

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jim Abram, Jo Anderson, Margaret Blackburn, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Betty Eubanks, Charles Goodall, Linda James (*on-going medical*), Yvonne Jordan, Paul Lloyd, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds, Wayne Ryland, Ardis Tucker, Ken Turner, and Arlene Turner.

*Our family and friends:* Tonya Bryan (*Dottie's daughter*), Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Rex Coe, Susan Combee (*Bonnie Meagher's niece*), Charles Goodall's aunt (*Nell Goodall*), Brian James, Jesse Jordan, Sharon Stevens, and Charles Woods (*Ed and Terrell's brother-in-law*).

**Out of Town:** Bonnie Meager has been out of town lately. Also, David & Kyoko Williams will be in Alabama until November the 28th.

**Bible Class Review:** The next kid's review class will be December 11th, shortly after the evening services, in classroom # 7.

**Group Meeting:** Group (1) meets tonight after worship.

**Ladies Bible Class:** Ladies' Bible class is tomorrow, November 14th, at Keri Rice's home (7PM). In preparation, please study lesson number V that begins on page # 120 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: 11/16/16**

Song Leader: Keith Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Invitation: Bob Marschall  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: David Williams  
 Recordings: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

**Sunday Evening: 11/20/16**

Song Leader: Keith Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: David Williams  
 Lord's Table: Colby Sadler  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Recordings: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

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**Sunday Morning: 11/20/16**

Lord's Table: Colby Sadler (B)  
 Eddie Lawson (C)  
 Serving: Keith Marschall  
 Trent Stevens  
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Leon Miller  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: David Williams  
 Recordings: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**ELDERS**

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 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

***Why Aren't They Mentioned?***

Why are the following never mentioned in the New Testament in connection with the work and worship of local churches?

- Worshiping under electric lights? They used many lamps in Acts 20:8, but since electric lights did not become available for common usage until many centuries after the close of the New Testament, we are not surprised by the complete lack of mention in the Scriptures.
- Churches buying a preacher a plane ticket to go preach the gospel in other areas? While men were sent out to preach (Acts 13:1-3), they didn't get on airplanes because it would be about 1900 years before the Wright brothers would take off from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
- Prayers to and through Mary? This one is different, for there are many references to prayer and Mary was alive when the church began.
- What about church-sponsored athletics? Athletic endeavors were common in the first century and are even used as an illustration in 1 Corinthians 9:24-26, so the absence of church-sponsored recreation from the New Testament can't be explained by saying games are a modern invention.

We could keep going with a number of things, but these should be enough to establish the point. We don't expect to read in the New Testament of technologies which did not exist in the first century, but when we notice the complete absence of things which would have been available to these early disciples, it should cause us to think on God's plan and purpose for local churches. Matthew 7:21-23 makes it crystal clear that man's view of his religious duties may differ sharply from that of God.

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

Rather than seeing the local church as an entity to be guided by apostolic teaching (1 Corinthians 4:17) and set in order by the revealed word of God (Titus 1:5), many churches today have been molded into social and political organizations designed to fit the perceived needs of people. Instead of being "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15), churches have become centers of secular education, the focus of family

recreation, a place to fill the belly or meet with others wanting to lose weight, pillars of political activism, and a host of other things never even hinted at in the New Testament.

When it comes to worship, little effort is made to search for God's revealed truth on the matter (John 4:23-24) and then to abide in the teachings of Christ (2 John 1:9), but worship has become an entertainment experience intended more to bring pleasure to the participants than to praise the One whom we are instructed to worship. When the Corinthians had corrupted the Lord's Supper, the apostle responded with a number of admonitions and instructions about what was to be done in the assembly, what was to be done at home, and the proper ritual to follow in remembering Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:17-34). We might also consider the regulations imposed in 1 Corinthians 14 when the saints turned from the divine order to doing their own thing. Instructions were given regarding who could speak and when, and 1 Corinthians 14:40 concluded with the admonishment that all things be "done decently and in order," which is vastly different than worship as you desire.

If we find ourselves doing things not found in the New Testament, we need to stop and ask ourselves these questions:

- Are we still heeding the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21) while availing ourselves of some tool or help such as electric lights which was not available in the first century?
- Or have we gone beyond the doctrine of Christ (2 John 1:9) to practice things different from the "order" of the New Testament (Titus 1:5; 1 Corinthians 4:17; et al)?

*"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:8-9*

*"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Revelation 22:18-19*

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- John R. Gibson

### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

- ◇ Jesus taught obedience (Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; Matt. 28:20)
- ◇ Jesus taught that unless we believe in Him, we will die in our sins (John 10:31-39)
- ◇ He taught repentance (Luke 13:3; 24:46-47)
- ◇ He taught confessing Him before others (Matthew 10:32-33)
- ◇ He taught baptism as a necessity (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:5)
- ◇ He teaches faithfulness unto death (Revelation 2:10)