

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Vernita Goodall (*Joy Blaine, her sister, passed away last week*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Sylvester Johnson (*upcoming treatments & bone marrow transplant*), Neil Miller (*recovering from eye surgery*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds (*daughter is in ill health*), Sadler families (*sickness*), DeeAnn Sprott.

Family and friends: Curt Boyette, Vivian Dillman, the Fields family (*with the recent passing of Jimmy Fields's sister, Patsy Hardaway*), Ned Hicks, the family of Larry Holland (*Cindy Hick's brother, who recently passed*), Brian James (*cancer*), the Jordan family (*with the recent passing of Ken's brother, Jerry*), Rowena Lawson (*with her mother's recent passing*), Paul Lloyd (*still at rehab facility in Ohio*), John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father*), Kirk Marschall (*with rehab*), Ricky Ross (*Robyn Day's father*) and Dorothy Trice (*Carla Moore's mother*).

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

Ladies' Bible Class: February 10th in Kyoko Williams's home (*next week*). Please study lesson number 6 on page 33, "Trouble Over Death (1)" in the book "Troubled Over Many Things," by Connie Adams.

Men's Bible Study: The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*Feb 23rd*).

Kids' Review Class: February 23rd, immediately following the evening assembly.

Area Meeting(s): The Zephyrhills Church of Christ will have a meeting February 13-16th. See bulletin board for the flyer and more details.

Remember and encourage those who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 2/5/20

Song Leader: Trent Stevens
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Invitation: Steve Parker
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Jeff Lanning
 Recordings: Logan Lanning
 Usher: Bob Marschall

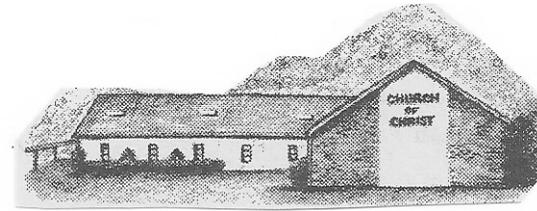
Sunday Evening: 2/9/20

Lord's Table: Bucky Day
 Song Leader: Jeff Lanning
 Opening Prayer: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 2/9/20

Lord's Table: Bucky Day (B)
 Sherman Johnson (C)
 Serving: Jerry Williams
 David Williams
 Song Leader: Joe Brown

Opening Prayer: Clay Sadler
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Jimmy Fields
 Recordings: OPEN
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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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

"Sinners Can Change"

There are times to recognize that characters are bad and should be left alone. Jesus said concerning false teachers, "Leave them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind" (Matt. 15:14). Jeremiah said of Judah, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jer. 13:23). Although some have given in to evil, the premise of the gospel is that sinners will change -- they have it within them to serve God.

"...Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Lk. 24:46,47). Repentance is a change of behavior brought on by a change of heart, and the gospel is designed to bring these changes about.

The city of Nineveh is a great example of repentance. "The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here" (Lk. 11:32).

When Peter realized that he had sinned by denying the Lord, he "went out and wept bitterly" (Lk. 22:62). He never was guilty of that atrocity again. Afterward, he was arrested, publicly humiliated, and threatened, but he and his fellow apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus (Acts 5:41).

When the Jews on Pentecost were shown their sin, and that the blood of the Christ was on their hands, "they were pricked in the heart," and asked what they could do to make things right. The instruction from the Holy Spirit was to "Repent and be baptized..." They were told to change.

When Jesus healed the infirmed man, He said, "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (Jno. 5:14). To the woman taken in adultery, He said, "Go and sin no more" (Jno. 8:11).

"Conversion" is a word used by Jesus and the apostles to explain what happens

to sinners when they are exposed to the gospel of love, grace, and opportunity. It is said that Jesus atoned for our sins, something we cannot do. However, He expects us to change our hearts and our behavior -- something that we can do.

So, the next time you are exposed to the idea that people will sin, that boys will be boys, that folks will be fornicators and adulterers, or that teens are going to drink or smoke dope; remember that they DON'T HAVE TO SIN. The church is not an agency for social Band-Aids, and the Bible is not intended to nurse the wounds of sinners. The goal is to change the hearts of sinners, bringing about a change of behavior so that men and women will be acceptable to God (Isa. 59:1,2; Lk. 13:3,5)

~ George Hutto

"Are Traditional Beliefs The Standard?"

There was once a man who operated a general store. On his counter top he had nailed a yardstick. He measured yard goods, rope, etc., by the yardstick. Eventually, the man died and his son moved back and took over the operation of the little store. One day, an employee of the

Dept. of Weights and Measures came by, examined his "yardstick" and pronounced it a full inch less than a yard in length. All those years the gentleman had honestly thought that his measuring stick was accurate, but he was wrong. His honesty did not make him right.

Now the son was faced with a decision. He could refuse to admit his father was wrong and, therefore, be wrong himself or he could say, "My father honestly thought he was right. I know something my father did not know. If I do not live up to the knowledge I have I will not be as honest as he was." (No doubt, most people would make the second decision.)

Strange as it may seem, many reason differently in religion. Some learn the way of God more accurately than their parents. However, they refuse to make any changes because they fear any change from their parents' religion would cast upon the father and mother an unfavorable reflection.

Let us say that a man's God-fearing parents taught him to reverence the Bible. Yet they were misinformed on some vital points. His parents were honest. If they had understood the truth as he does, would they not have obeyed it? If he turns his back on recognized truth, is he as honest as they were?

The apostle Paul was one who had to make this decision. In Gal. 1:11-14, we find Paul's life before Christianity was one of a Jew, which his parents had taught him. He advanced greatly in that religion and was very zealous in teaching what he believed to be the truth. (He also had a good conscience about what he was doing at the time,). But in Gal. 1:15-17, when Paul was taught that what he believed and practiced at that time was wrong, he changed and began to preach the truth.

Paul did not (as many do today) say, "My parents have been Jews all their lives, following the Jewish religion, and so have I, and I will die a practicing Jew" or "If that is true, then that means my parents are lost." Just because we may have been something religiously at one time does not make that religion right and just because my parents believed and practiced a certain way about the Bible does not make it so. Paul was honest and sincere enough to change his life and live right. We need to constantly compare our beliefs and practices with what the Bible teaches. Are we honest as Paul was?

~ Ron Fenner