

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*cancer*), Betty Eubanks, Linda James (*on-going medical*), Gus Johnson, Paul Lloyd, Stef Marschall, Bonnie Meagher, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Wayne Ryland (*at home*), Suzette Stevens, and Ken & Arlene Turner.

Our family and friends: Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Charles Goodall's aunt (*Nell Goodall*), 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, Colby, Kaitlyn, & Macey Sadler.

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

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

Gospel Meeting (s): The Southwest Church of Christ has a meeting that starts today and runs through Wednesday (*2nd - 5th*). The Trilacoochee church has one starting today also, and theirs runs through Friday (*2nd - 7th*). Our meeting with Terry Benton begins two weeks from today; October 16th through the 21st (*A Sunday thru Friday meeting; mark your calendar*).

Ladies Bible Class: Ladies' Bible class is October 10th (*next week*) 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: 10/5/16

Song Leader: Nick Ross
 Opening Prayer: Ian Rice
 Invitation: Bob Marschall
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Bucky Day

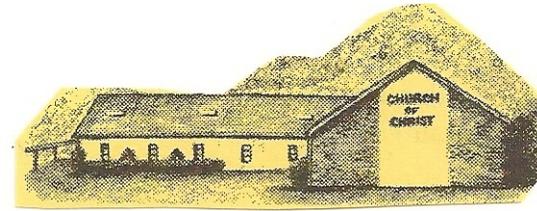
Sunday Evening: 10/9/16

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

Sunday Morning: 10/9/16

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**

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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

“Membership has its Responsibilities”

“Membership has its rewards.” That’s how many companies advertise their special offer of the month. And truthfully, I like those kind of programs, because they make you feel like you’re getting something for nothing. You receive benefits – either frequent flyer miles or hotel points– when nothing extra is required of you. You don’t have to pay a monthly fee, you don’t have to recruit other people to join the group.

Membership itself just has its rewards. What about membership in the local church? Certainly it has its rewards. From a family of fellow believers to those who will help us bear our burdens, we are benefitted greatly by this relationship. But membership also has its responsibilities. We cannot expect to obtain something for nothing. There is a requirement that accompanies our commitment. When Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica, he mentioned three words that he had elsewhere famously linked together: “constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of

our God and Father” (2 Thess. 1:3). Faith, hope, and love. We recognize this trio from 1 Cor. 13:13 as well as Col. 1:4-5. But notice the words which precede them in this context: work, labor, and steadfastness. Together, they testify to the responsibilities that come with membership.

In consideration of all that God has done to make us members of the body of Christ, what response is required on the part of every member?

“Work of faith.”

Paul commended the Thessalonians because “in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything” (1 Thess. 1:8). They had a faith, but not a faith that stood still. In fact, their faith had a reputation in other parts of the world. But how would the world have known about their belief unless it was something that they had put into practice and worked out?

As someone has famously said, “Christianity begins in the head, travels to the heart, and exits in the hands and feet.” Our faith must have action with it or it is no faith at all. James 2 was not written just to give us something to

hand to our denominational friends who believe in salvation by faith alone. This epistle was first handed to the twelve tribes dispersed to remind the Lord’s own people that believe by itself is dead. What “work” has your faith produced? Remember, membership has its responsibilities.

“Labor of love.”

The word “labor” means “toil” or “work” and can be used in the context of laboring through some difficulty or trouble. The church in Thessalonica had “received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit” (1 Thess. 1:6). But even though the gospel had produced hardships and trials in coming to them, it was still received joyfully because it was considered their “labor of love.”

Love and labor aren’t words that we usually put together. Not everyone loves what they do for a living. Sadly, sometimes our labor for the Lord leaves that same impression. Do you love what you do for Him? Just because it is a responsibility doesn’t mean that it has to look like one. And even when hardship is involved in carrying this work out, consider it all joy and a privilege to labor for a Master who loves you.

“Steadfastness of hope.”

The apostles encouraged the Thessalonian brethren to “wait for His Son from heaven... who rescues us from the wrath to come” (1 Thess. 1:10). “Hope” is looking forward in confident expectation. This hope produces a steadfastness or, as some translations have it, “perseverance” or “patience.” Such was needed as the early saints waited on the Lord for final vindication.

Hope is what gives us something to hold on to in our ever-changing world. That’s why it’s described as an “anchor for the soul” (Heb. 6:19). It comes with the realization that we’ve not reached our final destination. We’ve started our journey, we’ve weathered some storms, but we’re not there yet. We must wait, patiently and with expectation, that the Lord will bring into reality all that we have hoped for.

On that day, membership will certainly have its rewards. Until then, let us be about our responsibilities in His service.

- By Bubba Garner

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)