

**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 possible stroke*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Paul Lloyd (*medical*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), the Payne family (*battling the flu*), the Rice family (*also battling the flu*).

*Family and friends:* Geraldean Day (*Bucky Day's mother*), Diane Fields (*Keri Rice's mother had surgery last week, to close a hole in her heart*), Nell Goodall (*Charles Goodall's aunt*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Derrick & Marissa Palmer and family (*the Goodall's Great-Grandson, Charlie, passed away Thursday night*), 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.

**Out of Town:** Audrey Davis and Paula Sullivan.

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

**Winter Bible Classes:** Tues., April 23rd at Larry Wisdom's home. (*Lesson 4 of 5 on Church History*)

**Men's Training Class:** 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (**TODAY**).

**Preaching Schedule Change:** Today is the 4th Sunday of the month, and Ronnie Henderson is scheduled to preach during the PM worship service.

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

**Ladies Bible Class:** April 9th at Kaitlyn Sadler's home (at 7PM). 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: 3/28/18**

Song Leader: Keith Marschall  
Opening Prayer: Bob Marschall  
Invitation: Clay Sadler  
Announcements: Larry Wisdom  
Closing Prayer: Bucky Day  
Recordings: Clay Sadler  
Usher: Leon Miller

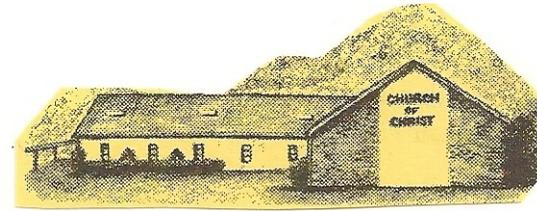
**Sunday Evening: 4/1/18**

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom  
Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens  
Lord's Table: Mike Sadler  
Announcements: Leon Miller  
Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
Recordings: Clay Sadler  
Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 4/1/18**

Lord's Table: Ronnie Henderson (B)  
Clay Sadler (C)  
Serving: Jordan Lawson  
Jim Abram  
Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot  
Announcements: Leon Miller  
Closing Prayer: David Williams  
Recordings: Trent Stevens  
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

***"A Few Thoughts on Easter"***

There are some things I like about the modern Easter celebrations. Ham, boiled eggs, and the chocolate peanut butter eggs you can get for half-price the next day certainly make the list. And seeing the young ones dressed up in their spring finery is always a delight. I could add a few more things to the list, but, while I don't want to seem like a curmudgeon, there are also some things about Easter I don't like.

First and foremost, if we are committed to doing the will of the Father (Matt. 7:21-23), abiding in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 1:9), doing all in the name of the Lord (Col. 3:17), etc., how can we participate in the religious aspects of a "holy day" never found in Scripture? From the beginning of Christ's church in Acts 2 to the New Testament's conclusion in Rev. 22, we never read about Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Easter. We do read about the death of Christ being remembered when Christians gathered on the first day of each week for worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-26; 16:1-2), but these annual holy days celebrated today are derived from human reasoning and are simply religious traditions passed down from generation to generation.

To be opposed to a practice because it lacks any biblical authorization will strike some as legalistic Pharisaism and no more than the complaints of one who majors in minors, but as much as I would like to go along with my friends in celebrating these special

days, I am held back by the following events and teachings of Scriptures.

When Cain failed to offer the sacrifice mandated by God, his offering was rejected. Gen. 4:2-5; Heb. 11:4

Nadab and Abihu were killed by fire from the Lord when they offered that which He had not commanded. Lev. 10:1-3

Jesus cautioned against “teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.” Matt. 15:6-9

We are repeatedly warned against adding to or taking away from God’s word. Deut. 4:1-2; 12:32; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 John 1:9; Rev. 22:18-19

We could look at some other warnings, but these should be enough. I don’t oppose man-made religious holy days because I don’t like them or the people observing them, but I oppose them precisely because they are man-made and not found in the all-sufficient Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

In the beginning of the article I indicated I had multiple issues with Easter, so what are the others? The lack of any New Testament mention is the most important, but I’m also concerned that some put so much emphasis on this one day that they fail to see the importance of year-round service to God. Some who identify themselves as Christians will “go to church” on Easter, but the Lord’s kingdom and righteousness should be first (Matt. 6:33) throughout the year. And Heb. 10:24-25 with its admonition not to forsake the assembling together was not telling us it’s okay to be sporadic in

our attendance as long as we make sure we don’t miss Easter Sunday.

And I’ll close with one I cannot be sure of, but have concerns about. Even with some who don’t make the first two mistakes, I fear there are times when Easter Sunday becomes more about the new clothes than the crucified Lord whom we remember every Sunday. I can’t read or know the hearts of people, so I may be wrong on this one, but have your children ever come in their new Easter outfits without their lessons prepared? Ever been so busy curling hair or shining shoes that you lost focus on the fact that it was the Lord’s Day? As I said in the beginning, I like to see the little ones in their new outfits, but let’s make certain we don’t confuse Bible class and worship with a fashion show. If you see Easter as only a holiday for food and finery (as I do) and not an unauthorized holy day, make certain this day of candy and clothes does not negatively impact the divine purpose for our gathering.

“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.” 2 John 1:9

*All quotes from the New King James Version, copyright 1995, Thomas Nelson Publishing, Inc.*

- John R. Gibson

## “Correct Me, O Lord”

I know, O LORD, that a man’s way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps” (Jer 10:23).

We are simply not capable of navigating our own way through life. God is the potter, we are the clay, and we desperately need Him to mold us (Jer 18:1-6). Trying to take control of our own lives has just ruined the original beauty that God had envisioned for us. “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...” (Is 53:6). God had a safe path plotted out for us, but we refused to listen to His guidance. We have rejected the narrow way for an easier road of our own devising. With the world cheering us on all around, we rush headlong toward destruction (Matt 7:13-14).

Yet, trusting our own instincts we are often blissfully unaware of the danger we are in. “There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death!” (Prov 14:12). We convince ourselves that we have it all under control. Stop and ask for directions? Never! In our certainty we forget the warning of Jeremiah. “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer 17:9). Is it possible that our heart is deceiving us? Is it possible that we are mistaken? Maybe we don’t have it all figured out and under control. Maybe we need help.

Recognizing we cannot direct our own steps, we must cry out with the prayer of Jere-

miah: “Correct me, O LORD, but with justice; not with Your anger, or You will bring me to nothing” (Jer 10:24). Yes, we need correction. We need God to show us where we are deceiving ourselves. With His help we can stop covering up and minimizing our faults. We can rather expose and address them.

This process is not quick and painless. It is very difficult to see ourselves the way God sees us and constantly grapple with our insufficiencies. Yet, this struggle is exactly what we should expect traveling along the narrow way. And we can find comfort in God’s grace. He does not correct us in anger, but in love. He is always there to pick us up when we fall and strengthen us to press on to higher ground. Though we continually fall short of His perfect character, He has made a way for us to bridge the gap through Jesus (Rom 3:23-24).

The important thing is that we never harden our heart to His correction. It’s when we are most at ease in our faith that we are most at danger (1 Cor 10:13). We must allow God’s word to function as a mirror, showing us what corrections need to be made (James 1:23-25). We must allow it to function as a scalpel, opening up the innermost thoughts of our hearts (Heb 4:12). Like Jeremiah, we must pray for and welcome God’s correction at all times, because there is no doubt we need it.

-Grady Huggins