

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson, Karen Berry (*been sick*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*neck and back*), Mildred Church, Jim & Mary Elliot, Linda James (*surgery last Wednesday*), Yvonne Jordan (*recovering from knee replacement*), Paul Lloyd, Neil Miller (*back*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds, and Arlene Turner (*eye surgery*).

*Family and friends:* Tonya Bryan (*Dottie's Reynold's daughter*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Plen Hicks (*Larry's brother*), Herb Grannemon (*Bucky Day's uncle*), Brian James (*cancer*), Jesse Jordan (*Yvonne Jordan's husband*), Wayne Ryland, Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*), and Charles Woods (*Ed and Terrell's brother-in-law*).

**Out of Town:** Larry & Cindy Hicks, and the Ross family.

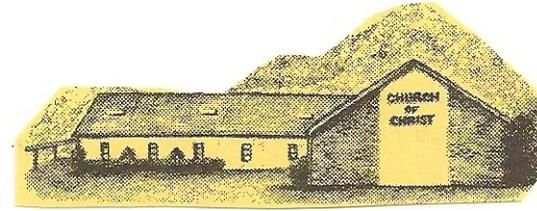
**Group Meeting:** No group meeting tonight. Group 2 will meet next week.

**Ladies Bible Class:** Next class will be *March 13th* at Steph Marschall's (@ 7PM). In preparation, please study lesson IX that begins on page # 143 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (*See the sign-up sheet in the foyer*)

**Kids' Review:** Next review class will be March 12th, shortly after the evening worship service in room # 7.

**Area Meetings:** The Seffner Church of Christ is holding a Gospel Meeting this week (Feb. 19-24) with Michal Hardin of Leitchfield, Kentucky (*Mon-Fri meeting times begin at 7:30pm*).

**4th Sunday:** Next week will be the 4th Sunday of the month, and Sherman Johnson will present a sermon during the PM worship service.



**Lakeland Hills  
Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

[www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com](http://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

***Are You (or am I) a Hypocrite?***

The word hypocrite is often misused by folks who do not like their sins being pointed out. For example, if one approaches another who's in sin, the sinner retorts, "You sure are the hypocrite... You *used to do* the same thing!" If one has repented and turned from their sins, they are no longer bondage to those sins (Romans 6:11-12; Hebrews 8:12). Also, being a hypocrite is not the same as a Christian who stumbles from time to time. The Scriptures declare, "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" (1 John 1:6- 2:1) God calls us to serve in sincerity and in truth (Joshua 24:14; John 4:24). He also wills for us to look out for one another's spiritual wellness (Galatians 6:1). Therefore, striving to help others grow, even helping others to see their own sin, does not necessarily constitute being a hypocrite.

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 2/22/17**

Song Leader: OPEN  
Opening Prayer: David Williams  
Invitation: Larry Wisdom  
Announcements: Mike Sadler  
Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens  
Recordings: Bob Marschall  
Usher: Bucky Day

**Sunday Evening: 2/26/17**

Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens  
Lord's Table: Colby Sadler  
Announcements: Jim Elliot  
Closing Prayer: Larry Hicks  
Recordings: Clay Sadler  
Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 2/26/17**

Lord's Table: Colby Sadler (B)  
Jordan Lawson (C)  
Serving: Keith Marschall  
Trent Stevens  
Song Leader: Joe Brown

Opening Prayer: Leon Miller  
Announcements: Larry Hicks  
Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall  
Recordings: Clay Sadler  
Usher: Gus Johnson

Thayer defines the word rendered “hypocrite (s)” in the Scriptures as, “an actor, stage player, pretender”. In other words, a hypocrite is an actor... Or, one who pretends to be what he is not! Thus, true examples of a hypocrite would include:

- Those who refuse to acknowledge and/or confess their own sins (1 John 1:8-10).
- Those who call themselves Christians, yet continue living a lifestyle that’s given over to sinful practices. In other words, those who refuse to conform their character to that of Christ’s (1 John 2:1-2; Romans 9:29)
- One who says the “right things”, but refuses to put in action what he teaches (1 John 3:16-20).
- One who says, “I love God”; yet hates his brother (1 John 4:20-21).

A hypocrite is an actor, one who pretends to be something he is not. So then, is “earnest, or sincere” a quality that befits you/me?

A hypocrite is also one who will not examine himself. Speaking to certain scribes and Pharisees who’d challenged Him, Jesus said, “*Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*” (Matthew 15:7-9). These men were constantly trying

to “catch” Jesus in some wrong-doing, and accused Him of transgressing the tradition of the elders (Matthew 15:2). In other words, they thought Jesus should have been doing things “their way”. And how did Jesus respond? He said they were actors - pretenders! He pointed out how they were, indeed, *saying* some good things... But they certainly weren’t *thinking* correctly! That, along with binding their own traditions, thus nullified their worship! So, what *could* they have done? Instead of continually trying to find fault with Jesus, they could have been looking inward, examined themselves in the light of God’s word, accepted Jesus’ teaching, and changed. But again, a hypocrite is one who will not examine himself.

A hypocrite is also one who objects to being examined by others. Sincere Christians understand the gravity of what awaits all men. “*Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*” (2 Corinthians 5:9-11). Paul said that, since he possessed the fear of the Lord, he thus persuaded men. This means that he taught in such a way as to change people’s minds... To “bring

them around”, so to speak. To do that properly, though; Paul and the glad recipients of God’s message needed to accept being examined by others. Make no mistake, Paul *was not* a fault-finding, hypocritical, nitpicking, fusspot (See 1 Corinthians 8:13; Romans 15:1). Rather, his examinations & subsequent teaching concerned the matter of turning men from their sins (Acts 26:20; Romans 6:1-14)! That said, he was also willing to examine himself and take examinations from others, throughout that process (Acts 17:10-11; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Galatians 1:8). Are we so humble (1 Corinthians 10:12)?

Because of the world’s misuse of the word hypocrite, we sometimes fail to examine ourselves in light of the term’s correct usage. Paul wrote, “*Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?*” (Romans 2:1-3). The question is important... “Are you (or am I) a Hypocrite?”.

*(All Bible Passages from the King James Version)*

- Ian Rice

## “Bitterness”

Paul said, “*let all bitterness . . . be put away from you*” (Eph. 4:31). The Hebrew writer said, “*looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled*” (Heb. 12:15). Bitterness is the frame of mind that willfully retains angry feelings. Paul warns the Christian not to retain anger in his heart when he said, “*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.*” (Eph. 4:26).

The man who retains bitterness in his heart is, in the long run, the loser. Bitterness will affect one's outlook on life and take the joy out of living. It will cause us to lose confidence in everybody and people will shun us because they find no joy in our presence. It will cause us to constantly be at war with ourselves because we will be unable to have tranquility of mind. It will “eat out our insides” removing every quality of good that we have ever possessed. It will cause God to turn His face from us and withdraw His fellowship. If we die in such a frame of mind, a devil's hell will be the place we will spend eternity !

Brethren, life is too short, hell is too hot, and eternity is too long to let bitterness dwell in our hearts!

- Donald Townsley