

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), the Day family (*Robyn's father, Ricky, cancer*), Linda James (*Still recovering from major back surgery*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Kirk Marschall (*Encouraging Kirk to faithfulness*), the Marschall family, Neil & Ahrea Miller (*medical*), Butch Morgan (*has been at LRMC*), Dottie Reynolds (*ongoing medical*), Arlene Turner (*recent health struggles*).

Family and friends: Marvin Brown (*from Plant City, cancer*), Ruth Fogel (*Jill Boyette's mother, cancer*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Rowena Lawson's mother (*Ms. Lourdes, health issues & pain management*), John Marschall (*Bob's father*), the family of Larry Powell (*with his recent passing in Roswell, Ga.*), the family of Alan Turner (*with the recent passing of Brother Turner*).

Out of Town: Audrey Davis, the Day family, Ronnie Henderson, Bob & Stef Marschall, Louise Mosely, Jerry Williams.

Preaching: Jordan Lawson will preach this evening (*Lord willing*), and will be moving toward the end of this week.

Group Meeting: Group 2 will meet next week after the PM worship service.

Men's Bible Study: The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*July 28*).

Kids' Review: There will be another kids' review class on July the 28th.

Area Meetings: The Plant City Church of Christ will have a meeting with Bill Hall July 26-28. The Henderson Blvd. church of Christ is having a summer series of lessons every Thursday night during June 6th-August 1st. Please see bulletin board for details.

Remember and encourage others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 7/17/19

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Ian Rice
 Invitation: Colby Sadler
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Steve Parker
 Recordings: Colby Sadler
 Usher: Leon Miller

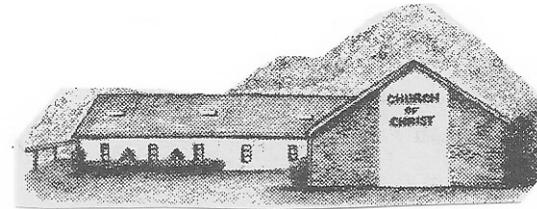
Sunday Evening: 7/21/19

Song Leader: Jeff Lanning
 Opening Prayer: Larry Hicks
 Lord's Table: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: David Williams
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 7/21/19

Lord's Table: Bucky Day (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: Trent Stevens
 Timothy Payne
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Jimmy Fields
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Steve Parker
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 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

“God Gave the Increase”

Have you ever said or heard someone say something similar to the following?

We can sow the seed, but if God doesn't give the increase there's nothing we can do.

Such sentiments are often expressed and rarely questioned, but is that what Paul meant in 1 Corinthians 3:6 when he wrote, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase”? Did Paul intend to say that both the conversion of sinners and the further growth of the saints at Corinth were dependent upon God's willingness to give the increase?

If that is the meaning of 1 Corinthians 3:6 so be it, but I believe the context of 1 Corinthians 1-3 suggests a different and better understanding that is fully compatible with the individual's freewill and ability to make his own decision about being saved (Matthew 11:28-30; Acts 2:41). I believe a proper understanding of God's increase begins by understanding that the church at Corinth was beset with division centered around preachers (1 Corinthians 1:10, 11), an issue upon which the first four chapters of the epistle are focused. Consider carefully the arguments that led to the statement about planting, watering and increase.

It's All About Christ. 1:13-17

The apostle began his attack on the divisions by reminding the Corinthians that not only was Christ not divided, but it was Christ who died for them and in whose name they were baptized. No one had been baptized in the name of Paul, and he certainly was not the one who had died for them. And though unstated, what he said of himself would have been also been true of Peter and Apollos.

The Message of the Cross. 1:18--2:5

In a passage similar to Romans 1:16 Paul declared that the message of the cross was the power of God (1:18) and the Lord was saving men through the message of the cross (1:21). Though one chapter ends and another begins, the same thought is continued in 2:1-5 as the one who had planted explained how and why he planted as he denied using excellence of speech or persuasive words of human wisdom. He had come to them with nothing more than Jesus Christ and Him crucified so that their faith would “not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (2:5).

The Very Words. 2:6-16

Having denied that his preaching contained the wisdom of men, Paul avowed that his message contained the purest wisdom, viz. the wisdom of God. In fact, he contended that the inspiration by which he had spoken to them was such that his very words were

those which the Holy Spirit taught as He revealed the mind of God (2:11-13).

Who Were Paul and Apollos? 3:1-11

The third chapter opens with the assertion that the Corinthians were behaving in a fleshly, infantile way by proclaiming allegiance to Paul and Apollos. After raising the question of who he and Apollos were, he answered his own questions with the affirmation that they were simply ministers or servants through whom the Corinthians had believed. It was then that Paul asserted that the increase comes from God and followed that with the assertion that the Corinthian church was God's field and God's building, as opposed to anything belonging to Paul or Apollos.

Summary

Though Paul and Apollos had proclaimed the message in Corinth, the increase was attributed to God because it was His plan and His Son that died on the cross. Further, the gospel that was preached and believed was said to be God's power because it was the story of Christ and its very words came from God. The Corinthians had not become believers because God decided to give an increase, but because God's servants preached God's message to them in God's way and they believed it (3:5; Acts 18:8), thus becoming God's church (1:2). None of this is to say that we should not seek God's blessings on our efforts to

preach the gospel, for we cannot know in what ways the Almighty might bless our efforts. God's providence should never be discounted or dismissed, but we do not need to pray that He will be willing to give an increase, for He has already assured us of His desire that all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:5) and further that He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Let's preach God's message in God's way so that God will be glorified when souls respond. “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. ...that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 4:11). Truly God gives the increase!

~ John R. Gibson

“The One Who Loved You Enough”

Can you remember who it was that taught you the gospel? Maybe it was a friend or neighbor. Perhaps it was a co-worker. For many of us it was our parents. No matter who it was, there's something we know about them for sure — they loved you! They loved you enough to teach you the saving gospel of Christ.

Think about it for a minute. It would have been easier for your teacher (whoever it was) to simply keep quiet. It requires effort to teach others. You have to know the truth

yourself. That means you have to spend the time to study and learn. Then, you have to be willing to speak up, to invest the time to teach, to expose yourself to the possibility of rejection. And, not a few have had to withstand the unpleasantness of being ridiculed for what they have taught.

Why did they do it? What motivated them into action? The answer is simple — they loved you! They loved your eternal soul, and they were willing to do the work of teaching you because they did not want to see your soul lost forever in hell.

Now, what will you do? You have learned about the salvation that is in Christ. You have benefited from this knowledge in obeying the truth. Your sins are forgiven. You have the hope of heaven when you die. You have all the spiritual blessings that are in Christ Jesus.

Are you going to stop the chain of loving concern? Are you going to refuse to do for others as was done for you? If you do not teach the gospel to others, you are, in effect, saying that you don't love them enough. You are showing that you are unwilling to make the effort, to go to the trouble, to speak up to save them. Is it possible that you don't love them like you should?

Someone loved you. They loved you enough to teach you. Won't you show that same love to others? Think!

~ Greg Gwin