

**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 (*has been at LRMC, Rm. 301B*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Arlena Turner (*medical*), Larry Wisdom (*illness*), Rebecca Wisdom (*flu-like symptoms*).

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

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

**Winter Bible Classes:** Tues., April 24rd at Bob Marshall's home. (*Lesson 4 of 5 on Church History*)

**Men's Training Class:** 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Next week, April 22nd*).

**Children's Review:** April 29th immediately after the evening worship service.

**Ladies Bible Class:** May 14th at Cindy Hicks' home (at 7PM). In preparation, please do lesson number 7 titled "*Responsibility to Teach Children*" in the book provided for the class (*Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities*, by Irene S. Foy).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 4/18/18**

Song Leader: Keith Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Invitation: Ronnie Henderson  
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom  
 Closing Prayer: David Williams  
 Recordings: Clay Sadler  
 Usher: Leon Miller

**Sunday Evening: 4/22/18**

Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Mike Sadler  
 Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Neil Miller  
 Recordings: Trent Stevens  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 4/22/18**

Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom (B)  
 Keith Marschall (C)  
 Serving: Ed Lawson  
 Colby Sadler  
 Song Leader: Clay Sadler

Opening Prayer: Larry Hicks  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Earl Branham  
 Recordings: Kirk Marschall  
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336

[www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com](http://www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com)

**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

***“Trust, but Verify”***

Most of my readers probably associate “trust, but verify” with Ronald Regan. He used it in reference to negotiating with the Soviet Union during the Cold war. But, ironically, it was actually an old Russian proverb. Regan got it for one of his advisors with a strong Russian background and used it effectively.

As to its meaning, the best I have read is from a “Nancy C. Walker” in a comment in answer to this question on Quora.com: “What does the proverb ‘trust, but verify’ mean?” She wrote: “Trust but verify means that you believe the person but check the facts anyway. It’s often used when someone is saying something happened. You trust the friend to be telling the truth but you verify the facts before acting on the information.”

It may come as a surprise to some that the principle of trusting but verifying is biblical. Most gospel preachers, from the earliest, have admonished their hearers to “not just take my word for it” but to verify it by searching the scriptures. This is following

the example of the Bereans (cf. Acts 17:11). Four times in the King James New Testament the exact expression, “two or three witnesses” is found:

- **Matthew 18:16** *But if he will not hear [thee, then] take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*
- **2 Corinthians 13:1** *This [is] the third [time] I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.*
- **1 Timothy 5:19** *Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.*
- **Hebrews 10:28** *He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:*

Jesus adhered to this principle: “If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.” (John 5:31) Jesus is not saying that he was not telling the truth about himself, but (according to the well-established principle), His testimony alone was insufficient to *establish* His claim to Messiahship. Anyone could make the claim, but it needed verification. He then proceeds to give his “witness list.” (1) John the Baptizer (vv. 32-35). (2) The works (miracles) the Father gave him to do (v. 36). (3) The word of the Father through Scriptures (vv. 37-39).

Jesus and his apostles each did not ask anyone to accept and pass on their subjective claim of receiving word from God, without verifying it first. They verified their claims with multiple witnesses – the many miracles

which they did along with the Old Testament scriptures.

Jesus invokes the “two or three witnesses” principle in correcting the private sin of one brother against another. If the offended party is unable to correct the offender, by himself, he is told to take one or two witnesses with him in another attempt. This ultimately protects both the offended and offending parties. It protects the offending party from being railroaded before the church by a sole accuser. It protects the correcting party from coming before the church with unsubstantiated charges against a brother: “*Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*” (Matthew 18:15-17)

Paul told Timothy to not receive (accept) an accusation against an elder unless there are two or three witnesses. (1 Tim. 5:19). In view of all else the Bible says about establishing things by two or three witnesses, I would think that this would apply to bringing an accusation against any brother or sister in Christ. Sometimes all it takes to smear a good name is for one person, for whatever reason, to bring an accusation against a brother or sister.

Even otherwise good people are too quick to give credence to, and repeat, damaging information without seeking verification from other witnesses to the alleged incident(s). I suspect that many, if not most, of us, including myself, at one time or the other, have accepted and passed on damaging information received from a single source. It is so easy to do. News media reporters know how easy it is to get burned by a report that they failed to check out before going to press or on the air.

Not only is the principle biblical, it is also prudent. It is always possible that a lone accuser could be mistaken about what he thinks he saw and heard, even honestly so. It could be that the initial reporter was not unbiased. It happens every day. This is why lawyers are allowed to cross examine witnesses in courts. Because humans are involved, it is always a *possibility* that an injustice could be done, even when two of three witnesses are involved, but it is a high *probability* when the testimony of a lone witness is accepted.

- Edward Bragwell

## “Backsliding”

Backsliding is a biblical expression. It was used by Old Testament writers. Jeremiah used the term more than any other writer to describe the condition of Israel.

Backslide means a going back or a turning back. The word is not used in the

New Testament, but the idea is taught in many places that a child of God can so sin as to be eternally lost. A few passages to prove these statements: 2 Pet. 2:20, “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning”; I Cor. 10:12, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”; 2 Pet. 1:10, “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” Seeing we can fall, we need to be interested in doing everything we can to keep from falling.

Here are a few things that will help prevent backsliding:

- Let God say something to us every day through the study of His word.
- Every day say something to God in prayer. Paul said, “pray without ceasing”. James said, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
- Say something and do something for God every day.
- Take heed to our lives daily and meet the requirements for spiritual growth.

- Donald Townsley