

**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, recovering well*), Paul Lloyd (*at home, receiving home health care*), Bonnie Meagher (*medical*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, on-going medical*), Suzette Stevens (*on-going medical*).

*Family and friends:* Nell Goodall (*Charles Goodall's aunt*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles & Vernita's son—cancer*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Linda McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, hospice care, cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*), Daniel Sammons (*recent car accident*), Griffin Turner (*recent surgery to jaw for abscess*), Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling.

**Out of Town:** Paula Sullivan.

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

**First Wednesday Night:** Singing will be this Wednesday (*Feb. 7th*).

**Ladies Bible Class:** February 12th (*next week*) 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 *Feb. 20th, 7pm*, at the Rice's home. (*Five Lesson Series on Church History*)

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 2/7/18**

Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Invitation: Colby Sadler  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Mike Sadler  
 Recordings: Kirk Marschall  
 Usher: Leon Miller

**Sunday Evening: 2/11/18**

Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Bob Marschall  
 Lord's Table: Larry Hicks  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Recordings: Trent Stevens  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 2/11/18**

Lord's Table: Larry Hicks (B)  
 Bucky Day (C)  
 Serving: Tim Payne  
 Ed Lawson  
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Nick Ross  
 Recordings: Keith Marschall  
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**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

***"You Can Tell!"***

Television has changed things. It used to be that you could recognize a person from the South by his dragging enunciation, or a person from the North by his clipped inflections. Television has made it so that we mostly sound alike. It is true, however, that we recognize people and their character because of what we see or observe about them. All persons have distinguishing characteristics. Some people are easily recognized by their voice, some by the way they dress, by their use of the language, by their physical characteristics. You can tell quite a lot about a person just by observation.

You can tell a lot about a man's religion by some of the things you observe when he's around. If he's truly a Christian, there will be signs of that fact in almost every area of his life. His every activity will be an under-lining of his faith, a manifestation of his devotion to God, a sure indication of his determination to let the light of his faith shine, no matter where he is. Fact is, it's easy to spot a Christian:

**By his language.** There is at once a noticeable difference between the language of a Christian and that of the worldly-minded person. The real Christian knows it to be sinful to take the name of the Lord in vain. He is not inclined to use terms and phrases intended to provoke toward lust or licentiousness. He knows that a person who professes to be a Christian and uses

filthy language is showing the world that his religion really doesn't mean very much to him. It should be obvious to all concerned how foolish it is to "...bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God." And just how hypocritical it is when "out of the same mouth proceeds blessing and cursing." It is certainly so that "brethren, these things ought not to be." The true child of God will watch his language and "speak as the oracles of God" (See James 3:9-10; I Peter 4:11).

**By his professions.** The true Christian is in no way ashamed of His Lord nor of the gospel he follows. When asked about the course he follows and the hope he professes, he is always "ready to give an answer..." (I Peter 3:15), for he has sanctified Christ as Lord in his heart. When he is asked by someone why the church of Christ does what it does or teaches what it teaches, he is quick to point out that "the way of man is not in himself," that he is to "seek the old paths." He will defend the gospel, but with loving concern for the inquisitor. He will tell the whole truth and will in no way water down the message of the risen Savior. All this he does, considering himself, "let ye also be tempted," and remembering all the while that "love covers a multitude of sins" (See Jeremiah 6:16; 10:23; Galatians 6:1).

**By the way he lives.** The Christian's interests differ from those of his companions in the world. You won't find him continually parked in front of the computer screen, the iPhone or his television set day after day, night after night. He may be visiting the sick or teaching a class or helping someone in some other way. Now

that is not to say all these things are considered by him to be wrong or sinful; it merely says he uses them in moderation. Facebook does not take the place of facing up to his responsibilities as a child of God. He is more interested in others than I-considerations. He is more interested in eternal life than e-mails. Bible study is part of who and what he is, for he knows his study is necessary to "be approved of God." The good Christian attends funerals, helps elderly people with their needs, you may even see a tear in his eye when the little people sing Jesus Loves Me. This person will pay his bills, do his part even when it's inconvenient, stop at stop signs, obey the rules of the game, love his wife, teach his children, and "forsake not" the assemblies of the saints. He knows he's not perfect, but he will make periodic self-examinations in order that he might become better tomorrow than he was today. (See Galatians 6:1-10).

**By where he's headed.** He realizes full well that it's not what's here than is his goal, but what is there. He is constantly seeking "those things which are above," is working to present his body a living sacrifice while here, but is all the while realizing that his "citizenship is in heaven," from whence will come the Savior to change his "vile body, that it might be fashioned according to His glorious body..." (See Colossians 3:1-3; Philippians 3:20-21).

Yes, you can spot him. He's like a city set on a hill, or a light on a stand. And you can tell—he is headed somewhere, and it ain't here.

- By Dee Bowman

## ***"God Hates Divorce"***

"I'm getting a divorce, but I don't plan to marry again" These words are being heard with increasing frequency. Usually the spokesman is thinking that God allows the right to divorce, but would disapprove remarriage. The truth is, however; divorce itself is sinful unless it is for the cause of fornication.

Consider Matthew 19: 3-6. The question originally asked Jesus by the Pharisees was not concerning remarriage, but concerning divorce: "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Jesus' reply to that question: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." It was only after further questioning that Jesus discussed the problem of remarriage and adultery.

Consider Malachi 2:16. "For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away." Even under the old covenant God did not approve of indiscriminate divorce. It is likely that the "tears" of verse 12 that "covered the altar" and caused the Lord to refuse their offering, were the tears of those who had been wrongfully put away. Consider Matthew 5:32. "Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery." Observe the words, "causeth her" or "maketh her" (ASV). This writer understands this verse to say that if one divorces his wife he places her in a position of temptation to commit adultery, and shares the guilt when she does commit adultery. On the other hand, if he puts her away for the cause of fornication, he has put her away legitimately and shares no guilt in whatever adultery she may subsequently commit.

Consider I Corinthians 7:16: "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband." Observe the word "command" or "charge" (ASV). The following verse (verse 11) does not negate or nullify this command, but simply recognizes that one might disobey the Lord's command (in which case he sins — 1 John 3:4), and states his options if he has disobeyed. Not only does the Lord command husband and wife to live together but also he commands them to meet one another's physical needs (I Corinthians 7:3-5) and to love one another (Ephesians 5:25).

If one companion in a marriage fails along these lines, the other must still be obedient to God, seeking to be what He would have him or her to be in the marriage relationship. Never should the thought of divorce or separation ever enter the mind unless fornication occurs. We are not suggesting that divorce itself is "adultery," but we are saying that divorce for any cause other than fornication is sin. Christians must not be influenced by the loose standards that prevail in the world in which they live.

Titus 2: 4-5, "Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God."

- By Bill Hall