

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Charles Goodall (*with his recent health complications*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Sylvester Johnson (*bone marrow transplant on horizon*), Leon Miller (*complications from treatment of his tumors*), Neil & Ahreah Miller (*He with his eyes and she with her leg rehabilitation*), Carla Moore (*with her family's current struggles*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Steve Parker (*as he continues to improve physically*), Moses & Mary Stevens (*with their health*); for all brethren, in Lakeland and elsewhere (*that our lights will shine during these difficult times*).

Family and friends: Vivian Dillman, Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father*), Brian James (*cancer*), Fritz Marschall (*Bob's mother has been diagnosed with stage-4 melanoma*), John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father recuperating from recent fall*), Kirk Marschall (*With long-term rehab*), Suzette Stevens' nephew (*Her sister's son, Aaron*), Dorothy Trice (*Carla Moore's mother*), Beth Weeks (*In Corner, AL recovering from brain tumor removal*).

Worship Services: Due to the civil unrest in our area, we plan to utilize Zoom for worship this evening instead of meeting at the building. That said, Wednesday service at the building will continue as previously scheduled. Pray for and encourage everyone as we have opportunity during these challenging times.

Moving: Charles and Vernita Goodall will be moving to Tennessee soon to be close to their children, and the Rice family will be moving to Pensacola, FL June 25th.

Remember and encourage those who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Isaiah 53:3-5

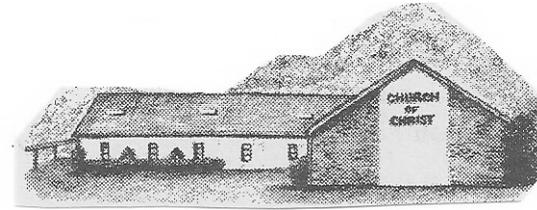
3 He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face

he was despised; and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

(ASV)



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

“Stoicism is Not Commended By God”

“Man of sorrows what a name for the Son of God who came...” These are words to a hymn of praise that we often sing during our worship assemblies. This song takes its words from Isaiah 53:3. Jesus was despised and forsaken of men, *a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief*. Christ was familiar with grief, in fact He was acquainted with it. He knew grief and sorrow rather well.

1 Corinthians 11:1 says “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.” This was penned by the inspired apostle Paul. This same Paul said this in his farewell address to the Ephesians in Acts 20:19 “serving the Lord with all humility and *with tears* and with trials which come upon me through the plots of the Jews.” Further down in Acts 20:37 it says “And they *began to weep aloud* and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, *grieving* especially over the word which he had spoke...” Paul had spent three years laboring with these brethren. They developed an unshakeable bond rooted in the truth. It was a very emotional

time to see Paul depart, and they didn't seem to feel the need to remain stoic as their brother departed. They wept **aloud** and embraced Paul. There was no doubt of their love for Paul.

If we see examples like these throughout Scripture, why do we then believe God commends a stoic attitude and demeanor? I'm not familiar with any Scripture that says God commends and encourages us for being stoic, unemotional and cold. I could be wrong, and you'd be my brother or sister to correct me if I'm wrong.

I do read that we are to be kind to one another, *tender-hearted*, and forgiving (Eph. 4:32).

I'm not sure where this attitude of stoicism in the church originated, but from my study of God's word I don't read of it being commended by God.

It is noble to want to separate ourselves from the sensationalism and false emotionalism in the denominational world. But if we allow that to cause us to grow cold and stoic, what have we really done? Have we accomplished the will of God? I think not.

Stoicism has some interesting concepts, in fact it has some noble ideals such as perseverance, enduring hardships, etc. But one of the main goals of stoicism is to not show emotion and remain neutral during times of turmoil and grief.

I read that Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief in my Bible. I read that His sweat became like great drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk. 22:44). Jesus paved the way for how we are to think, feel, act, react, etc.

If Jesus can show emotion and grief and sorrow and joy, who am I to say it's not commendable? Who am I to go a different direction from the Lord's example?

Don't allow American ideals like "a real man never shows emotion" to cloud our judgement. We are to be followers of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Let us follow the example of our Lord and put away worldly ideals from the Lord's church.

~ Jordan Lawson

"I Am Going to Miss You"

There have been some very good people to worship with the Lakeland Hills Boulevard church over the years. Many members have served well, made a positive contribution to the Lord's work, and have since departed. Some passed on to be with the Lord, while others have moved to different locations. Whatever the case, lots of people have contributed to the good of this congregation over time. Can you pause long enough to think of some who have impacted your life, for the better? Though some are no longer here, we can thank God for their influence in your life (Mt. 5:14-16)!

As my family and I are making plans to live and work elsewhere, I cannot help but think of the impact you have had in our lives. And there are many we have shared time and circumstance with here, that have since departed. I will truly cherish our experiences, brethren (Rom. 8:16).

In August of 2011, I received a phone call from the late Butch James asking if I could present a lesson that Sunday evening. Two weeks later he asked if I could make the drive from Wauchula every Sunday night and help the group "until further notice." I consented and my family got to know the group here better over the next few months. Eventually I agreed to work with the church here full-time, and the rest is

history. As I think on these things, I am so grateful for having the privilege of preaching here! In no way am I comparing myself to the likes of others, but I cannot help but think of the many good servants who have preached here over the decades. I and my family have been richly blessed, as this congregation has a full and rich history. Many good saints have helped lift each other's hands; I am just happy that you have allowed me to serve along with YOU!

I am going to miss you. WE are going to miss you. There is so much thanksgiving that I would like to offer... So many words that I want to express to each of you, individually. I will try my best with the time remaining, but words really will not do justice. Please know that you will forever be in my heart, and that I will take the lessons learned here with me into eternity. The good and difficult times can serve to prune and refine us all, so long as we continue seeking the Lord (Rom. 8:28). Please pray for Keri, our children, and me. Pray that we will grow and fulfill our potential in the Lord, for the growth of the brethren in Pensacola, and I promise that I will do the same for you. I really do love this group and thank God for all that you do in His name, according to His will.

~ Ian Rice