

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), the family of Mildred Church (*with her recent passing*), the Day family (*Robyn's father; Ricky; cancer*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), the Johnson family (*Nathaniel; Sherman and Gus' brother passed away recently*), Bennie Jones (*recent procedure*), Becca Marschall (*physical struggles*), Butch Morgan (*Ongoing medical*), Ian Rice (*scheduled to have tumor removed Oct. 25th*), Suzette Stevens (*health struggles*), Arlene Turner (*recent struggles*).

Family and friends: Marvin Brown (*from Plant City, cancer*), Ron Daly (*Evangelist in Indiana; recovering from injuries in severe accident*), Gardner and Beverly Hall (*Beverly has recently developed some health problems*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*); James, MaryAnne and Lyla King (*Zachary King's parents & daughter*), Rowena Lawson's mother (*Ms. Lourdes, health issues & pain management*), and John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father*), Dorothy Trice (*Carla Moore's mother; health struggles*).

Out of Town: Bob Marschall, David & Kyoko Williams.

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

Men's Bible Study: The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Next week, Sept. 22nd*).

4th Sunday: Jeff Lanning is scheduled to preach next Sunday during the pm worship service.

Area Meetings: The Plant City Church of Christ is holding a meeting Sept. 22-25 with various speakers (*See bulletin board for details*). Our Gospel Meeting with Chris Reeves will be at the beginning of next month (*Oct. 6-11th*). Please make plans to attend and invite others.

Remember and encourage those who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 9/18/19

Song Leader: Joe Brown
 Opening Prayer: Jeff Lanning
 Invitation: OPEN
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Larry Hicks

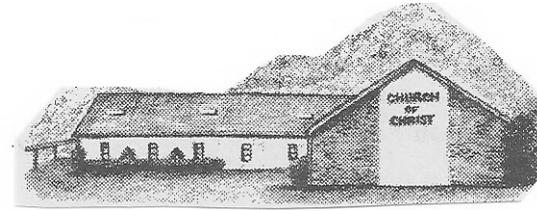
Sunday Evening: 9/22/19

Lord's Table: Jimmy Fields
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Logan Lanning
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Joe Brown
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 9/22/19

Lord's Table: Jimmy Fields (B)
 Timothy Payne (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 Trent Stevens
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 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

“Would You Give Up...?”

We sometimes sing **“I Surrender All,”** but are we really willing to do that? If we came to understand that Jesus expected us to give up something very dear to us, would we do it? What would we do if He told us we had to completely abstain from college football? Would we be willing to turn in all of our school spirit shirts, caps, and other accessories? Stay away from news stories about the Tide, Tigers, Longhorns, Hokies, Gators, Mountaineers, Bulldogs, etc.? Never again sit down on a Saturday to enjoy watching your team play? What if it weren't football, but shopping at the mall or trips to the mountains? Vacations at Disney World? What if the Lord commanded you to give up your favorite food?

Could we, would we make that sacrifice? I think most of us would say that while it would be difficult we would do it. We would probably say that in comparison to what Jesus has done for us, how could we not do that for Him? We might throw in a couple of quotes from 1 John. **“We love Him because He first loved us”** (1 John 4:19). **“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome”** (1 John 5:3). We would explain that while at first it might seem like a great sacrifice, in light of the cross and the great reward that is promised it is not too much to ask of us.

If truly convinced that it was the Lord's will, would we surrender all those things mentioned in the first paragraph? Would we not only respond with the positive answer of the previous paragraph, but would we turn to **Mark 9** and explain that hell is such a horrible thing that we would do anything to avoid it? *"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched....And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell....And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched'"* (Mark 9:43-48).

Motivated by the Lord's love for us and the fear of eternal torment we would give up anything, including our beloved football team, favorite food, favorite vacation destination, or any other interest. Or would we? You see, we are speaking here of hypothetical commandments, and when talking about something we know we will never have to actually deal with it is easy to tell ourselves that we would never repeat the mistake of that rich, young ruler who walked away sorrowful when Jesus pointed out the one thing he lacked (Mark 10:17-22). Though the things previously mentioned must be kept their proper place (Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 10:24, 25; et al), there is no requirement that they be given up. But what about commandments the Lord has given? What about sacrifices He does require? Are we really willing to surrender all?

When the marriage relationship seems too confining or goes through some difficult times, do we acknowledge that He forbids divorce except for the cause of sexual immorality (Matthew 19:3-9), or seek some escape clause? Do we surrender to His will or do what we want to do?

Is the love of Christ and the fear of torment what it ought to be when the fear of what others might say or do causes us to dress immodestly or do other things we know we shouldn't? See Matthew 10:28, 32, 33 and Revelation 21:8.

He hasn't commanded us to give up football or Disney, but He has commanded us to put away all bitterness, anger, evil speaking and such (Ephesians 4:31). Could it be that our determination to hold onto grudges, resentments, etc. tells God that we are not as determined to surrender all as we might like to think?

Paul wrote of giving up his own preferences for the sake of the gospel and the maximizing of his influence upon others (1 Corinthians 9:19-23), but do others regularly hear our pride telling them how things should be done? If we won't give up our determination to have things done our way, we have yet to fully grasp either the compelling love of the cross or the severity of God.

Will we truly **surrender all**? Will we be genuine disciples who deny self, take up our cross, and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23)? The story of the cross and the horrible threat of eternal punishment should be sufficient motivation for us, so let's look honestly at our lives and make certain there is not that one thing we still lack (Mark 10:21). Let's make certain we do not have some

corner of our life holding out in the battle and refusing to surrender to His will. Let's truly **surrender all** to the One who gave His all for us.

~ Jimmy Fields

Christians In "Other Churches"

In years past one of "our" preachers would take this as a subject, and "tear the hide off'n" denominationalism. He would point out that "the church" is the **body** of Christ, Eph. 1:22-23; the **bride** of Christ, 2 Cor. 11:1-2; the **kingdom** of Christ, Col. 1:13, Matt. 16:18-19; etc.; and that Christ has but one body, bride, kingdom. He would point out that the way into Christ -- "putting on" Christ -- is the way into the body, etc., (Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Rom. 6:3-4) hence, **only** those who walk this way are "in Christ" and **all** who walk this way are added to the **same** body, family, kingdom, etc. That leaves no place for Christians in "other churches"!!

You know -- I think he was right about it!! That's the way it is!! But there were false conclusions drawn in the early days, even as now. Some missed the figurative nature of the above expressions; tending to equate Christ's church with some imperfect "party" -- and truth with the party practices; and perhaps even elevate the "plan" and the "Church of Christ" party above the Lord Himself. The preachers were not wholly to be blamed. Simple points were made for simple people, some of whom refusing to grow up. It happens today.

Today we have liberal thinkers who say there are Christians in "other churches." They discount plain Bible teaching re. baptism, the worship,

etc., and glorify the so-called "pure heart" of subjective thinkers. These liberals see sectarianism among the saints (expressed in paragraph above) as justification for concluding that no "true" or "sound" church of the Lord exists today. They ridicule the idea of a "sound" functioning church. Others, bowing to popular demands, say there are Christians in "other churches." Hidden in the fine print is the explanation that these are the once faithful saints who have gone astray; and they fail to stress what God says about those who deny the Lord that bought them. (2 Pet. 2:1-f) The liberals grasp this "middle" (?) position as sop of encouragement.

It does seem we could learn something by all of this. Faithful gospel preachers can not cease to proclaim the points made in first paragraph because someone understands them in a sectarian way. It is their obligation to instruct -- enlighten. The scriptures **do** say there is one body. (Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:12-13) Now if hearers color this with sectarian conceptions it becomes our duty to erase the color -- not throw out the basic teaching.

If brethren have "institutionalized" the church, and "sectarianized" the church of Christ; we must attack the error -- distinguish between so-called "Church of Christ" doctrine and objective scriptural teaching. We gravely blunder when we leave the impression that the subjective philosophy, social gospel, emotion pricked sectarian is a "Christian" in the true sense of the word, and heaven bound. The Bible doesn't teach it.

Honest, truth-seeking pilgrims in and **out** of Christ's church are hungry for the bread of life, and welcome humble efforts to save their souls.

~ Robert F. Turner