

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson (*ongoing medical*), Margaret Blackburn (*pancreas and hip*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Mary Henderson (*recovering from a mini-stroke*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Paul Lloyd (*medical*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*).

*Family and friends:* Geraldean Day (*Bucky Day's mother*), Nell Goodall (*Charles Goodall's aunt*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Derrick, Marissa, & Charlie Palmer (*the Goodall's Grandson, wife, and their newborn; Charlie had surgery last week for a rare heart condition*), Jeff Sprott (*Leon & Ruth's son-in-law*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*), Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling.

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

**Children's Review:** March 18th (*tonight*) immediately following evening worship.

**Winter Bible Classes:** Tues. Mar. 20th (*This Tuesday, 7pm*) at Larry Wisdom's home. (*Lesson 3 of 5 on Church History*)

**Note:** Jordan Lawson will preach every 3rd Sunday evening of the month, beginning tonight.

**Men's Training Class:** 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Next week, March 25th*).

**4th Sunday:** Next week is the 4th Sunday of the month, and Sherman Johnson is scheduled to preach during the PM worship service.

**Gospel Meeting:** Our spring meeting with Justin Lewis begins two weeks from today! Please make plans to attend (*April 1st-4th*).

**Ladies Bible Class:** April 9th at Kaitlyn Sadler's home. In preparation, please do lesson number 6 titled "*Responsibilities of Motherhood; Cont.*" in the book provided for the class (Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities, by Irene S. Foy).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 3/21/18**

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

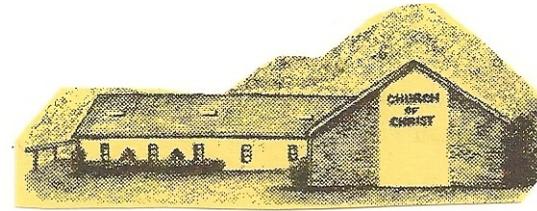
**Sunday Evening: 3/25/18**

Song Leader: Nick Ross  
Opening Prayer: Colby Sadler  
Lord's Table: Bucky Day  
Announcements: Bob Marschall  
Closing Prayer: David Williams  
Recordings: Trent Stevens  
Usher: Gus Johnson

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**Sunday Morning: 3/25/18**

Lord's Table: Bucky Day (B)  
Colby Sadler (C)  
Serving: Ed Lawson  
Norm Blackburn  
Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Larry Hicks  
Announcements: Bob Marschall  
Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall  
Recordings: Clay Sadler  
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

***"The Tragedy of a Lost Soul"***

One of the striking things about the teachings of Jesus is the way He gets to the heart of every issue. There is no better illustration than the following: "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (**Matt. 16:26**). According to the context, Jesus is talking about the value of the soul of a person, not his physical body. In reality, man is a soul. In the beginning, God said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to our likeness...And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (a living soul, KJV)" (**Gen.1:26; 2:7**). The questions Jesus raised in **Matthew 16:26** have some sobering implications:

**1. Humans possess an eternal, immortal nature.** Mankind has a physical body and a soul or spirit. When a man dies, the spirit leaves the body (**Jas. 2:26**). Observe that James said "the body without the spirit is dead," not the spirit without the body is dead. The word of God teaches us that "the spirit will return to God who gave it" (**Eccl. 12:7**). Jesus speaks of "both soul and body" in **Matthew 10:28**. Such false

philosophies as atheism, humanism, and evolution deny this truth---that man has a soul or spirit. This makes man merely a physical creature with no more soul or spirit than a rock.

**2. The soul is our most priceless possession.** It is worth more than all material things combined. It is of divine origin (**Eccl. 12:7; Heb. 12:9**), eternal in duration (**Matt. 25:46; Mk. 9:43-46**), and can transcend earthly relationships (**Jn. 4:24**). Concerning the soul, the Apostle Peter stated: "...you were not redeemed with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...having been born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever" (**1 Pet. 1:18-23**).

**3. The soul can be sold or exchanged.** Some people exchange their souls for pleasure (**2 Tim. 3:4**). Others sell out for popularity, loving the approval of men more than the praise of God (**Jn.12:43**). Many exchange their souls for the love of the world (**1 Jn. 2:15-17**). Then there are those who trade their souls for error and the false philosophies of men (**Col. 2:8**). Others trade their souls for material prosperity (**Lk. 12:16-21**).

**4. Whatever the exchange, it is foolish and costly.** The world and all that is in it can never satisfy the deep, vital need of the soul in order to be at peace with God. This world and all its material contents will ultimately be destroyed by fire (**2 Pet. 3:10**). At death we must leave everything behind. The Apostle Paul stated: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (**1 Tim. 6:7**).

**5. There is no loss as tragic as that of the soul.** The loss of health, of a child, of one's family, of one's life in attempting to gain the "whole world" would be tragic enough, but they are not comparable to the losing of one's soul. The damnation of the soul is a multiple loss: the beauties of heaven are forfeited and the agonies of hell must be endured forever. A lost soul in hell is everlastingly abandoned "from the presence of the Lord" (**2 Thess. 1:9**); there is no help or hope for such a horrible condition. A soul in hell is lost for all eternity!

What could possibly be more important to us than to obey "the gospel of Christ...the power of God to salvation" (**Rom. 1:16**) and do whatever the Lord commands and teaches in the New Testament for our soul's eternal salvation. Jesus, while on earth, stated: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (**Lk. 19:10**).

- By R. J. Evans

## *'Traditional', 'Contemporary', or Scriptural?'*

A nearby denomination advertises that it has two worship services each Sunday morning. One is "traditional" and the other is called "contemporary." While we have not visited either one, we suspect that these distinctions indicate that the first follows the routine patterns that have been observed in that denomination for many years. The "contemporary" service, on the other hand, likely breaks those long-standing practices and seeks to attract a younger, more religiously 'liberated' crowd.

The whole notion of choice in this matter of worship is what deserves our attention. Choice is good, even preferable in many realms. We would be upset if we had no freedom to choose houses, cars, clothes, food, etc. In these areas we have a preference, and we act upon it. We allow that others may choose differently, and that is okay. "To each his own," we say.

But, men have mistakenly concluded that we are also free to choose what we like in worship specifically, and in religion generally. The "church of your choice" was a popular slogan many years ago. We don't hear that phrase much anymore, but we

certainly see that the concept has taken root. The denominations are full of people who have sought and found what appeals to them. What God wants — what He has commanded and authorized — seems to be of little concern.

Jesus taught that "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). This important verse emphasizes two key aspects of acceptable worship. It must be "in spirit" — indicating that the Father expects a sincere, heart-felt service. Without it, He is not pleased (Matthew 15:8). But our worship must also be "in truth," that is, in accordance with the commands of the Scripture. Those who do not submit to the authority of God's law will not be saved (Matthew 7:21-23).

"Traditional" or "contemporary" is the choice offered by men, but the only right choice is to serve God according to the truth of Scriptures. Anything else is an eternal mistake. Think!

- Greg Gwin