

News Of The Sick And Others For Whom To Pray

In order to protect the privacy of our members, all personal information has been removed from this bulletin.



Lakeland Hills Leader

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELDERS

Larry Hicks
Leon Miller
Larry Wisdom

SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Morning Services 9:50 A.M.
Evening Services 6:00 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
Michael Sadler
Moses Stevens
David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

Making Wise Choices in an Immoral Society

We as Christians today, live in a sinful, immoral, and lascivious society. God has given us rules and safeguards to guide our lives in times like these.

There is a danger of ignoring these rules and safeguards and losing our direction. This results in making bad choices in our lives through the influence of a wicked society that calls evil good and good evil. This is especially true for our children who are leaving home to begin life on their own. Whether it is to college for an education or to enter the workforce in order to make a living, there is a great temptation for young people to engage in drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana, as well as the taking of other drugs. There is a great temptation for them to act in a lewd or lascivious manner or to commit fornication. Many of our children whom we thought were well grounded in the faith have gone off to our nation's colleges, or began the journey on their own and become involved in these and other sins. Many have taken on the habit of smoking and are addicted to nicotine, or alcohol. Some have suffered consequences that are irreversible and will follow them the rest of their lives.

We have all faced our own sins and temptations in our time, but I don't think we as parents or grandparents, who grew up in a different time, and in many ways a different world, realize how great a temptation our children or grandchildren are facing when they enter today's society. What can one do in the face of such great temptation, and what can we as parents do to prepare our children for living in the world and yet be separate from its temptations and sinful practices?

First, we must teach our children to love God with all their heart, mind and soul (*Matt.22:37*). God has created us and loves us so much that He made provision for our salvation through the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ (*John 3:16*). He cares for us daily with blessings more abundant than we deserve. He is kind, loving, patient, merciful, and longsuffering (*Ps.103:8; Lk.6:36; 2 Pet.3:9*). In return He desires and demands our obedience promising an eternal home with Him in Heaven as a reward for our faithfulness (*Rom.5:21*). We have to instill this love in our children's hearts.

Second, we must teach our children what is right and true. He has also given us His Word to guide us and teach us the proper way to lead our lives, and the proper direction for living (*2 Tim.3:15-16*). We do this by teaching and by example. However, parents cannot do this alone. Peers, fellow Christians, Bible class teachers, elders, and preachers must do their part in leading and molding the lives of our young people. Peers must be an example and strength to each other, fellow Christians need to offer encouragement and advise. Elders need the foresight to direct the teaching, Bible class teachers and preachers must reinforce the teaching of the parents by laying down clear and firm Bible principles. Children must be taught the dangers they will face and be given the tools to deliver their souls.

Sometimes we may have to say no to our children. This may make them unhappy but it may deliver their soul from hell and save them a life of misery, heartache and spare them the negative consequences for their actions.

Our children have the responsibility to take what they have been taught and live it in their lives. If one possesses a love for God and a desire to do His will they will succeed. If one possesses a rebellious attitude, they will face the consequences.

We cannot live our children's lives for them; they will give an answer to God for how they have lived before Him (*Rom.14:10*). Let us all do what we can to keep our hearts and the hearts and lives of our children pleasing to God by living a pure, moral and righteous life, looking toward the hope of eternal life in Heaven, where we will be with the LORD.

Do We Really Believe The Bible?

By Roy E. Cogdill

Most people are sincere in thinking that they believe in the Bible. They would certainly be very much offended if they were accused of not believing it. Yet there are very certain indications many times that we do not have the faith in the Bible as the Word of God that we need and must have if we stand approved before God. What does it mean to really believe the Bible to be the Word of God?

If we really believe the Bible to be the Word of God, we must accept it as the infallibly inspired revelation of God to man. This is what the Bible claims for itself, and if it is not so, the Bible is not worthy of believing at all. Moreover, the individual who does not accept it as such has no foundation upon which to rest his faith in anything that it teaches.

When one admits to himself that there might be a single mistake in the Bible, he has destroyed the possibility of believing what the Bible says about anything. If it contains one mistake, how may we discover what that mistake is? Could it be in the existence of the one true and living God that the Bible is wrong? or could it be in the fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God that the Bible is mistaken? Is it possible that the Bible is wrong in its teaching that man has an eternal spirit in the image of God Himself? A soul that needs to be saved? Maybe the Bible is wrong, if there is any mistake at all in it, in the doctrine of sin and salvation from sin or the hope of eternal life in the world to come! How would we learn what the mistake is if there should be one in the Bible? We would have to depend on the wisdom of man to discover that mistake, and in that case, the wisdom of man would sit in judgment on the Word of God. Besides, if God has made one mistake, how do we know that He has not made many others? Moreover, if God is subject to mistakes, He cannot be the God of the Bible, who is infallible and all-wise, so the end result would be no faith at all.

When the testimony of a witness is impeached relative to one matter, then it is, rejected with reference to all things. If the Bible is to be believed at all, we must be willing to believe all of its testimony. If we impeach its testimony in one point, then we must reject it in its entirety or be guilty of inconsistency in our attitude toward it. The fact is, if we do not believe all of the Bible, then we do not believe anything just because the Bible says it, but we accept just what suits us and that is no faith in anything except our own wisdom and judgment. [*Truth Magazine*, XV:33 (June 24, 1971), p. 9]