

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*ongoing medical*), Margaret Blackburn (*pancreas and hip*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Paul Lloyd (*heart complications*), Becca Marschall (*sick*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), the Payne family (*sickness*), the Rice family (*sickness*), Macie Sadler (*sickness*), Caleb Sheffield (*sick*), Arlena Turner (*sick*), Larry Wisdom and his extended family (*his nephew passed away last week*).

Family and friends: Geraldean Day (*Bucky Day's mother*), Nell Goodall (*Charles Goodall's aunt*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Derrick & Marissa Palmer (*recent passing of their son, Charlie*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*), Ardis Tucker (*pneumonia*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling.

Out of Town: Audrey Davis, Day family, the Goodalls, Paula Sullivan.

Group Meeting: Group 2 will meet tonight 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 (*April 22nd*).

Gospel Meeting: Our spring meeting with Justin Lewis begins today! Let's be an encouragement to Justin, and continue to invite others to attend (*April 1st-4th*).

Ladies Bible Class: April 9th (*next week*) 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: 4/4/18

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Invitation: Justin Lewis
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Larry Hicks

Sunday Evening: 4/8/18

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Trent Stevens
 Lord's Table: Larry Hicks
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Neil Miller
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 4/8/18

Lord's Table: Larry Hicks (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: Trent Stevens
 Jim Abram
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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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

"Do You Feel Saved?"

Are you saved? How do you know you are saved? "I know I am saved because I feel it in my heart," many often say. But are the feelings of your heart the proper standard to determine your salvation? We do not use this standard in other matters. No one says of his bank statement, "I know it is right because I feel it in my heart," while they ignore to properly add and subtract from their balance. No carpenter says, "I know the board is 10 feet long because I feel it in my heart" — he checks the board with the proper standard, the measuring tape! But, when it comes to a matter far more important than bank balances and board lengths — salvation — many are willing to trust their eternal welfare to their feelings.

Can you trust the feelings of your heart to tell you whether you are saved? The Bible says "No!" "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool" (Prov. 28:26), for "the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23). "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). Feelings are subjective; they change from person to person and

even within the same person. Truth is objective; it remains fixed and does not change, regardless of the person or the year.

The way you feel about salvation does not change God's truth concerning it, just as the way you feel about math, does not change the truth of it. Whether or not you are saved is an objective fact, not subject to the whims of how you feel from moment to moment. So how can they know they are saved? The Scripture says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding" (Prov. 3:5).

You do not have to rely upon your own faulty and deceptive feelings concerning your salvation. The Lord has given "the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation" (2 Tim. 3:15). The knowledge and confidence of salvation can only come from the objective standard of God's Word. God will judge you by His Word, not by how you feel. Jesus proclaimed, "the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). What is your salvation based upon? Many people feel in their heart they are saved because they have "simply believed" in Jesus. While salvation certainly requires faith in Jesus, faith alone does not and cannot save according to God's Word. James wrote, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24). Other people have prayed and "asked Jesus

to come into their heart" and now they feel they are saved. But nowhere does the Bible teach one must simply pray to Jesus in order to be saved. God's Word teaches to be saved you must: hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17); believe Jesus is the Son of God (Mk. 16:16); repent of your sins (Acts 2:38); confess Jesus (Rom. 10:9; Acts 8:36-38) and be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16). Those who obey God's Word do not have to guess whether they are saved based upon the feelings of their heart. They know they are saved because their salvation is based on the unchanging Truth of God's Word.

- Wayne Greeson

"...As Together, We Stand and Sing!"

"Perhaps there is someone present who has not yet become a Christian..." It's time to put away your Bible. The preacher has just asked you to get the song book out of the rack in front of you, and now he's droning on about... something. But you've heard it so many times now, that you've lost count. You're simply waiting for the next cue. "... As together, we stand and sing!" There it is! Now you can *finally* stretch your legs (unless you just got back from your regular trip to the back—to break up the time).

Now you can start thinking about what you'll have for lunch!!

Sadly, that is how many have come to experience the close of a sermon. The invitation is no more than an old-fashioned, tired ending to the message. It's kind of like when we say "In Jesus' name we pray, amen" at the end of a prayer (Wait a minute... that means something, too!). Jesus warned against vain repetition (Matthew 6:7). However, that very thing seems to have found its way into our prayers, as well as the end of many sermons.

There's nothing wrong with repetition, in and of itself. We do need continual reminders, and it would be dangerous for us to chase a totally new approach to our worship each week. That said, it is not the order and style of our worship that need to be stirred up, it is our hearts.

- "Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to **stir you up by reminding you**" (2 Peter 1:13)
- "Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I **stir up your pure minds by way of reminder**)" (2 Peter 3:1). (*Emphasis mine*)

We must be prodded from time to time... Reminded of why we say and do the things we say and do. In other words, our repetitions must bear genuine significance.

Thus, the invitation is not something we should continue as a mindless ritual. Nor is it something we should turn a blind eye to. In-

stead, we ought to be stirred up to see its purpose and value! We *should* clear our minds of all worldly endeavors and consider the call that is extended to every one of us.

Whether at the end of a Sunday sermon, or the focus of a Wednesday night talk, the invitation is an opportunity for each of us to examine ourselves. This may not require stepping into the aisle and making your way to the front of the building, but that also doesn't mean the invitation is totally irrelevant for you. It's a time for *all* to think soberly upon the direction of our lives, and identify any changes that we need to make, personally.

Now, for some tender soul a response to the invitation may include that "trip to the front". We should consider this before we pick the invitation (or invitation song) as our time for that "trip to the back". Perhaps we need to consider this before we choose to skip/check out on the invitation.

The invitation is no less important than the rest of our assembly. Nor is it some mindless ritual. We include it in our assemblies for an important reason. It is well worth a few more minutes of our attention, and we would each do well to give it the consideration it deserves.

- Ian Rice