

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*ongoing medical*), Margaret Blackburn (*pancreas and hip*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*neck & back*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Paul Lloyd (*on-going medical*), Bonnie Meagher (*medical*), Ahrea Miller, Neil Miller (*back*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, on-going medical*), Mike Sadler (*neck*), Suzette Stevens (*ongoing medical*), Arlene Turner (*medical*) Larry Wisdom (*recovering from knee surgery*).

Family and friends: Nell Goodall (*Charles Goodall's aunt, ongoing medical*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles & Vernita's son—cancer*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hick's father - ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*), Ardis Tucker (*Paula Sullivan's sister—ongoing medical*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling.

1st Wednesday Night Singing: Will be this week (Dec. 6th).

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

Ladies' Bible Class: Meets next week (*Dec. 11th*) at 7pm, in Stef Marschall's home. In preparation, please do *lesson 2* titled, "Blessings of Wifhood" from the book, "Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities".

Area Meetings: The Lake Gibson Church of Christ's meeting begins today, and will continue through Wednesday (*Dec. 3rd-6th*). Please see bulletin board for further details.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 12/6/17

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Invitation: Trent Stevens
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Larry Hicks

Sunday Evening: 12/10/17

Song Leader: Bob Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Lord's Table: Nick Ross
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 12/10/17

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

Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Mike Sadler
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 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

“Contrasting Churches”

Local churches may be led either by godly or by not-godly men—that is, by men who are most concerned for God and things of the Spirit or by men whose concerns are primarily human and temporal. Such churches can be distinguished by the following: Goals: Godly leaders have as their goal "the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ" (Eph. 4:12-15). Ungodly men have as their primary goal increasing numbers—a big church. They consider numerical growth proof of God's approval.

Doctrine: Godly leaders are determined to abide in the doctrine of Christ and not to go beyond it (2 John 9). Not-godly men, knowing that most of the public "will not en-

dure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" (2 Tim. 4:3-4), provide the teachers that will tickle their ears.

Discipline: Godly leaders will insist that in harmony with God's instructions the church "withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly" (2 Thess. 3:6). Not-godly leaders advertise: "Come as you are" and boast that they are not judgmental, receiving everyone regardless of lifestyle.

Worship: Godly leaders insist that God be worshiped "acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Heb. 12:28) while not-godly men place great emphasis on "worship" that pleases the public and seem concerned only that everyone leave "feeling good about themselves" and eager to return.

Preachers: Godly leaders are not nearly as concerned with excellence of speech or of wisdom as that preachers be "determined not to know anything ... save Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:1-2). Not-godly leaders insist that preachers be entertaining and personally popular, even with the world.

Activities: Godly leaders test every proposed action by the scriptures, determined to "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3:17) while not-godly leaders offer whatever people want—sports, entertainment, education, feasts, travel—with little apparent concern for what God wants.

What kind of church are you seeking—the church of your choice or the church of God's choice?

- Sewell Hall

“Can You Be Religious *and* ‘Tolerant’ ?”

Many people in our society are quick to point out how Bible-believing Christians are “intolerant”. If you dare present how God plainly condemns homosexuality - then you are “intolerant”. If you speak God’s truth with regard to the facts concerning abortion, you again are labeled as “intolerant”. So the question begs, “Can I be religious - *and* be tolerant?” I would suggest that –yes, we can. However, that will depend on what definition of the word “tolerant” you use. You see, many people will argue that the

“tolerance” they speak of is merely patience and understanding... but is that *really* their motive?

During the time of the Captivity, we read of the young man Daniel who was hand-picked for government service. Daniel was one “in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.” (Daniel 1:4-5) Although Daniel was offered the best to eat and drink, he did not partake because he “purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” (Daniel 1:8) Daniel was patient and respectful in his demeanor, but would not violate his conscience by going against the laws of God.

Within the Early church, we see patience exhibited by both Peter and John, as they were taken into custody by the Sadducees because “they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead” (Acts 4:2). They marveled at them,

“realizing that they had been with Jesus, and seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.” (Acts 4:14) “And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:18-20) Facing later opposition against speaking the truth, “Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29)

You might be wondering how these examples exhibit *tolerance*. These are actually examples that, indeed, show *patience*. Daniel and Peter weren’t disrespectful in their demeanor... but *they were* understanding and patient *while standing firm* in their convictions. You see, there is a big difference in the tolerance that some demand... and acceptance! Ungodly people today aren’t asking you to be merely patient. No – they want *your approval* for their behavior. Asking me to be patient with a homosexual or pro-choice individual is one thing – but demanding acceptance and approval is quite another. With regard to how we speak upon these matters, “We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29)

- Ian Rice