

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*on-going medical*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Mary Elliot (*medical*), Charles Goodall (*on-going medical*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Bennie Jones (*rheumatoid arthritis*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Bonnie Meagher (*medical*), Ruth Miller (*sudden hearing loss*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, ongoing medical*), Suzette Stevens (*ongoing medical*).

Family and friends: Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Fritz Marschall (*Bob's mother, had surgery to remove skin cancer last week*), John Marschall (*Bob's father, medical*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, cancer*), Wayne Ryland (*ongoing medical*) Ardis Tucker (*Paula Sullivan's sister-in-law*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Out of Town: Larry and Cindy Hicks; Bob and Kirk Marschall.

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

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

Gospel Meetings: Russ Bowman will be preaching at the University Church of Christ Nov. 4-7; Ian Rice will be preaching at the Seffner Church of Christ Nov. 4-9. See bulletin board in the foyer for details.

Ladies Bible Class: Next class will be November 12 at 7PM (*Please see bulletin board in foyer for more details*). In preparation, please do lesson number 9 on page 37 in the book provided for the class (*Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities, by Irene S. Foy*).

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 10/31/18

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Invitation: Bob Marschall
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Mike Sadler
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Larry Wisdom

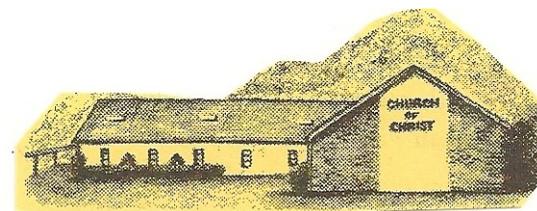
Sunday Evening: 11/4/18

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Leon Miller

Sunday Morning: 11/4/18

Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom (B)
 Ed Lawson (C)
 Serving: Trent Stevens
 Jerry Williams
 Song Leader: Clay Sadler

Opening Prayer: Leon Miller
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Neil Miller
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 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 7:00 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

“Preach Christ and Not a Plan?”

Down through the years since I have been preaching the gospel there have been (and still are) men who advocated that we should preach Christ and not a plan of salvation. They phrase it this way: "Preach the man and not the plan". They seem to think that one cannot preach a plan of obedience to Christ (**Rem. 1:5; Heb. 5:9**) and, at the same time, preach Christ. What they need to understand is that Jesus Christ is revealed to us in the word of God, and that He is inseparably connected with every book of the New Testament. Jesus said, "Whoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my word in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (**Mark 8:38**) You can see from this passage that Christ is inseparably connected with His words. To fully preach Christ one must preach His commands, His promises, His warnings, His church, His supper, His plan of salvation and righteous living (**Acts 8:4-5, 12**). All of this being true, we cannot ignore any part of what He has said without ignoring that much of Christ (**James 2:10**).

The New Testament is filled with expressions that make it clear that a "plan of salvation" is taught therein. The Romans "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine" (**Rom. 6:17**).

In their obedience to that "form (or mold) of doctrine," they were "called of Jesus Christ" (**Rom.1:6**) and "made free from sin" (**Rom. 6:18**).

Paul also told the Romans, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (**Rom. 8:28**). They were called according to God's purpose, scheme or plan. They were called of Jesus Christ (**Rom. 1:6**), called by the gospel (**2 Thess. 2:14**), and called by His (God's) grace (**Gal 1:15**). To be called of Jesus Christ (**Rom. 1:6**), called by the gospel (**2 Thess. 2:14**), and called by God's grace (**Gal. 1:15**) is to obey the plan of salvation, or "that form of doctrine" (**Rom. 6:17**).

The Hebrew writer said in chapter 9, verse 8 that while the old covenant was in effect "the way into the holiest of all was not yet manifest" - in other words, the plan (or scheme) of salvation had not yet been revealed. Then the writer goes on to tell us in chapter 10, verse 20 that now, under the new covenant, there is "a new and living way," which is consecrated by Christ. Christ is "the way" (**John 14:6**), and there cannot be any separation between Christ and His "way" (or his plan of salvation). To reject His plan is to reject Him (**John 12:48; Mark 8:38**).

The plan of salvation that Christ "consecrated" (or, dedicated) for us (**Heb.**

10:20) is simple. One must hear the gospel (**Rom. 10:17**), believe the gospel (**Mark 16:16; Acts 8:37**), repent of past sins (**Acts 2:38; 17:30**), confess faith in Christ (**Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37**), and be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**).

Friend, have you obeyed the gospel? (**2 Thess. 1:8**) If not, won't you do so, and "hold the pattern of sound words"? (**2 Tim. 1:13 A.S.V.**)

~ Donald Townsley

"Good For Evil"

Most Bible students remember the teaching of Jesus that commands his disciples "to turn the other cheek." In the *Sermon on the Mount*, He called to mind the teaching of Moses' law which demanded that Jews as a matter of justice exact an "eye for an eye" and a "tooth for a tooth." He then taught His disciples to the contrary: if a man "smites thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matt 5:39).

This certainly, at first reading, would be viewed by His disciples as a "hard saying"—one that is difficult to accept and practice. And it is. But as the years pass—maybe as a result of age, physical weakness, or a natural tendency to be cowardly—I have found this command to be less demanding. I seldom build up or feel any urge to retaliate and get

even when I feel I have been wronged. Where I do struggle, however, is at the next level to which both Peter and Paul take this instruction of the Lord.

The apostle Paul when he reaches the practical application of the gospel in his epistle to the Romans instructs them to "render to no man evil for evil" and then goes to another level and commands these brethren: "if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink" and "be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom 12:17,20,21). Peter also writes of disciples being "loving," "tenderhearted," "humble minded" and rather than "rendering evil for evil" or "reviling for reviling" to turn away from evil and render a "blessing" to those who persecute and reproach them (1 Pet 3:8-11).

What both apostles tell us reveals what the love of Christ, who died for the ungodly, demands of His disciples. As followers of Jesus who must walk in the footsteps of their master, disciples must act with positive good and loving kindness toward their enemies. With many brethren it would be fine if they could pray for their enemies, as Jesus taught His disciples (Matt 5:44), and then leave them to themselves and their own thoughts and feelings. Few of us would feel a need to harm our enemies or to get even by rendering evil to them.

But are we able to move to the next level? Can we reach out to them with positive acts of kindness to show them the love of our Master and Savior? Gospel preachers, likely more

than others, have had to face brethren who are angry, who want them fired, and who say and do unkind things to advance their agenda of getting rid of the preacher.

Multiple other reasons create faction and bitterness in the lives and hearts of brethren toward one another. Incidents likewise occur in the world of sinners where saints must live and conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. I personally have found little problem overcoming bitterness and petitioning God for them and my relationship with them. But the next level of reaching out with positive and loving acts of kindness to mend and reestablish relationships that might open up opportunities to influence enemies spiritually and bring him to Christ is one that challenges a disciple's maturity in Christ.

Rendering "good" for "evil," brethren, is the ultimate challenge and meaning of love and maturity and perfection in Christ (Matt 5:43-46). If your enemy is naked, clothe him; if he is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. Love, William Barclay writes, is "undefeatable good will" and "unconquerable benevolence"—a devotion to mankind, including enemies, that no evil deed or spiteful act must be allowed to remove from a disciple's heart or life.

~ L. A. Stauffer