

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church, Mildred Church (*shut in*), the Day family (*sickness*), Jim & Mary Elliot (*taking care of Jim's ailing sister*), Linda James (*at home, still very limited*) Ahrea Miller (*recent fall; her sister passed away last week, also*), Neil Miller (*back*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), and the Sheffield family (*sickness*).

Family and friends: Tonya Bryan (*Dottie's Reynold's daughter*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Herb Grannemon (*Bucky Day's uncle*), Brian James (*cancer*), Jesse Jordan (*Yvonne Jordan's husband*), Wayne Ryland, and Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*).

Group Meeting: Group 2 will meet next week after the evening worship service.

Ladies Bible Class: Next class will be April 10th at Kyoko Williams' home (@ 7PM).

In preparation, please study lesson X that begins on page # 149 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (*See the sign-up sheet in the foyer*)

Kids' Review: Review class will be April 9th, shortly after the evening worship service, in room # 7.

4th Sunday: Next week will be the fourth Sunday of the month and Jordan Lawson will be preaching during the PM worship service.

Gospel Meeting: We have an upcoming meeting scheduled for April 2nd-5th (*begins two weeks from today*) with various speakers presenting lessons from God's word. Please make plans to attend, and also spread the word to others (*invite your family and friends*).

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 3/22/17

Song Leader: Trent Stevens
Opening Prayer: Colby Sadler
Invitation: Eddie Lawson
Announcements: Mike Sadler
Closing Prayer: Ian Rice
Recordings: Clay Sadler
Usher: Larry Hicks

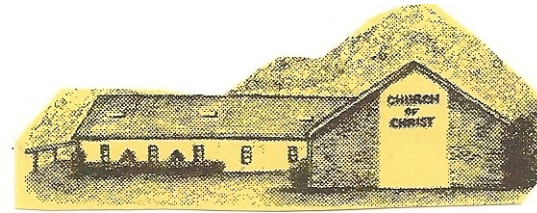
Sunday Evening: 3/26/17

Song Leader: Joe Brown
Opening Prayer: Larry Hicks
Lord's Table: Jeremy Wharton
Announcements: Bob Marschall
Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd
Recordings: OPEN
Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 3/26/17

Lord's Table: Jeremy Wharton (B)
 Jerry Williams (C)
Serving: Norm Blackburn
 Jim Abram
Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
Announcements: Bob Marschall
Closing Prayer: David Williams
Recordings: Bucky Day
Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
Leader**

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ELDERS

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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

"Double-Tongued"

One of the qualifications for a deacon, is that he not be "double-tongued". Men should first be tested, and if they are found to be double-tongued, then they would be disqualified from serving in this capacity. However, if one will control his tongue, then serving as a deacon can be a great blessing to all (1 Timothy 3:8-13). Serving within the Lord's church is serious business, and one ought to take these instructions to heart. Moreover, we should all take the instruction of being double-tongued seriously, whether we are serving in the office of deacon or not (James 3:1-18). Consider what being double-tongued means, and let's make sure that we're not partaking in anything that would lead us in the wrong direction.

The word rendered "double-tongued" is used only once in Scripture, and it means "(1) *Saying the same thing twice, repeating*", as well as, "(2) *Double in speech; saying one thing with one person, another with another, with the intent to deceive*" (***Thayer's Greek Definitions***). So then, to be "double-tongued" actually speaks upon *two kinds* of actions that God condemns. Taking the first definition to heart, we see that any *type of gossip* should be put away from us (whether the information about another is "true" or not). In taking the second definition to heart, we should make sure that our communications with others are consistent. In other words, we mustn't tell one person one thing, but then tell another person something contrary, all so that we can accomplish our... "agenda".

I pray that you do not “run your mouth” about your spiritual brethren to all that will hear. I certainly do not want for you to develop that type of reputation. Nevertheless, some are known for their constant efforts to “be in the know”. They are the ones who always strive to have gathered ALL the information, of EACH scenario, BEFORE -- and ABOVE -- everyone else (Proverbs 18:18). The double-tongued man (and/or woman) will also be nice and complimentary to one’s face... However, they’ll not be “so nice” behind their back. The double-tongued person will also agree with all the grievances that “brother so-and-so” expresses to him privately; but he will represent himself (and his viewpoint) completely opposite when talking to those who take a different stand (e.g. the elders?). Really, even though the word “double-tongued” is found only once in Scripture, God’s teaching on the principle permeates throughout His word. I pray that God will grant you wisdom; that you’ll see the need for meditation, and action, on this.

Far too often, double-tongued brethren wreak havoc on the Lord’s work - and it shows. A few outcomes:

- A congregation’s reputation among other brethren will be damaged (1 Corinthians 11:18), and many will avoid the group - instead of supporting it.
- Weaker brethren will be made to stumble, and in some cases driven away (Matthew 18:6).

- The local membership will grow discouraged (Numbers 13:31-14:2), and apathy will spread like leaven (Revelation 3:14-22).

These negative outcomes greatly concern me (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)... But I wonder how God feels (Proverbs 6:16-19)? This is not a matter to take lightly. Please pray, study, and if need be... repent. The Lord has given us equal opportunity today (2 Peter 3:9), and His word demands that we strive for consistency. Determine within yourself that you will not be double-tongued (*and may God help me to do the same*).

It is sometimes easier to see bad behaviors manifested in someone else’s character, rather than look at our own weaknesses. However, God expects that we analyze the instruction of His word while considering ourselves, and to make the necessary corrections (1 Corinthians 11:18; 2 Corinthians 13:5). Tender hearts should be able to do that. The question then becomes: will we examine ourselves, take the lesson to heart, and change (James 1:21-27)?

- Ian Rice

Renewing The Mind

In NT writings sinners are often referred to as men with reprobate minds (ROM.1:28) corrupt minds (1TI.6:5), defiled minds (TIT.1:15) and as men that "walk in

the vanity of their mind" (EPH.4:17). In COL.1:21 Paul reminds some that they were in times past "alienated and enemies in your mind". Such minds reflect wrong attitudes. They show dispositions of hostility and antagonism toward God and the things of God. Making the transition from sinner to saint involves changing such minds and altering such attitudes.

The process by which this radical and essential change is effected is called "renewing" (Gr. *anakainosis*). ROM.12:2 shows it to be the basis for transforming the life: "And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...." So then, meaningful change -- change of character, involves more than external reforms and outward acts; it means changing the mind (heart) from whence are the issues of life (PRO.4:23, MAT.15:19,20). It means "the adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking to the mind of God" (Vine). Essentially, to have this renewed mind is to have the mind of Christ (1CO.2:16; PHI.2:5). It is to have and be influenced by the Divine viewpoint instead of the human viewpoint; by the spiritual instead of the carnal. Nothing is more essential to or characteristic of the "new man" (COL.3:10) and his "newness of life" (ROM.6:4) than this renewed mind. And of no less importance is the means of its renewal. How does God seek to change the minds of sinful men? Contrary to many popular concepts, only the gospel of Christ can change and renew the minds of men as God intended. Nothing but God's truth can

make believers out of unbelievers. Belief (a function of the mind) comes from hearing Divine testimony (ROM.10:17). This is according to prophecy concerning the new covenant wherein the Lord says "I will put my laws into their mind and on their heart also will I write them" (HEB.8:10). The faith by which men are motivated to "transformed" living is derived from the word of God (JOH.20:30, 31). It is no coincidence that in every case of conversion recorded in the NT, what was done was based on something that was learned and believed.

For example, the obedience of the Pentecostians was in response to what they had heard (ACT.2:37); their baptism was in consequence of "receiving his word" (v.41) and their subsequent activities were directed by the "apostles' teaching" (v. 42). In receiving the knowledge of the truth (HEB.10:26) these crucifiers of Jesus became informed and enlightened in their understanding; thus, believed and obeyed and received the remission of their sins. This corresponds exactly to the description of the saved as given by Peter in which he refers to them as those who "have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord..." (2PE.2:20).

Yes, their conversion was an "experience" -- but it was an experience with God's truth. And that's the only kind that can renew the mind -- and the life. All men need such experiences-for eternity's sake.

- Dan S. Shipley