

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*on-going medical*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Linda James (*surgery on Feb. 21st*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), the Marschall family (*exhorting Kirk to faithfulness*), Kirk Marschall (*in need of spiritual encouragement*), Ahreah Miller, Ruth Miller (*sudden hearing loss*), Linda McKenzie (*tending to her mother's ailing health*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*back, ongoing medical*), Caleb Sheffield (*sick*), Suzette Stevens (*ongoing medical*), Arlene Turner (*recent death of her brother-in-law*).

Family and friends: Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), John Marschall (*Bob's father*), Lindy McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, cancer*), Ardis Tucker (*Paula Sullivan's sister-in-law*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Out of Town: The Day family, Keri Rice and girls.

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

Ladies Bible Class: Next class will be January 14th (*next week*) at 7PM in Angela Wisdom's home (*Please see bulletin board in foyer for more details*). In preparation, please do lesson number 11 on page 45 in the book provided for the class (*Woman, Her Blessings and Responsibilities, by Irene S. Foy*).

Men's Training Class: The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Jan. 27th*).

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 1/9/19

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Invitation: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Recordings: Colby Sadler
 Usher: Leon Miller

Sunday Evening: 1/13/19

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Steve Parker
 Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Ryan Boyett
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 1/13/19

Lord's Table: Larry Wisdom (B)
 Jeff Lanning (C)
 Serving: Trent Stevens
 Ed Lawson
 Song Leader: Keith Marschall

Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Earl Branham
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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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

“Unequally Yoked”

Jehovah, in His covenant with Israel, strictly ordered them to avoid joining, blending, and mixing things that are different (see Lev 19:19; Deut. 22:9-11). God forbade yoking an ox with a donkey, weaving flax and wool into the same cloth, and sowing two kinds of seed in the same field. We may not know fully why God issued these laws, but most agree that, in part, it illustrated the need to keep the nation holy—separate from heathens and their unholy practices.

The apostle Paul may allude to this ordinance when writing to brethren who had been known for their unholy alliances with idolatry and immoral practices. To the church at Corinth in his second letter, the apostle wrote: *“Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers.”* (2 Cor 6:14).

Paul clarifies his thought with a series of questions: *“For what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? Or what communion has light and darkness? And what concord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has a temple of God with idols?”*(2 Cor 6:14-16). Christians, Paul is saying, are to separate themselves from the world of sin and touch no unclean thing (2 Cor 6:17).

The expression “*unequally yoked*” is one word in the Greek language and combines the words “different” and “yoke.” Its precise meaning denotes the tying or binding together of dissimilar things. This occurs when righteousness participates with iniquity, light shares things in common with darkness, and believers engage in the lifestyle of unbelievers. An unequal yoke results when Christians compromise with sin and partake in evil deeds.

Business. This occurs when Christians become partners with non-Christians in business and operate with them on dishonest principles. The “yoke” is not unequal and the partnership is not wrong unless the bond ties the believer to an unclean practice of the unbeliever.

Marriage. Unequal yokes develop in marriages when believers bound to unbelievers join their mates in unrighteous behavior. The Christian may sign a deceitful income tax return, drink a few beers at a New Year’s Eve party, engage in a night of dancing with friends, or don immodest apparel for a beach party. The “yoke” of marriage is not of itself unequal—for marriage is sacred, joined by God, and each is sanctified in the other (see 1 Cor 7:14).

Denominationalism. A disciple may for a legitimate reason choose to visit services of a religious group that teaches and practices false doctrine. Even Paul attended the synagogues. And when invited the person, as I

have done, might speak the truth. This Paul did. But to blend our voices in unscriptural singing or to contribute money to support false teachers and unauthorized practices is to yoke oneself unequally by endorsing and having fellowship with sin. To give them greeting in bidding them Godspeed is to share in their evil deeds (see (2 John 10-11).

Friends. “Friends of the world” is not equivalent to “friendship of the world” (see James 4:4). Paul accepts association or company with fornicators, covetous, idolaters, etc. that are of the world (1 Cor 5:9-10). But to engage with them in their sins is friendship with the world itself and it creates “*enmity with God*” (James 4:4). Evil companions can corrupt good morals and when they do our company with them has become an unequal yoke and must cease. Both young and old need to be reminded not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, stand in the way of sinners, and sit in the seat of scoffers (see Psa 1:1).

Christians are in the midst of the world to let their lights shine before the world of ungodly and wicked men. They are to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul and are to be seen as lights in a crooked and perverse age (Matt 5:16; 1 Pet 2:11; Phil 2:15). And we cannot do this when we yoke ourselves unequally to the world in perverse practices.

~ L. A. Stauffer

“*Personal Work*”

My brethren love sermons that tell others what they must do to be saved. WHAT — there is something; MUST — it is imperative; I — meaning they; DO — not faith only; TO BE SAVED — from past sins, and eternally. Well, I can not deny it — they must do something. But for the doing to have validity (we do not believe in a system of works, or salvation by merit) this must be the obedience of faith (Rom. 16:26). It must spring from a heart wholly given to Christ (Matt. 16:24), and it takes more than telling them off to produce such obedience.

People must be made to feel something: the burden of sin, the need for forgiveness. They must be led to trust in the real Son of God who died for them; to desire the truth that can make them free. These feelings — such faith and desires — are rarely produced by cold mechanical pedantic exercises. We seek to change lives; and we must challenge and attract this materialistic generation with our own spiritual lives.

We might better our chances if we first ask ourselves: What WE (who claim to be Christians) MUST DO, in order to convert others to Christ.

Often the good works of which some brethren are so proud, are done by ignoring the divine pattern for organized efforts. How can such lack of respect glorify God? (Matt. 5:16)

By some sort of Sadie Thompson law we seem to attract that which we ex-emplify. Birds of feathers flock together. Paul said the word must be committed unto faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. We ignore the scriptures (2 Tim. 2:2), the lessons of history, and the very nature of man when we expect to truly convert others with half-converted, fleshly-minded workers. (Gal. 5:17)

We ask our neighbor to put God’s word before his present religion, his preacher, business and family. Does he see that kind of dedication in us? Some brethren are so fearful the world will hear about church problems. (They will!!) But men of convictions are attracted, not re-pelled, by finding others who stand firmly for that which they believe the Bible teaches. We are fishing for men, not mice. Truth is not shameful.

Is your life attracting people who would not heed the word alone? Does your godly manner of life shame those who falsely accuse you? Are we really different from the world? (1 Pet. 3:1, 10; 4:1-5) Or must we acquiesce to the sordid philosophy of the cruelly frank personal worker (?) who complained, Why convert them? They will probably turn out just like me!!

~ Robert. F. Turner