

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (*at Scott Lake Health and Rehabilitation*), Earl Branham (*illness*), Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Linda James (*at Northdale Rehab Center, 3030 Bears Ave., Tampa, FL 33618*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), the Marschall family (*exhorting Kirk to faithfulness*), Kirk Marschall (*in need of spiritual encouragement*), Linda McKenzie (*tending to mother's health*), Butch Morgan (*shut in*), Louise Mosely (*recent passing of her sister*), Dottie Reynolds (*ongoing medical*), Paula Sullivan (*recent passing of sister-in-law, Ardis Tucker*), the Wisdom family (*with the recent death of Larry's sister*).

Family and friends: Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Diana Marcum (*Arlene Turner's sister, cancer*), John Marschall (*Bob's father*), Lyndell McReedy (*Cindy Hicks' aunt*), Betty Parrish (*Diana Jordan's mother*), Johnny Wisdom (*Larry Wisdom's brother, recovering from heart surgery*).

Out of Town: Charles & Vernita Goodall, Ronnie Henderson (*preaching at Polk City today*), the Lawson family (*5/4-12/19*), Bob & Stef Marschall (*5/5-13/19*), Neil & Ahrea Miller (*5/10-25/19*).

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

Ladies Bible Class: Class will be **tomorrow** (*May 13th*) at 7PM in Diana Jordan's home.

Men's Bible Study: The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*May 26th*).

Home Study: The final class will be *May 27th* at the home of the Wisdom family.

Remember and encourage others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 5/15/19

Song Leader: Jeff Lanning
 Opening Prayer: Joe Brown
 Invitation: Bob Marschall
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Earl Branham
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Gus Johnson

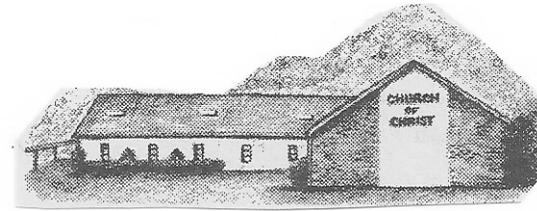
Sunday Evening: 5/19/19

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Lord's Table: Larry Hicks
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 5/19/19

Lord's Table: Larry Hicks (B)
 Jordan Lawson (C)
 Serving: David Williams
 Ed Lawson
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Earl Branham
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

www.lakelandhillchurchofchrist.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

“Fear Your Mother”

What the world generally knows as Mother's Day is a tradition that has come down to us through many twists and turns through the centuries. We won't go into that here. As we know it now, this day is a tradition that honors our mothers for all that they have done for us, for loving us in spite of ourselves (i.e., not destroying us), for nurturing us through every difficulty, and for just being "mom." How do you really say "thank you" in an adequate way? We cannot. Cards, candy, and a nice lunch can hardly express what we wish we could say. We take solace in the fact that they understand because they, too, had mothers.

What, then, is with the title, "Fear Your Mother"? We aren't supposed to be afraid of them, are we? Well, yes and no. The biblical injunction is to "honor your father and mother" (Deut 5:16; Exo 20:12). This command was given with a promise: "that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you." See also Ephesians 6:1-2. Failure to honor father and mother is a grave error.

"Honor your father and mother" is the fifth of the Ten Commandments (Exo 20:12). The placement within the decalogue is not accidental, for this is the "hinge command" that affects both the previous four commands and the latter five commands. In the home is where children first

learn about God and how to respect and revere Him, and the home is where they first learn about respect for others. If children do not first learn about God's authority and preeminence in the home, then from whom will they learn it and what will they learn about it? If they do not learn how to respect others first in the home, where will they learn it and what will they learn? Honoring father and mother is foundational for how we respect God and others.

Leviticus 19:3 puts it this way: "Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father..." Reverence is the same as fear. This is the same root word used with reference to God: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge..." (Prov 1:7); "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov 9:10); "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Eccl 12:13-14).

"Fear" can mean that one is literally afraid with trembling, and there is a sense in which that ought to be the case. Children who disobey their parents should be afraid, not just because parents will punish, but because punishment for rebellion will ultimately come from God. The Law seemed pretty harsh on this point for those old enough to know better: "He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death ... He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death" (Exo 21:15, 17). See also Proverbs 20:20, Leviticus 20:9, and Deuteronomy 21:18-21. Acting dishonorably toward father and mother is "shameful and disgraceful" (Prov.

19:26). "There is a kind of man who curses his father and does not bless his mother" (Prov. 3:11). "The eye that mocks a father and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it" (Prov. 30:17). Afraid yet?

We continue: "Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother," and all the people shall say, "Amen." (Deut 27:16). This curse is put right along the side of idolatry, stealing, perverting justice, adultery, bestiality, and incest. That's a pretty bad list, and we rightly cringe. Yet there are those who will recoil at the idea of some of these heinous sins while speaking badly of their parents or willfully disobeying them. Being disobedient to parents is an open sign of rebellion against God Himself (see 2 Tim. 31-5; Rom. 1:28-32). So we should have reason to fear mother. Truly, "a foolish man despises his mother" and "a foolish son is a grief to his mother" (Prov 15:20; 10:1).

"Fear" also contains that sense of respect that leads one to listen and obey. "My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother" (Prov. 6:20). Even as they grow older, "do not despise your mother when she is old" (Prov 23:22). Let her rejoice in her children (Prov 23:25). Let the children rise up and bless their mother (Prov 31:28). Listen to her. Honor her. Fear her. Not just one day a year, but until she departs this life.

Remember the teachings of Jesus in Mark 7:1-15. There is no honor in failing to give due respect to our parents. Respecting them is a sign of how much we respect God.

~ Doy Moyer

"Your Speech Betrayeth You"

When the Savior stood before Caiaphas, the High Priest, Peter waited outside the palace. When a young woman approached him and said, "Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee," he denied it. Another came with the same observation and he denied it with an oath. Then others that stood by said to Peter, "Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee," and he began to curse and swear, saying he did not know Jesus (Mat 26:69ff).

Peter's identity was confirmed by the way he spoke. Because of the way he pronounced his words — by his accent—those he was with knew he was from Galilee.

By our speech today, people can tell a lot about us, not just in a physical sense, but spiritually as well. Our speech can betray us. We may tell people we are Christians and citizens of God's kingdom, but our words will let them know where we are really from. We can be identified by our:

FILTHY SPEAKING: Christians are urged to put away, among other things, "filthy communication out of your mouth" (Col 3:8). A filthy mouth reveals a filthy mind, "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Mat 12:34). We may claim to be Christians, but if we tell dirty jokes and if we constantly use obscene "bathroom" words, our speech betrays us and our true identity is made known. The true Christian will think on things that are pure (Phi 4:8) and season his speech with salt (Col 4:6).

LYING: If we say we are Christians and do not always tell the truth, our speech betrays us. A lying tongue is an abomination in God's sight (Pro 6:16-19). We cannot say we are of Christ if we tell lies, for the devil is a liar and the father of lies (Jn 8: 44). "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every

man truth with his neighbor" (Eph 4:25). A child of God is to so speak and so do that he can be relied upon in every way.

MURMURINGS AND COMPLAINTS: Paul admonishes us not to murmur as did the Children of Israel when they wandered in the wilderness (I Cor 10:10). A Christian should rejoice in his relationship with his Heavenly Father. "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice" (Phi 4:4). The complainer lets everyone know his true identity.

BOASTING: "So the tongue also is a little member and boasteth great things (Jas 3:5). Bragging is contrary to Christianity and James says it is evil; but it is especially sad for one who claims to be a Christian to boast of the evil he does. When a young man brags about his illicit conquests, or a young woman shamelessly tells about going to night clubs and getting drunk, the cause of Christ is dealt a critical blow. "But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil" (Jas 4:16).

USING THE LORD'S NAME IN

VAIN: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain" (Ex 20:7). There are many things worthy of honor and respect. We honor the name of our parents and resent anyone's speaking of them disrespectfully. We respect the flag and are filled with indignation when men regard it lightly. How much more should we regard the name of the Lord our God with reverence and awe. One who uses it in any disrespectful and irreverent way, identifies himself as one who does not honor his Heavenly Father.

EMPTY, WORTHLESS RELIGION: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and brideleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (Jas 1:26).

~ Paul Stringer