

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Sylvester Johnson (*bone marrow transplant on horizon*), Leon Miller (*ill health*), Neil & Ahreah Miller (*He with his blindness and she with her leg rehabilitation*), Carla Moore (*dealing with her family's current struggles*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Steve Parker (*gaining strength from heart surgery*), Moses & Mary Stevens (*with their health*); for all brethren, in Lakeland and elsewhere (*that our lights will shine during the current difficult circumstances*).

Family and friends: Vivian Dillman, Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father*), Brian James (*cancer*), Greg Lincoln (*Jill Boyette's bother; sent to NY to help with pandemic*), Becca Marschall's family (*suffered some recent tragic deaths*), Fritzi Marschall (*Bob's mother is waiting on a surgery date concerning her lymph nodes*), John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father had a fall last week*), Kirk Marschall (*With long-term rehab*), Ricky Ross (*Robyn Day's father*), Dorothy Trice (*Carla Moore's mother*), Beth Weeks (*In Corner, AL recovering from brain tumor removal*).

Worship Services: *Sunday AM worship will resume next week at 9:50, with precautions (social distancing, etc.) set in place.* Facebook Live streaming will continue on Sunday mornings at 9:50am, and we have sessions through Zoom on Sunday (6PM) and Wednesday evenings (7PM). Bob Marschall is facilitating those and can provide the necessary links and passwords. Please let us know how we can assist you.

Ladies' Bible Class: Was last scheduled to study lesson number 8 on page 43, "Trouble Over Divorce" in the book "Troubled Over Many Things," by Connie Adams.

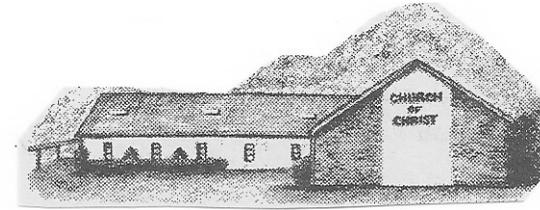
Remember and encourage those who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.



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

"Set Your House in Order"

Among the kings of Judah, who reigned following the division of Israel after Solomon died, Hezekiah is remembered as one of the "Good Guys," being described as a king who "did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done" (2 Kings 18:3).

Those of us who have had dealings with the Lord for very long are aware that He deals kindly with those who serve Him with a sincere heart. And such was the case with Hezekiah. In fact the kindness of the Lord toward Hezekiah extended even to the point of giving him "notice" of his impending departure from this life.

"In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, 'Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live'" (2 Kings 20:1).

Different people may view this differently, but I view this statement itself as a bit of a “favor” on God’s part that is granted to Hezekiah. He is not left to wonder what will be the outcome of his illness, and is given the command/opportunity to “set his house in order” before his death.

Of course, at this time, Hezekiah prayed through his tears and asked the Lord to be gracious to him in light of his faithful service, after which Isaiah returned to him and informed him that the Lord had heard his prayer, and granted him fifteen additional years.

In such a situation, Hezekiah could have great confidence that, so long as he remained the faithful man that he was, he *would* live out those extra fifteen years.

At the same time, however, he would remain aware that the clock was ticking down on his life, and that it would extend no farther than what the Lord had declared. But again, this is to be viewed by the righteous as a blessing, for the actions that such knowledge would prompt on the person who possesses it. Doubtless, even with the extra time God had granted, knowing how much time that was, Hezekiah would see the need to “set his house in order” before that time expired – as most of us would.

There are things/tasks in my life that need to be accomplished that I might be inclined to put off under certain circumstances. However, if there is a deadline (no pun intended) to be met in the accomplishing of that task, I will be more diligent to see to it that it gets done – sooner rather than later.

What if we knew for certain the limit on the time we have left? What if we knew that we had fewer than fifteen years before we died? Aren’t there certain things we would want to get done?

As a husband and father, I immediately consider the need to make provision for my wife and children to have what they need to survive physically after I am gone. For example, I would want to make sure all my insurance policies and investments were in order. I would do what I could to ensure they would have a safe and secure place to live. I would even speak to others about making sure they were okay after my departure. (Remember Jesus words’ to John concerning His mother in John 19:27?)

But more importantly than that, shouldn’t we want to make sure that our “spiritual house” is in order as well? Wouldn’t we want to examine ourselves to ensure that there is no required act of obedience yet undone in our lives? And wouldn’t we want to ensure that our families would have access to the things they would need to survive spiritually once we are not around? As the member of my household who is specifically charged with spiritual headship, this is also something I would want to see to.

Several years ago, when we were living in north Alabama, we became aware of a family that was moving to the area from one of the northern states. The husband/father had become aware of a condition he had that would likely take his life in the next few years. And one of the things he wanted to do for his family before that time was make sure that they would be in a place where they would never be far from other

Christians after his death. Hence, the move. Of course, most of us will never be in a position to know with any level of precision the time of our departure beforehand. But the need to “set our house in order” before that time is just as pressing. More so, in view of what we *don’t* know of that time or day.

In that light, we should see that, from a spiritual perspective, it is needful for us to set these things in order, and keep them in order so that *we* will be prepared for life after we leave this one, and *those we leave behind* will not have to do without the things they need us to provide for them. Physical necessities, to be sure. But spiritual ones as well.

Are you ready to depart? Is your house in order?

~ Jeff Harwell

“The Value of a Soul”

The biggest debate among politicians and citizens of the United States has been gun, and gun violence. Last summer, James Holmes entered a crowded theatre in Aurora Colorado and killed twelve people with a gun. On December 14th, 2012, we were horrified to learn that Adam Lanza, a twenty-year-old man killed not only his mother, but twenty children and six adult staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary school in Newtown Connecticut. In the city of Chicago, forty people have already been murdered in the month of January (2013) alone on pace to beat the five hundred people that were murdered in 2012. While politicians and citizens focus on the tools used to carry out the violent crimes, the root cause is often ignored. Our society is in the midst of a moral breakdown. The soul is not valued as it should be. In Genesis 1.26 God said "Let Us make man in Our image,

according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Verse 27 also states that "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." The word "image" means "likeness". We were made in the likeness of the only true God. We were made different than the animals, plants, and trees.

Man is special to God, we matter to Him because He crafted us with a Soul, He gave us dominion over the animals and trees etc. Unfortunately, over the course of time our schools, political and social leaders have taught young people that man is no different than an animal. They say that the idea of a soul is only reserved for those uneducated religious "kooks" who believe that abortion, homosexuality, adultery, sorcery, idolatry is wrong and are actually contributing to the destruction of society. When young people are taught that they are just like animals, should we be surprised when they start killing each other like animals? We can ban guns, get rid of the second amendment but the problem will still persist until people are taught to value the soul. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 42.1-2 “As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the believing God...” We were created to thirst for God and His ways. To value the life of man, to live the way God would want us to live because in the end ALL will to answer for their soul and whether they valued it or not.

"Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matt.10.28

~ Justin Lewis