

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson, Karen Berry, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*neck and back*), Mildred Church, Jim & Mary Elliot, Linda James (*at rehab facility in Clearwater*), Rowena Lawson (*illness*), Yvonne Jordan (*recovering from knee replacement*), Paul Lloyd, Neil Miller (*back*), Ruth Miller (*eye surgery*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Suzette Stevens (*illness*), and Jerry Williams (*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:** Audrey Davis & Stef Marschall, Bonnie Meagher, the Ross family, and Colby & Clay Sadler — are all out of town this week.

**Group Meeting:** Group 2 will meet tonight after the evening worship service.

**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.

**4th Sunday:** Sherman Johnson will present the sermon during the worship service tonight.

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 3/1/17**

Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton  
Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams  
Invitation: Eric Stevens  
Announcements: Mike Sadler  
Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd  
Recordings: Bucky Day  
Usher: Larry Hicks

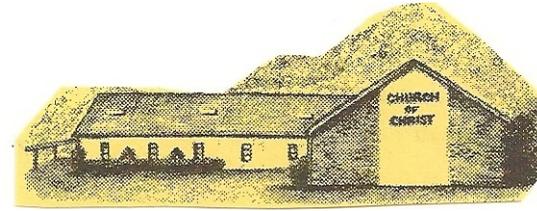
**Sunday Evening: 2/26/17**

Song Leader: Keith Marschall  
Opening Prayer: Jeremy Wharton  
Lord's Table: Nick Ross  
Announcements: Leon Miller  
Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens  
Recordings: Bob Marschall  
Usher: Larry Hicks

**Sunday Morning: 3/5/17**

Lord's Table: Nick Ross (B)  
                  Bucky Day (C)  
Serving: Eddie Lawson  
           Jordan Lawson  
Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
Announcements: Leon Miller  
Closing Prayer: Neil Miller  
Recordings: Bob Marschall  
Usher: Sherman Johnson



**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  
Michael Sadler  
Moses Stevens  
David Williams

**EVANGELIST:**

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***God-Consciousness***

A truly godly man is one who lives with a constant realization of God's divine presence He is God-conscious. When he awakes in the morning, there is God. As he dresses for work there is God. As he goes in to breakfast with his family, as he drives to work, as he works through the day, as he drives home, as he spends the evening hours, as he lies down on his bed at the close of the day, there is God.

Enoch was a man who was God -conscious, for he "walked with God" (**Genesis 5:24**). He enjoyed constant companionship with God. Wherever Enoch went, God went with him, and Enoch was always aware that He was there. He could not flee from God's presence (**Psalm 139:7**), nor did he seek to do so. He was a godly man.

How fortunate is that man who has developed within himself this God consciousness. It is easy for him to pray, for God is to him a close, ever near, companion whose "ears are open unto his prayers" (**1 Peter 3:12**). His talking with God is as natural as his talking with any companion.

He does not fear, for he just places his hand in God's in his times of trouble. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear. ..." (**Psalm 46:1, 2**). Even when walking "through the valley of the shadow of death," he can "fear no evil," for God is with him.

The power of temptation is greatly reduced, for he never forgets that *"all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do"* (Hebrews 4:13). His desire to please his ever present God is greater than the power of temptation.

He is thankful, recognizing God, with whom he walks, to be the source of *"every good gift and every perfect gift"* (James 1:17).

He loves God. He talks to God. He walks with God. He is always conscious of God's presence. He is never without God. Yet, this relationship never degenerates into a "buddy-buddy" relationship, for he reverences God; he recognizes His awesomeness; he gratefully acknowledges his own personal unworthiness of such a relationship with Almighty God.

This is the very essence of godliness. Someone, years ago, observing the similarity between "godliness" and "God-like-ness," assumed that the two words meant the same. That false assumption was passed on to others, and has now gained a strong foothold in the thinking of a great number of people. W. E. Vines says that godliness "denotes that piety which, characterized by a godward attitude, does that which is well pleasing to Him." A godly person, then, is one who has a godward attitude, and whose constant consciousness of God leads him to be obedient to Him.

While visiting in a hospital, recently, we observed this sign, "Have you said Thank you, God today?" A godly person probably would have done so. Have **you** said, "Thank you, God" today?

- By Bill Hall

### ***"There is a Time and a Season..."***

Emotions have been allowed to dictate what occurs during the assembly of religious minded people far too often (1 Corinthians 12, 14). Thus, some denominations fail to keep order in the assembly. Some will allow emotions to cloud their reasoning of the Scriptures, intellectually (Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 1:18; Romans 2:5). While we must seek to rule our spirit (Proverbs 25:28), let us also recognize that, at times, the leaders among God's people need to express their emotions.

Consider Ezra, the man who restored the purity of worship during the Return from Captivity. When he was informed of how the Israelites had intermarried with their pagan neighbors, Ezra responded with great outpouring of grief before the LORD (Ezra 9:1-15). But he not only outpoured grief to God, Ezra also outpoured great emotion & sternness, while convincing the people of their need to repent (See Ezra 10:1-17). Nehemiah, another prophet during the return from captivity (who was tasked with rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem), was also very stern in telling his brethren that they "knew better" than to engage in the sins they were committing. Nehemiah said, *"So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, 'You shall not give your daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves. 26 Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin. 27 Should we then bear of your doing all this great evil, transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?'"* (Nehemiah 13:25-27)

We must be sure that we keep our emotions pure, and "in check"; but the Scriptures teach that there are times which people who know better, need to be corrected with a stern approach. There are thus, times in which God's people need to see their leaders express emotion.

During the beginning, and near the end of, His Great Galilean Ministry; Jesus manifested righteous anger while openly addressing sin in the temple (John 2:13-22; Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46). Those circumstances brought outward manifestations of emotion and sternness by our Lord. This manifestation of righteous anger certainly got the sobering attention of all who were present. That account still impresses upon *us*, the seriousness of God's expectations. Now... You and I *must be very careful* not to sin while expressing anger (Ephesians 4:26; James 1:20), but sinful practices & attitudes must be addressed today, lest the temple (the church) be defiled (1 Corinthians 5:1-13). When addressing their carnal minded bickering over preachers, Paul admonished the Corinthians, *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."* (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) There are times for which the leaders among God's people must express emotion, indeed.

The apostle Paul is spoken well of today for his boldness and passion (Acts 20:31)... Why should we endeavor to be any less (1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1)? When men secretly tried to discredit him, Paul addressed them openly (2 Corinthians 10:10-11). However, his motive in defending himself was not at all based in pride (2 Corinthians 12:11). Rather, Paul understood that God's work was much larger than any one man (1 Corinthians 3:5-7); yet, he had been blessed with a very important

task (Ephesians 3:8-12). As a preacher of the gospel (2 Timothy 1:11), he sought to satisfy men's expectations up to a point (1 Corinthians 8-10; 2 Corinthians 11:6-8). But he also understood that if he allowed his integrity to be impugned, then his teaching and influence among faithful saints would be damaged, and souls would suffer (See 2 Corinthians 11:16-33, 12:1-21). Paul was keenly aware that factious men would wreak havoc on the work of the church, so he reluctantly defended his character with fervor and sternness. Indeed, there are times for which the leaders among God's people must express emotion.

A word of caution... We must be careful not to allow our emotions to become interpreted as a show of sensational emotionalism (Matthew 6:1). We must also evaluate our own reactions and motives in response to personal hurts (Matthew 6:43-48; Hebrews 12:15). That said, sometimes God's people need to see their leaders express emotion (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8). *"Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified. 8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. 9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete. 10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction. 11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."* (2 Corinthians 13:7-11)

All Bible quotations from the New King James Version.

- Ian Rice