

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*ongoing medical*), Margaret Blackburn (*pancreas and hip*), Nancy Branham (*sick*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Donna Brown (*sick*), Marian Church (*neck & back*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Mary Henderson (*medical*), Larry Hicks (*sick*), Linda James (*fell and fractured 2 ribs, also has a hairline fracture in her spine*), Paul Lloyd (*on-going medical*), Stef Marschall (*sick*), Linda McKenzie (*medical*), Bonnie Meagher (*medical; also been sick*), Ahrea & Neil Miller, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, on-going medical*), Mike Sadler (*neck; also has been sick*), Suzette Stevens (*ongoing medical*), Eric Stevens (*sick*), 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 in law—ongoing medical*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling.

Out of Town: Cindy Hicks, the Ross family, Erica & Trent Stevens.

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

Ladies' Bible Class: Meets January 8th at 7pm (*next week*), in Angela Wisdom's home. In preparation, please do *lesson 3* titled, "Responsibilities of Wifehood" from the book, "Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities".

5th Sunday: We will devote more time to singing during the worship service this evening (*Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19*).

Men's Training Class: Will be on 4th Sunday evening(s); monthly; beginning in January, time is at 5pm.

Winter Bible Classes: Tues., Jan 23rd, 7pm, at Larry Wisdom's home. (*Five Lesson Series on Church History*)

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 1/3/18

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

Sunday Evening: 1/7/18

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Larry Hicks
 Lord's Table: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Neil Miller
 Recordings: OPEN
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 1/7/18

Lord's Table: Mike Sadler (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: Trent Stevens
 Jordan Lawson
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Leon Miller
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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

We Are Important

“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet; All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.” (Psalm 8:3-8). In this beautiful Psalm, David extols the smallness of man as well as his position of importance. In comparison with the magnificence of the moon and the stars, which God has ordained, man is prone to wonder that God has ever been mindful of his existence. Furthermore, God has not made him comparable to the angels, but rather made him a little lower than the angels. Yet, He has not forgotten man! He has delegated him to a position of importance in giving him dominion over all the works of His hands. He has put all things under his feet, which includes “All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O lord, our Lord how excellent is thy name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8:7-9). The great problem that man has had from his creation is rightfully recognizing his position before God. Some feel they are nothing, and there is nothing of importance about them. On the other hand, there are others

who feel they are so important that they do not need God or anything of a spiritual nature. “As Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.” (Exodus 5:3). We need to keep the proper balance of importance in life. We will never be “Pharaohs”, but we can be guilty of feeling more importance than is due us. “For I say through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3).

*Though we may abuse our importance, we still are important. This is evident from the fact that: **God created man in His image.***

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:26-27). I have noticed the sign on office walls, which reads similar to this: “I know I am something, because God ain’t made no junk”. You may have seen it worded a little differently, but the thought generally is the same. We have been created or made in the image of God and that makes us quite important. Paul quoted from the Athenian poets when he said of God, “For in him we live, and move, and have our being: as certain also of your

own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.” (Acts 17:28). Being an offspring of God is something which is very important, and we should never forget it. Why has man been created, formed or made? Isaiah deals with the subject! “Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory. I have formed him; yea, I have made him.” (Isaiah 43:7). Man has been created for God’s glory. This is important work which involves the importance of man. “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end, Amen.” (Ephesians 3:21).

*Man’s importance is evident from the fact that: **Christ died for him.***

Christ’s death was extremely important. He died for those who are important. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16). God did not give His Son for someone or something which was of no value. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8). “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” (Hebrews 2:9). “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” (Galatians 1:4). The sins of man did not annul the importance of man, and Christ’s dying for man that his sins might be forgiven.

*Man’s importance is also evident from the fact that: **All men are invited to come.***

The invitation to come to Jesus for salvation is extended to all. The invitation is not segregated! All are important enough to be invited! “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30). “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” (Revelation 22:17).

Be thankful for this importance, and let it help all of us draw nearer to God.

- Bobby K. Thompson

“Love Rejoices in Truth”

Everywhere we turn, there are references made to concept of “true love”. Within the various forms of modern media, we see many people are seeking out their “true love” (as in, a mate). However, what we see in the *real world*, is that life is often much different than the fantasies played out in our favorite movies concerning this “true love”. That is to say... Although we do find happiness and joy within a scriptural marriage, most will attest that life isn’t always the “fairy-tale” we once thought it would be. Do you see that - in the world, there is a difference between perception and reality regarding what constitutes “true love”?

I believe there is also a big difference between perception and reality with regard to true “Bible love” for many people. We indeed are thankful that God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son—so that we may have eternal life. That said, let’s be reminded that the love extended to us isn’t based on some illusion, nor fleeting emotions. This love spoken of by God—rejoices with truth! (1Corinthians 13:6; Cf. John 17:17) Love also exposes error (Matthew 15, 23).

Moreover, we see from God’s word that love corrects...

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1)

“For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.” (Hebrews 12:6)

Let us give heed to the fact that this love does not rejoice in iniquity; and it certainly won’t turn a blind eye to error. Many times, the proper measure of our love is displayed when we can provide correction for those whose soul is in danger (James 5:20; Jude 1:23).

We can all do a better job of learning from the Master in how to EXHIBIT THIS TRUE LOVE. Read. Study. Obey God’s word!

- Ian Rice