

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jo Anderson (*on-going medical*), Earl Branham (*sick*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Linda James, Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Kirk Marschall (*in need of spiritual encouragement*), Ruth Miller (*sudden hearing loss*), Linda McKenzie (*tending to her mother's ailing health*), 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*), John Marschall (*Bob's father*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, cancer*), Cherri Reeves (*The Goodall's daughter; 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:** Paula Sullivan.

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

**Ladies Bible Class:** Next class will be December 10th (*tomorrow*) at 7PM in Audrey Davis' home (*Please see bulletin board in foyer for more details*). In preparation, please do lesson number 10 on page 41 in the book provided for the class (*Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities*, by Irene S. Foy).

**Third Sunday:** Jordan Lawson will be preaching during the PM assembly next week.

**Kids' Review Class:** We will meet again after the PM assembly next week (*Dec. 16th*), Lord willing.

**Men's Training Class:** The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*December 23rd*).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 12/12/18**

Song Leader: Trent Stevens  
 Opening Prayer: David Williams  
 Invitation: Sherman Johnson  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day  
 Recordings: Keith Marschall  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

**Sunday Evening: 12/16/18**

Song Leader: Joe Brown  
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Lord's Table: Trent Stevens  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Recordings: Keith Marschall  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

**Sunday Morning: 12/16/18**

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

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Colby Sadler  
 Recordings: Keith 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 7:00 P.M.

**DEACONS:**

Robert Marschall  
 Michael Sadler  
 Moses Stevens  
 David Williams

**EVANGELIST:**

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***“Why Must Men Be Baptized?”***

Most religious groups who associate themselves with Christianity practice some form of baptism. But there are many reasons why they accept this ancient, first-century practice of John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles. To some it is an act of christening infants and other babies to dedicate them to the Lord. To others it is merely an initiation rite for Christians who want to join a particular denomination. And others would say they do it simply because God commanded it in the Bible. All of this misses the essential point of baptism as taught by Jesus and the apostles.

First of all, baptism is not for infants or babies; it is required only of those who have been *taught* the gospel, who *believe* that Jesus is God's Son, who *repent* in repudiation and rejection of the practice of sin, and who confess that Jesus is Lord (see Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; John 20:30-31; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10). Secondly, baptism was never designed for someone who is already a Christians that he might join a local body of disciples. Finally, as important as it is to obey God, baptism had a far more specific purpose than merely doing what God commanded.

*Baptism is necessary to be saved from sin.* From the very beginning of baptism, practiced by John the Baptist, men and women were told to be baptized “unto the remission of sins” (Mark 1:4). Jesus commissioned the apostles to preach the gospel to every creature: “He that believeth, and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:15-16). When the apostles, particularly Peter, began preaching the gospel at Jerusalem they told their hearers: Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ “unto the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Bear in mind that this is the same reason Jesus poured out his blood on the cross (Matt 26:28). If Jesus’ death was necessary to take away sins, so is baptism.

*Baptism is necessary to reach the blood of Christ.* The scriptures tell us two other things about the purpose of baptism: One, it is necessary to get into and put on Christ and, two, it is the means by which one reaches the death of Christ, where his blood was shed. Paul said: “For ye are all the sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27). The same apostle also said: “Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ were bap-

tized into his death” (Romans 6:3). If a sinner can be saved without baptism, he is saved outside of Christ and without the benefit of the blood of Christ – the blood poured out on the cross.

*Baptism is not a work that seeks to earn salvation.* Paul contrasts the “washing of regeneration” with “works of righteousness” designed to merit salvation (Titus 3:5). Works of righteousness that earn salvation refers to perfect obedience (see Rom 4:1-4; Gal 3:10-11), but baptism is the “obedience of faith” that appeals to God through the death and resurrection of Christ for a good conscience (see Romans 1:5; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21-22; Hebrews 9:14). Baptism is the washing away of sins by calling on the name of the Lord for salvation (Acts 22:16), not a work of law that seeks salvation by perfection. Sinners, as Saul of Tarsus, called on the name of the Lord by repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:21, 37-38; Acts 22:16). This all sinners must do, even today.

~ L. A. Stauffer

### ***“The Water Turned to Wine”***

*On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.*

*2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” 4 Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.” 5 His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” 6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, “Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.” And they took it. 9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!” 11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. 12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.*

~ John 2:1-12 (NKJV)

Inevitably, it comes up in just about any Bible class, the thought about whether the wine Jesus miraculously made was fermented or not. Can we be definitive on how to answer such queries? Consider just a few thoughts on the subject, and think for yourself on these things.

~ The Greek word for wine, “oinos,” refers to grape juice, ranging from fresh grape juice to a highly fermented substance...

~ The people of the land could only enjoy fresh grape juice during the harvest, so the privilege of fresh grape juice was a real treat (perhaps the “good” quality to which the master of banquet referred!)

~ If Jesus were going to display His powers with an INDISPUTABLE miracle, what better way to produce fresh grape juice at a time when such was ABSOLUTELY unobtainable?? (It was not long before Passover, early spring - Jn. 2:13)

~ Finally, Jesus would NEVER do anything to encourage drunkenness (Gal. 5:21), NOR would He even present a stumbling block for such to occur (Mt. 18:6).

~ Ian Rice