

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), the Day family (*Robyn's father; Ricky, cancer*), Linda James (*Home, recovering from back surgery*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Neil Miller (*medical*), Jordan Lawson (*moving to Caneyville, Kentucky*), Butch Morgan (*Rm. M333 at LRMC*), Dottie Reynolds (*ongoing medical*), the Sheffield family (*sickness*), 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 Allan Turner (*with the recent passing of Brother Turner*).

**Out of Town:** Ken & Diana Jordan, DeAnne Sprott, and Jerry Williams.

**4th Sunday Night:** Timothy Payne is scheduled to preach tonight during the PM assembly, as it is the 4th Sunday of the month.

**Group Meeting:** Group 1 will next week after the PM worship service.

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

**Kids' Review:** There will be a short kids' review class tonight after the PM assembly.

**Area Meetings:** 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: 7/31/19**

Song Leader: Colby Sadler  
 Opening Prayer: Trent Stevens  
 Invitation: Bob Marschall  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day  
 Recordings: Logan Lanning  
 Usher: Larry Hicks

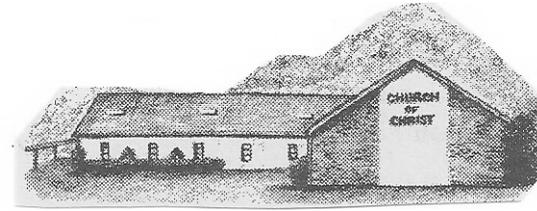
**Sunday Evening: 8/4/19**

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

**Sunday Morning: 8/4/19**

Lord's Table: Clay Sadler (B)  
 Bucky Day (C)  
 Serving: David Williams  
 Jerry Williams  
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Jimmy Fields  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Recordings: Bob Marschall  
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

[www.lakelandhillchurchofchrist.com](http://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

***“Establishing Bible Authority”***

How do you establish Bible authority? How do we go from what the Scriptures say to what they say to us? How can we know what God's will is for our lives? There is an instance in Acts 15 where the Christians in the First Century were trying to answer these very questions.

After the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas, they returned to Antioch and “began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles” (Acts 14:27). Jews came down from Judea and insisted that these Gentiles be circumcised to be saved. After much debate, the church in Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to discuss this issue with the apostles and elders there. They were seeking God's will concerning this question: “Is it necessary to circumcise them and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses” (cf. Acts 15:5)? How would they find the answer?

We have often heard of the three ways to establish Bible authority:

- 1) A command is simply a “thus says the Lord,” where God demands that something be done or not done, as in the 10 commandments (Ex. 20).
- 2) An example is where we are shown how disciples practiced their faith and met God’s approval. “Be imitators of me as I also am of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1).
- 3) A necessary inference involves something that is not specifically stated but can be logically implied based on what *is* said. Philip “preached Jesus” to the eunuch (Acts 8:35). Based on the eunuch’s question (8:36), we infer that preaching Jesus includes baptism, the need to obey Jesus.

In recent years, these methods have come under attack. Some are convinced that we need something new or different. Others are of the opinion that since the names of these methods can be traced to the Restoration Movement, they are nothing more than “church of Christ” isms. But this standard of authority is used by Jesus in John 13:34-35 and also by the early Christians in Acts 15.

What is required of us on our quest for Bible authority?

**A command requires obedience.** God had spoken about the issue in Acts 15. James, the Lord’s brother, compared what was happening among them with “the words of the Prophets” (15:15, cf. Amos 9:11-12). The death and resurrection of Christ had

brought about an opportunity for all of mankind to seek the Lord and to be called by God’s name. What they were seeing in the conversion of the Gentiles was God’s will. Instead of standing in the way, they should be going into all the world and preaching the gospel to all creation.

When people ask why we worship the way we do, it’s not about “our” preferences or what “we” think is best. We are following God’s command. It’s what He requires.

**An approved example requires imitation.** Paul and Barnabas appealed to their example (Acts 15:12). What did the signs and wonders God had done show about the conversion of the Gentiles? He approved of it! Just as when Jesus performed a miracle to prove who He was or to confirm the words that He spoke.

When God approves of the example, it has the same authority as when He speaks a command. That’s why we continue steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and gather on the first day of the week to break bread (Acts 20:7).

**A necessary inference requires honesty.** In Jerusalem, Peter laid out the evidence that led to his conclusion (Acts 15:7-11). God sent him to the Gentiles, namely Cornelius. He showed him a vision three times; Peter inferred that he was talking about men (Acts 10:28). The Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and his family; they inferred that God approved of them. The Jews were not able to keep the Law perfectly; why would God demand the Gentiles to observe

it? What was the honest inference? “We believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are” (15:11).

Not all inferences are necessary. In the case of Lydia and the Philippian jailer, Luke wrote that they and their “household” (16:15,33) were baptized. Does that prove that infant baptism is authorized by God? Does the text logically lead you to that conclusion? Or does that contradict other passages? This method will require us to be diligent in our study of the word of God. Instead of drawing inferences that fit our own agenda, we must examine the Scriptures in light of context and harmony.

We don’t need a new way to establish authority. We need a renewed dedication to the word of God. We don’t need more signs. We need a deeper understanding of the signs that have been revealed. What is the Lord’s will for us? We can find it, we can understand it, we can fulfill it.

~ Bubba Garner

### ***“Is Your Heart Right With God?”***

We have a very simple question to ask: Is your heart right with God? As you think about your answer to this most important of all questions, we’d like you to consider these observations:

- 1) You might as well be honest about this, because “if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all

things” (1 Jn 3:20). So then, if you have never obeyed the gospel, or if you are unfaithful in your service as a Christian, you ought to own up to the reality of your dangerous spiritual condition -- after all, you can’t hide these things from God.

- 2) Judgment is as certain as life itself. “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb 9:27). “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12).
- 3) In light of these facts, perhaps you should begin right now thinking about a good excuse that you can use on the judgment day. A few favorites will surely be: “I was too busy”, “I didn’t feel well”, “I had family obligations”, “My work demanded so much of my’ time”, “The people at church were unfriendly”, “I didn’t like the preacher, or the elders, or the teachers, or....” Feel free to pick one of these, or perhaps you can come up with one of your own that seems more appropriate to your own particular situation.
- 4) We must warn you, however, that the excuse you choose, no matter how good it seems, will not be good enough. (Read Mt 7:21-23 and 25:31-46) The truth of the matter is that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor 5:10).
- 5) So our best advice then is to get right with God. It is ultimately important, and excuses just won’t get the job done - not now, and certainly not in judgment.

~ Greg Gwin