 7.

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

Gospel Meeting (s): Plant City's is this week (*Sept. 25th-30th*). Our meeting, with Terry Benton, will be October 16th through the 21st (*Mark your calendar*).

Upcoming: Teachers, please be prepared for the upcoming new quarter (*Begins next Sunday*).

Ladies Bible Class: The next ladies' Bible class is going to be October 10th, at Paula Sullivan's home (7PM). In preparation, please study lesson number IV that begins on page # 114 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (*See the sign-up sheet in the foyer*)

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 9/28/16

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
 Invitation: Charles Rawdon
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Larry Hicks

Sunday Evening: 10/2/16

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Lord's Table: Clay Sadler
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: OPEN
 Recordings: Colby Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 10/2/16

Lord's Table: Clay Sadler (B)
 Sherman Johnson (C)
 Serving: Jim Abram
 Norm Blackburn
 Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton

Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Recordings: Colby Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

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
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“The Holy Spirit’s Role in Conversion”

Jesus made a promise to His **apostles**, that He would baptize **them** with the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5, 8). Jesus made another promise regarding the Holy Spirit, this one with a more **general** application: “And when He has come, He will convict the **world** of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8). Read the surrounding verses and you can see that Jesus is clearly talking about the Holy Spirit. Remember this promise, because we will come back to it shortly.

The best way to understand the Holy Spirit’s role in conversion is to look at the actual cases of conversion recorded in the Book of Acts. What role did the Holy Spirit play in these conversions? He did just what Jesus said He would do—He convicted these people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. How did He accomplish that? He did it through the preaching of the gospel, which shouldn’t surprise us in the least, because the gospel is “the power of God to salvation” (Romans 1:16). Yes, the gospel was preached by men, but they preached it “by the Holy Spirit” (1 Peter 1:12), because the words they spoke were revealed by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13; Ephesians 3:1-5). Jesus had this to say about the life-giving power of these words: “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).

To illustrate, consider the conversion of some Jews in Acts 2. Notice verse 37 in particular: “Now when **they heard this**, they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” This is exactly what Jesus was talking about—these people were convicted by the Holy Spirit, because the gospel Peter preached to them was revealed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). Study the conversions one by one, and you will see this same truth illustrated over and over again. Pay close attention to how they responded **when they heard the gospel**, and realize that this is the work of the Holy Spirit in conversion.

Of course, the Holy Spirit does not convict everyone—the Book of Acts also contains cases of non-conversion. Some were not converted, because they did not receive the word “with meekness” (James 1:21). The problem was not with the Holy Spirit, or with the words He revealed; the problem was with the hearers. As Stephen said to his audience, “You always resist the Holy Spirit” (Acts 7:51). The gospel is compared to a fragrance in 2 Corinthians 2—to some it is the “aroma of death,” to others it is the “aroma of life” (2 Corinthians 2:14-16).

We urge all of our readers to give close attention to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Welcome it “not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13). It will tell you “words by which you and all your household will be saved” (Acts 11:14). Give the gospel a fair hearing, and the Holy Spirit will convict you of your sin; He will show you how to be right with God; and He will impress upon you the urgency of it all by warning you of the judgment to come.

- Bryan Gibson

“Self Control”

What is the value of self-control? Self-control is that which enables us to hold our tongues when we are tempted to viciously put someone in his place once and for all; or when we know a juicy bit of gossip that would be entertaining to the group and would turn us into the “life of the party”; or when an occasion almost demands that we betray a confidence that must not be betrayed under any circumstances.

Self-control is that which enables us to control our passions when another is provoking us to anger; that keeps the clinched fists in the pockets when the agitator is only half our size; that keeps the lips sealed when another is railing and swearing at us. Self-control is that which enables us to be like our Lord “who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Peter 2:23).

Self-control is that which enables us to maintain purity of heart and to thrust out evil thoughts before they can take root; that enables us to place the best possible construction on another person’s actions when unproven rumors could easily destroy our confidence in him; that helps us to maintain a cheerful disposition when everything around us has turned sour. Self-control is that which enables us to love the unlovable and to hate that which the world loves.

Self-control is that which enables us to rule our appetites; to say “no” when our lusts would lead us to sin or when that which is harmful to our health is placed before us. Self-control is that which enables the smoker to put down his cigarettes and the alcoholic to put down his drink and never return to it. Self-

control is that which enables us to rule rather than to be enslaved.

The Bible does not glorify the indifferent and impassive. It is not our goal to be uncaring. To be like Paul, we must be able to have our spirit stirred within us when we are surrounded by evil (Acts 17:16). To be like our Lord, we must sometimes feel anger when surrounded by hypocritical self-righteousness (Mark 3:5); we must even react with occasional outbursts of goodness on occasions, as when the Lord cleansed the temple (John 2:13-17). But, all such outbursts must be tempered with self-control, that in our anger we “do not sin” (Ephesians 4:26). God does not view our uncontrolled actions with amusement. Our temper tantrums and harsh, unbridled words are soul threatening, a potential bar to the abundant entrance into the Lord’s everlasting kingdom (2 Peter 1:5-11). We must not minimize the danger. We must not surrender to this evil.

What is the value of self-control? It is one of the qualities that enable us to go to heaven. The possessor of it is rich indeed.

- By Bill Hall