

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*on-going medical*), the Boyett family (*sickness*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), the Lanning family (*sickness*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), the Marschall family (*exhorting Kirk to faithfulness*), Kirk Marschall (*in need of spiritual encouragement*), Linda McKenzie (*tending to her mother's ailing health*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*ongoing medical*), Tabitha Sadler (*sick*), the Sheffield family (*sickness*).

Family and friends: Scott Bower (*friend of the Lawson's; health*), Nell Goodall (*undergoing physical therapy*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Rowena Lawson (*health issues*), John Marschall (*Bob's father*), Lyndell McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt, terminally ill, under hospice care*), Ardis Tucker (*Paula Sullivan's sister-in-law*). Remember and encourage others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Out of Town: Stef Marschall, Louise Moseley.

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

Ladies Bible Class: Next class will be March 11th at 7PM in Stef Marschall's home (*Please see bulletin board in foyer for more details*). In preparation, please do lesson number 13 on page 55 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 (*Feb. 24th, next week*).

Winter Study 2019: Class will be Tuesday, Feb. 26th (*next week*), in the Rice's home (*7PM*).

Third Sunday: Jordan Lawson is scheduled to preach during the PM tonight.

Fourth Sunday: Sherman Johnson is scheduled to preach during the PM assembly next week.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 2/20/19

Song Leader: Jeff Lanning
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
 Invitation: Ronnie Henderson
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Mike Sadler
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Larry Hicks

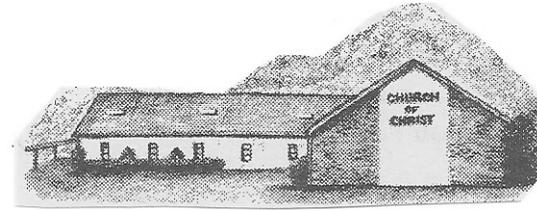
Sunday Evening: 2/24/19

Song Leader: Ryan Boyett
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Lord's Table: Larry Hicks
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Steve Parker
 Recordings: OPEN
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 2/24/19

Lord's Table: Larry Hicks (B)
 Steve Parker (C)
 Serving: David Williams
 Timothy Payne
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 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

“The Value of Consistency”

The word consistency is defined as, “steadfast adherence to the same principles, course, form, etc.,” and is a biblical pursuit worth striving after.

Why Should One Strive for Consistency?

Christ was consistent. Everything Jesus taught & lived was harmonious. In other words, Jesus did not say one thing - but do another. Luke wrote of Jesus, “The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach” (Acts 1:1). Jesus lived according to the manner of what He taught, and we are to always remember that He is our ultimate example. “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Pet. 2:21). We must be consistent in teaching and practicing the truth, as was Jesus.

Christ often condemned inconsistencies. Consider the fickle reasoning of those who rejected both John the Baptizer and Jesus. Our Lord said, “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' ¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and

they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children." (Matt. 11:18-19) Again, Jesus pointed out their inconsistency in reasoning. Is that motivation enough for us to strive for being consistent in our own biblical reasoning? In the twenty-third chapter of Matthew, Jesus there condemned the inconsistencies of the scribes and Pharisees, referring to them as, "Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!" (Matt 23:24). Consistency of life and teaching is what the Lord demands. He will note otherwise!

No one likes a hypocrite. One who teaches others to live a certain way, but practices another is a complete fraud (Matt. 23). In condemning inconsistent, unrighteous judgment, Jesus said, "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (Matt 7:3-5) Jesus certainly commends righteous judgement (John 7:24), but hypocrisy is an ultimate fruit of continued inconsistency in one's own manner of living. Let us strive to be consistent!

We do not want to squander our influence. No one knows what to expect from someone who is inconsistent... They are

one way one time, and another way the next. It is evident that such is not helpful in building nor maintaining a positive influence. The Apostle Paul wrote, "You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? ²² You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? ²⁴ For *"the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,"* as it is written." (Romans 2:21-24). Indeed, Paul warned of inconsistencies leading to the squandering of influence. "For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." Some of his readers' manner of life (in failing to live in accord with the truth that they preached) was a hindrance to the cause of Christ. Rather than leading men to glorify God by their life, some were causing others to blaspheme the name of God.

For the sake of ourselves and others. Our lives must be consistent with the teaching of Christ. In writing to Timothy, Paul said "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." (1 Tim 4:16) Surely, heed is to be given to living a pure life, and the preaching of the true doctrine of Christ. Both are needed for one to be well-pleasing to the Lord. Jesus asked: "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Let us strive in knowing deeper the value of consistency, and let it grow as a part of our character.

~ Ian Rice

"Worse Sinners"

Luke 12 records Jesus' sermon to an audience so vast that people were stepping on each other. On this occasion, some told Him about a group of Galileans whom Pilate butchered while they were in the process of offering sacrifices. Perhaps this was reported to divert attention from themselves Jesus had just sternly rebuked the multitude. At any rate, the implication was what terrible sinners these must have been!

Jesus answered, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered this fate?" (Lk. 13:2). In other words, can we tell by what befalls a man what kind of man he is?

Sin's Consequences

In one way the answer is yes. Sin has immediate consequences as well as eternal ones. Moses told ancient Israel, "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23). Solomon observed, "the way of transgressors is hard" (Pro. 13:15, KJV). One who drinks alcohol is far more likely to have a debilitating or fatal traffic accident. A promiscuous man lives in fear of discovery and disease. Lying, cheating, swindling, and

stealing invite others' wrath. Divorce is laden with heartache. In this sense, it is absolutely true that the more one sins, the harder his life. This is one reason Paul said godliness holds promise for the present life as well as the life to come (I Tim. 4:8).

Sin and Suffering

We go too far, however, when we always equate one's suffering with his sin. This was the mistake of Job's friends, who argued that only sinners suffer in life, while the righteous always do well. That has never been true.

One may face hardship as the result of another's sin, not his own. Or, hardship may not at all be directly related to anyone's conduct, as in the case of the blind man in John 9 (note v. 2). Conversely, since God "causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Mt.5:45), He may allow the wicked to prosper materially. The point is, God's estimate of a man is not necessarily revealed by the man's lot in life.

Worse Sins and Sinners

Jesus' answer built on this truth. Were these greater sinners? "I tell you, no, but, unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3). He then cited a similar circumstance and reiterated His conclusion (vv. 4-5). In so doing, the Lord returned the drifting focus of His hearers to where it was needed: on themselves. It is not another's sins but my sins that I need to assess.

~ Frank Himmel