

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson, Karen Berry, Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church, Mildred Church, Charles Goodall (*his sister, Anita Nix, passed away last week*), Linda James (*had a fall last week, but is doing okay*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Paul Lloyd, Brooke Stagers (*was baptized last Sunday, 8-27-16*), Suzette Stevens, Trent Stevens (*school on Wednesday evenings*).

Family and friends: Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles and Vernita's son's*), Brian James (*cancer*), Rowena Lawson's mother (*Congestive heart failure*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*), Ardis Tucker.

Out of Town: Ed Lawson.

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

Kids' Review: Class will be September 10th (*next week*) in classroom number 5, shortly after the evening worship service.

Gospel Meeting: Our gospel meeting is next month (*October 15th-20th*) with Joseph Casimier. (*Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend every night*)

While Making Plans: Go ahead and mark your calendar for 2018, also. Our spring meeting will be April 1st-4th (*with Justin Lewis*), the annual sing will be August 31st, and our fall 2018 meeting will be October 21st-26th (*with Leon Mauldin*).

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 9/6/17

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Colby Sadler
 Invitation: Eric Stevens
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: David Williams
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Leon Miller

Sunday Evening: 9/10/17

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Bob Marschall
 Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 9/10/17

Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom (B)
 Sherman Johnson (C)
 Serving: Mike Sadler
 Clay Sadler
 Song Leader: Bob Marschall

Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Joe Brown
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405
 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

Majoring and Minorng

More and more we are hearing that "we need to major in the gospels and minor in the epistles." What is that all about? What it is about is the so-called "new hermeneutic." It places greater importance on what Jesus said and did than on what the apostles said and did. It is a part of the scheme to rid ourselves of the restraining influences of finding a direct statement, approved apostolic example or necessary inference to authorize our teaching and practice.

We have some among us who are terrorized by the ghost of tradition. Never mind that traditions are sometimes approved and other times condemned. Paul wrote, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern" (Phil. 3:17). He also said, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle" (2 Thess. 2:15). The church at Thessalonica was charged to "withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us" (2 Thess. 3:6). So, all traditions are not to be rejected.

The Source of Apostolic Teaching

Those who worry about putting too much emphasis on the epistles need to be reminded of the source of the message in the epistles. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth, bringing to their remembrance what Jesus had taught them, and revealing to them truth which Jesus had not expressed while with them in person. Read John 16:7-14. Paul said, "These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches" and then added, "But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:13,16). "If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord" (1 Cor. 14:37).

Now, if the apostles were guided by the Holy Spirit, had the mind of Christ, and what they wrote were the words of Christ, how say some among us that we need to minor in the epistles?

New Testament congregations which received and obeyed apostolic instruction in the epistles were following the will of Christ. That is why Jude wrote, "But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 17). Those words were a pattern to shape our thinking and practice.

A "Better" Way?

Some of those who are weary of precept, approved apostolic example and necessary inference, tell us that this is not all bad but they have found a "better way," that in addition to these means of establishing divine authority, we may add the three "P's", principle, purpose and perception. Older brethren will recall the time when E.R. Harper was trying to find divine authority for the Herald of Truth sponsoring church arrangement and came up with "principle eternal." He had no precept, no approved apostolic example and no necessary inference from the word of God, so he found it in "principle eternal." But how do we know what principle to follow except in terms of what the word of God actually says? How do we know what purpose is to be served apart from divine instruction? How do we know what perception or perspective was present except from what is said in the text?

It is being argued that the only pattern for us is what we think Jesus would do. That is a subjective approach to religion. We "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7). Faith rests upon solid evidence, not subjective feelings and perceptions. The truth of the matter is that Jesus taught by the use of commands and precepts. What do you make of the Great Commission if that is not so? He "left us an example that we should follow in his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). He also drew necessary conclusions (Matt. 22:23-33) or left it so that his hearers would do so.

About Your Attendance

Preachers should never have to preach on attendance. It should be obvious that when a Christian does not care to attend all the services, his interest is elsewhere. It is foolish to assert that we have a passage that pronounces anathema on those who don't come on Sunday and Wednesday nights. We don't need one. All we need show is that interest and attendance are connected and that a person who is truly interested will attend.

Now you can try to explain that away all you want and when you are finished it will still say the same thing: a person who is able yet does not attend the services is not interested in what is going on at the services. Bring your excuses, pronounce your justifications, and rationalize all you want. And when you are done, the parable of the sower will still affirm the same thing: prepared soil is the only kind which results in produce.

There seems to be a terrible dread among some (especially some younger men) that they will do something which brethren have done before and therefore will fall into some theological rut from which they will not be able to extricate themselves. So they tinker with the order of the worship until it borders on disorder. They fear that worship will not be exciting enough. But exciting to whom? To us, or to our God? They must deliver us from boredom. But who is bored? Are we bored, or is God? Certainly worship ought to be offered from the whole heart. We ought not to go through empty rituals. But God has ordained certain acts of worship and who am I to say that he is bored when his children perform these acts in harmony with what God himself instructed us to do?

These are dangerous times. The only safe guide to see us through these times is the inerrant, eternal word of God. It is a perfect guide. Our eternal destiny is too important to entrust to the shifting sands of human opinion and subjective religion. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psa. 11:3) Let's hear what Jesus said in the gospels but let's not minimize what he said in the epistles through Holy Spirit-guided apostles. That is also a part of the word that will judge us in the last day (Jn. 12:48-49).

- by Connie W. Adams

- Dee Bowman