

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*ongoing medical*), Margaret Blackburn (*pancreas and hip*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*neck and back*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Audrey Davis (*recovering from recent heart attack*), Linda James (*at home now, had another recent fall*), Paul Lloyd (*ongoing medical*), Keith Marschall (*medical*), Bonnie Meagher (*medical*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, on-going medical*), Martha Smith, Suzette Stevens (*on-going medical*).

Family and friends: Bucky Day's mother, Nell Goodall (*Charles Goodall's aunt*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles & Vernita's son—cancer*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, hospice care, cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*), Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling.

Out of Town: The Ross family.

Group Meeting: Group 1 will meet *next week* after the evening worship service.

Ladies Bible Class: February 12th (*tomorrow*) at Kyoko Williams' home. In preparation, please do lesson number 4 titled "*Blessings of Motherhood*" in the book provided for the class (Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities, by Irene S. Foy).

Men's Training Class: The 4th Sunday of each month (*next one: February 26th, 5pm*).

Winter Bible Classes: Next class will be Tues., Feb. 20th (*next week*), 7pm, at the Rice's home. (*Five Lesson Series on Church History*)

Gospel Meeting: The Cortez Church of Christ will hold a meeting Feb. 22nd-25th with various speakers. Please see bulletin board in the foyer for details.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 2/14/18

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Invitation: Ronnie Henderson
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Bob Marschall
 Recordings: Kirk Marschall
 Usher: Mike Sadler

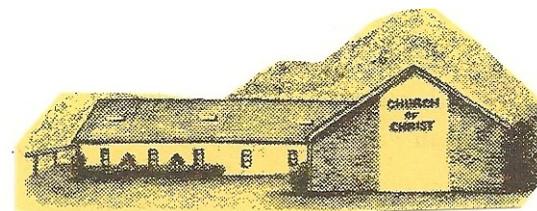
Sunday Evening: 2/18/18

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Lord's Table: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Larry Wisdom
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 2/18/18

Lord's Table: Clay Sadler (B)
 Mike Sadler (C)
 Serving: Tim Payne
 Trent Stevens
 Song Leader: Bob Marschall

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Recordings: Kirk Marschall
 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

“Are You a Legalist?”

The term “legalist” is used quite often in religion, and always in a negative sense. If someone calls you a legalist, they are not giving you a compliment.



The term is not used in scripture, so we must go to secular sources to define it. Dictionary.com does so:

1. strict adherence, or the principle of strict adherence, to law or prescription, especially to the letter rather than the spirit.
2. *Theology*
 - 1) the doctrine that salvation is gained through good works.
 - 2) The judging of conduct in terms of adherence to precise laws.

Looking at the definition above, it would be inappropriate for Christians to ascribe to any of the definitions, save perhaps the last. Let me explain.

Definition 1: Does God call for a strict adherence to the letter of the law? He most certainly does! Disobedience to the laws of God is always condemned. God requires obedience! *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”* (Romans 6:16).

However, the last phrase in that definition, “especially to the letter rather than the spirit”, sets up a false dichotomy regarding God’s will for man. God’s law is perfect (cf. Psalm 19:7), and so it is not necessary to separate letter and spirit when it comes to obedience. In fact, God requires we keep the letter of the law, and that we keep the spirit of the law as well. No one can rightly claim to be acceptable to God without keeping the “spirit” of the law. If that is the definition of a legalist, then a true Christian can’t be one. However, no one can please God when disregarding the letter of the law. The claim that one can disobey the “letter”, and remain true to the “spirit” is disingenuous.

Definition 2, Part 1: This is the theological definition. No true Christian believes we are saved by good works. The concept is absurd. As we acknowledge the destructive nature of sin, we are compelled to acknowledge we can be saved only by grace through faith (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9) as *“it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”*

The only question is, to whom does God extend His saving grace? The common view is that we are saved at the point of faith. However, this disregards the gospel requirements of repentance (Acts 2:38); confession (Romans 10:10); and baptism (Mark 16:16). No one can earn their salvation by good works. But, God bestows His gift only upon those who meet His requisites.

Definition 2, Part 2: Is judging conducted in terms of the adherence to precise laws? Well, since God is ultimately the judge, perhaps we should defer to His words. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:10, *“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.”* In 2 Thessalonians 1:8 he notes that those who *“do not obey”* the Lord will perish in flaming fire.

Again, a false dichotomy has been established by the definition under consideration. To accept the necessity of obedience does not mean that one believes he is saved by works. Two truths that must be accepted:

1. We are saved by the grace of God.
 2. To be saved by the grace of God, we are required by Him to obey His gospel.
- As the term “legalist” is defined, it has no scriptural analog.

- By Stan Cox

“What to Do About the Lost?”

While reading/studying Luke 15, we’re often in the habit of separating the parables that Jesus told. This is not a bad thing to do, as there are many valuable lessons to glean from all three of those parables. You may be familiar with the “Parable of the Lost Sheep” (Luke 15:4-7). You might also be acquainted with the “Parable of the Lost Coin” (Luke 15:8-10) and the “Parable of the Prodigal Son” (Luke 11-32). These certainly are parables that provide valuable lessons within themselves, but they all share a common thread.

Through the telling of the parable concerning the lost sheep, Jesus concludes with the statement, *“I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”* (Luke 15:7) With the lost coin, Jesus proclaims, *“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”* (Luke 15:10) With the lost son, Jesus says that the father spoke, *“It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.”* (Luke 15:32) All of these parables were delivered in response to the Pharisees and scribes, who complained that Jesus *“receives sinners and eats with them.”* (Luke 15:2) Surely, all these parables, even though there are different elements to each, are tied together by one common thread - God’s concern for those who are spiritually lost!

Other important elements are presented here that we should be mindful of, as we strive to manifest concern for the lost. With the parable of both the lost sheep and the lost coin, diligent **efforts** were **made to seek** after that which was lost! Jesus said, *“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”* (Verse 4). He also stated, *“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?”* (Verse 8). That said, with the lost son, the father didn’t go seeking after the son! Instead, the parable details the son’s wasteful living, his realization within himself of his own wrongdoings, and culminates with his change of attitude after coming to his senses. In that parable, although the father did not actively seek after the lost son, his **love** was certainly **conveyed upon his return!**

We should all be deeply concerned for those who are lost, spiritually! That is the lesson in which Jesus expressed. We also glean from this text that we should strive with all our might to reach out to *all the lost!* Yet, there may ultimately come times where the onus of responsibility falls on the one who must “come to their senses”. After all efforts of reconciliation are exhausted on our part, we must sometimes prayerfully wait for *their* response. God the Father is eagerly awaiting those who willfully turn to Him... won’t **you** heed His Word?

- Ian Rice