

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*cancer*), Betty Eubanks, Linda James (*on-going medical*), Paul Lloyd, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Wayne Ryland (*at home*), Suzette Stevens, and Ken Turner, Arlene Turner, and Jerry Williams.

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: Ian Rice will be out of town Monday thru Saturday this week, attending Bible studies in Russellville, Alabama.

Bible Class Review: The next kid's review class will be November 6th, shortly after the evening services, in classroom # 7.

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship.

Gospel Meeting: Our meeting with Terry Benton, from Gardendale Alabama, begins next Sunday and runs through Friday; October 16th through the 21st. (*Please take some flyers and invite your loved ones!*)

Sign-Up Sheet in Foyer: For those who are able and willing to provide hospitable arrangements for Terry and Anne Benton during the Gospel Meeting!

Ladies Bible Class: Ladies' Bible class is October 10th (*tomorrow*) 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: 10/12/16

Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton
Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
Invitation: Trent Stevens
Announcements: Larry Hicks
Closing Prayer: Sherman Johnson
Recordings: Bucky Day
Usher: Colby Sadler

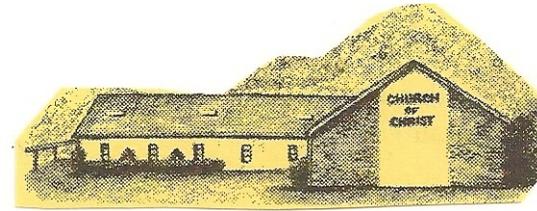
Sunday Evening: 10/16/16

Song Leader: Bob Marschall
Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson
Lord's Table: Nick Ross
Announcements: Larry Wisdom
Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd
Recordings: Colby Sadler
Usher: Charles Rawdon

Sunday Morning: 10/16/16

Lord's Table: Nick Ross (B)
 Bucky Day (C)
Serving: Ed Lawson
 Jim Abram
Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton

Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
Announcements: Larry Wisdom
Closing Prayer: Neil Miller
Recordings: Colby Sadler
Usher: Charles Rawdon



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

“Your sin will find you out”

Numbers 32 records the petition the children of Reuben and Gad made to Moses and the leaders of the congregation of Israel. They desired to settle on the east side of the Jordan River rather than with the rest of the Israelites in Canaan. Moses agreed to allow this, so long as the two tribes guaranteed they would fight with the rest of Israel until *“until every one of the children of Israel has received his inheritance”* (vs. 18). Having given his approval, Moses warned the people should they go back on their word: *“But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out”* (vs. 23).

There are many different examples, in both the Old and New Testaments, of people trying to hide their sin. While it is possible for the sinner to hide his sin from men, it is not possible to hide his sin from the Almighty.

This can be seen from David's dalliance with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11). David took great pains to conceal his sin, leading to other lies and treachery. However, verse 27 states, *“But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.”* Despite his best efforts, David's sin found him. He was admonished by Nathan, and lost his son. He suffered greatly because of his sin.

Another example is the sin of Achan, as recorded in Joshua 7. Achan took of the spoils after the fall of Jericho, in defiance of the Almighty's decree. He took a beautiful Babylonian garment, 200 shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold. He dug a hole in the midst of his tent and buried the evidence of his sin, but his sin found him. Because of his greed, he lost his life.

Ananias and Sapphira were greedy as well, though their greater sin was dishonesty. Their desire to appear diligent to the brethren caused them to misrepresent the nature of their giving. As Peter said, *"Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God"* (Acts 5:4). Despite their efforts to hide their sin, it found them out. They died at the feet of Peter as a consequence of their treachery.

There can only be two reasons for men to sin without at least considering the spiritual consequences of their actions. The first possibility is a belief that God is impotent. As they rebel, they do so thinking they may, with impunity, do as they wish. God's long-suffering is equated with weakness (cf. 2 Peter 3:8-13). The other possible rationale is a belief that God is tolerant of their sin. They do not recognize that it is *"a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you... in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power"* (2 Thessalonians 1:6,8).

Regardless of whether they question God's power or His righteousness, they are guilty of the same thing. They misunderstand God's nature as did the wicked to which the Psalmist referred in 50:19-21, *"You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes."*

In contrast to the attempts of the wicked to hide their sin, those who have a love for God will readily admit it. In David's case, though he at first sought to hide his adultery, he changed his demeanor when confronted by Nathan. His confession of sin is one of the most ardent and moving found in all of scripture. *"Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight"* (Psalm 51:4).

David's contrite confession should be modeled by every Christian. When sin finds us, our only concern should be to vindicate ourselves before God and man. Paul's praise of the Corinthians' repentance shows what God expects of us in this. *"For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter"* (2 Corinthians 7:11).

The lesson is clear. Our sin will find us out. Therefore, repentance is essential to avoid the wrath of God. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

- Stan Cox

Another Presidential Debate Tonight...

With the upcoming election, we've been reminded through the candidates' discourse how far our nation's morals (as a whole) have declined. With such rhetoric, and with the many practices that our nation's leaders deem as lawful, the child of God should be gravely concerned about the direction our country. That said, let us rely upon God during these times, and meditate on His word as a source of comfort.

The Lord will return one day, and all who are in Christ will be raised to be with Him! ***"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."*** (Matthew 25:13, NKJV)

Even though the details are unknown to us concerning God's plan for the United States, we can rest assured that God still rules in the affairs of men. *"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings"* (Acts 17:26, NKJV).

God will allow certain individuals to govern, in order that His will be accomplished, as Daniel instructed Nebuchadnezzar, *"This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That **the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.**"* (Daniel 4:17, NKJV) Whatever the future may hold, we trust that God is in ultimate control!

Let us therefore pray for our individual selves, our family members, and our brethren to be the men, women, and children that the Lord expects us to be. Perhaps we will expand our "salt" and "light" influence; remembering that, *"Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people."* (Proverbs 14:34, NKJV) Of course, let us also continue praying for our nation's leaders because, *"It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness."* (Proverbs 16:12, NKJV) I pray too - that our neighbors will be turned to repentance, since *"The wicked shall be turned back unto Sheol, Even all the nations that forget God."* (Psalms 9:17, ASV)

Do not grow discouraged, brethren. Rather, think soberly about the time in which we live! Instead of being dismayed, humbly pray to God, and diligently look to His word for guidance! God is in ultimate control! We will be given a just recompense of reward for our actions, when He returns! Be faithful, and thankful, that this world is not our home.

- Ian Rice