

To protect the privacy of individuals, personal information regarding members of this congregation has purposely been removed from this page.



Lakeland Hills Leader

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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:

Defining Our Terms

By Jordan Lawson

A strong pull on the Lord's church today is to allow society to dictate how we use Bible terms. We need to use Bible terms in Bible ways (1 Pet. 4:11). If we pay any attention to the logic many people use, it goes something like this, "Truth is subjective and goes with the times. As the times change, the truth goes with it." This thinking has even captured the mind of some brethren. Brethren who were once conservative in their Biblical views, have grown more permissive and say things like, "What would be so bad to use instrumental music in worship? It sounds good." We must get back to defining Biblical terms in Biblical ways. When we do that, it provides a teaching opportunity to a lost soul, it can help strengthen or bring back an erring brother or sister, and it strengthens our own faith.

Most importantly, it brings honor and glory to God. It's His word! Let's look at some examples of terms and phrases that get misconstrued and need to be defined correctly.

The church Of Christ

Many today look at the church of Christ as another denomination among the thousands out there. I believe this misunderstanding comes from not defining terms clearly, so we know what the church of Christ really is. The problem is two-fold. First, some people are hung up on the name without understanding what the church of Christ is in a Biblical sense. When talking to people, they give the impression that the church of Christ is a denomination. It's the same thing as a Baptist saying, "I'm Baptist" and then a member of the Lord's body saying, "I'm church of Christ." One person cannot be a "church of Christ." The word "church" means "called out" and "of Christ" shows who the church belongs to (Christ). The church of Christ are those people called out of the world by the gospel and now belong to Christ by obeying the gospel. Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 5:23).

The second part of this problem manifests itself when a child of God is afraid to tell people the truth. In other words, a child of God may have the belief that "since people think the church of Christ is a denomination, I won't bring up that I belong to the church of Christ. I'll keep it vague." That mindset allows society to dictate a Biblical term (Rom. 16:16). That's wrong as well! Let's use Biblical terms in Biblical ways.

The Faith Alone Doctrine

While I don't think there are faithful brethren that subscribe to this false doctrine, I do think the way some answer the question can cause issues. It does no one any good to run away from the passages that teach we are

saved by faith and by God's grace (Tit. 3:5; Rom. 3:28; Rom. 5:1; Gal. 3:24, etc.). Running from scripture wouldn't do you, the person who is in error, the Lord's church or the Lord, any good. The proper way is to seek to understand these passages within the scheme or plan of salvation.

The Bible nowhere teaches that man is saved by faith (or anything else) "alone." It teaches we are saved by faith. We are also saved by God's grace. The scriptures teach, "baptism now saves you" as well (1 Pet. 3:21). An honest Bible student who has stated we are saved by faith "only" must ask, "Who's wrong, God or me?" To ask this question is to answer it! Let us stand firm on Bible truths and not allow society to deter us from using God's word with uprightness and vigor.

Jesus

You may be scratching your head and wondering, how can someone not define the Lord accurately? It is indeed an issue. Some folks in the Lord's body allow themselves to subscribe to the idea that Jesus is only soft and cuddly and won't punish sin. Maybe they don't outright say it, but they may hold back from presenting the full truth on what the Bible teaches on Jesus. We understand, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16). Also, "God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). A temptation today is to not

make any personal applications such as teaching about self-control, righteousness, repentance, and judgment, unlike what Paul did (Acts 24:25). 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 tells us when Jesus returns, He will do so with His mighty angels, "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord..." Judgment day is real, and when Jesus comes back, He will hand out retribution to those who live in their sins and don't come to Him. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 3:23)! People need to be aware of their sin to know they need to come to the Lord for salvation.

Dear brethren and friends, let's use Bible terms in Bible ways. Let's seek to bring honor and glory to our God each day!

Editor's Note: *Jordan has made such great strides in the time he has spent at Caneyville with Jared Jacobs. It is good to see a young man who has such zeal and fervor for the Lord. Jordan has a bright future ahead of him as a preacher of the Gospel. He serves as an encouragement to all young men and women to serve the Lord. We need to encourage him and keep him in our thoughts and prayers as he begins his journey preaching God's Word.*

Something Learned From Mules

By W. R. Jones

A mule can't pull while he's kicking, and when he is pulling he won't be kicking. It is the same in the church. When saints have their feet in the sand pulling hard to do the will of God, there is no time for kicking, nit-picking and complaining. To the contrary, when we are given to kicking, gossip, and idleness we never move the gospel chariot forward. Also, when one has two or more mules hitched together, they have to pull at the same time to move the load. This is also true in the Lord's church. Pulling "together" accomplishes great things.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (KJV)

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.