



8/21/2022

# ***Lakeland Hills Leader***

*Lakeland Hills Blvd Church of Christ - 2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd, Lakeland Florida 33805*

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## **“The Leadership Of The Church” Pt.3**

*By Chuck Richardson*

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. [Acts 20:28]

The title, “overseer” denotes the accountability to ensure the work of the Lord is administered according to God’s will for the building up of the church. Peter, an overseer himself, calls Jesus, “the Overseer/Guardian of our souls”, as Jesus is the Overseer of our souls, the Holy Spirit has made select men to be the overseer “to shepherd the Church of God, which Jesus purchased with His own blood.” Paul calls the body, the oversight/episkopeō, in Colossians 2:19 and to the church of Philippi, he addresses a letter to the church with the overseers and deacons, Philippians 1:1. So, we conclude the Lord intended for the church to be overseen by men in the work God has given the church. Since this is the case what is the work of the church that needs oversight?

In Acts 20:28-31, Paul calls the overseers of Ephesus together to warn them of savage wolves coming in among them to ravage the flock, possibly among the overseers as well. What makes them especially equipped to manage this problem? Their knowledge of the word [1Tim. 3:2]. Equipped with this knowledge and the wisdom of age, and experience to apply their knowledge to protect their flock [Tit. 1:6]. The overseer “holding fast the faithful word” is “able to both exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.” [Tit. 1:9] Sadly this is necessary because evil men and rebellious souls are too abundant and active in their pursuit against the flock. [Tit. 1:10,11]

The Hebrew writer, in Hebrews 13:7, admonishes the Hebrew Christians in an effort to motivate them to endure, to recall those who led them in the word of God and in their conduct, to imitate their faith. The Hebrew writer would include all faithful saints that came before them, but by nature, it would include, the overseers as well. The overseer leads in persevering in trials and tribulations [Jas. 1:2-6], to avoid varied and strange teachings [Heb. 13:9], in correcting lovingly the alien sinner [Gal. 6:1], the way and passion to seek the lost and kindly entreat [2Tim. 4:1,2; Heb. 10:19-25], with a tireless desire to bear the burdens of those in their charge [Gal. 6:2], in short to serve as an example to the flock [1Pet. 5:3]. The overseer is the leader in sacrificial living [Rom. 12:1], in showing the life of transformation [Rom. 12:2], and the unity of “The Spirit” in the bond of peace” [Eph. 4:3]. May we have overseers like this!

This deceitfulness of sin should serve as a strong inducement to make us doubly watchful against it, and because of our foolish disposition and proneness of nature to yield to every temptation. Sin presents itself in another dress than its own. It lyingly offers fair advantages.

It insensibly bewitches our mind. It accommodates itself to each individual's particular temperament and circumstances. It clothes its hideousness by assuming an attractive garb. It deludes us into a false estimate of ourselves. One great reason why God has mercifully given us His Word is to expose the real character of sin.

- Pink, A.W., An Exposition of Hebrews

### **Other News and Announcements**

- **Sunday Evening Drill Class** – Remember our Sunday Evening Drill Class at 5:30pm.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** – 10:00am every Wednesday morning here at the building.
- **Annual Sing** – Friday evening, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Please invite others to come join us as we lift our voices in praise to God above.
- **Men's Training Study** – Sunday afternoon August 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm here at the building.
- **Fall Gospel Meeting** – Remember our Gospel Meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> with Tommy Peeler.