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Lakeland Hills Leader

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

“The Leadership Of The Church”

By Chuck Richardson

The leadership of the church are called elders (Acts 20:17), overseers (Acts 20:28), or shepherds/pastors (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11), and each of these titles speak to an aspect of their work in the Lord on behalf of the church.

Our understanding of the application of these titles will determine if we have a leadership that guards against intruding wolves from without and divisive perverters from within (Acts 20:28-30). Likewise, our understanding of these titles will determine if we have leadership that can promote growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (2Peter 3:18).

Jesus tells John that five of the seven churches of Asia addressed in Revelation 2 & 3, in one way or another have extinguished their light and are in danger of losing it, never to return. Where was the leadership? Or did the leadership understand their work? Did they know what an elder, overseer, and shepherd does?

I’m convinced that our issues today are in a great part just as we see in the first century church, due to poorly qualified or unqualified leaders. We spend a great deal of time discussing the personal moral and domestic qualifiers (1Timothy 3 & Titus 1) and we forget that these are only the necessary qualities to do the work of teaching (1Timothy 3:2), overseeing (Titus 1:7), exhorting and rebuking (Titus 1:9), and proving as examples to the flock (1Peter 5:3), with a genuinely loving concern for the spiritual welfare of the flock (Acts 20:29-38).

I plan to develop the application of each of these leadership titles in the hope that we will grow to be more of what the Lord wants us to be as His people. I want us to reach higher and dig deeper into our relationship with one another, and be better equipped to teach, admonish, exhort, strengthen, and rebuke one another in a spirit of love and devotion (Galatians 6:1,2; 1Thessalonians 5:14; Romans 12:9,10; 2Timothy 4:1-5; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 2:1-8; Hebrews 10:19-25; 2Timothy 2:14-19; 3; 1John 3; James 4; 1 Peter 5:5-10).

Therefore, I will develop the application of leadership in a series of articles with corresponding sermons. I only ask that each of us aim for and desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (1Peter 3:18), to “grow up in all aspects into Him who is head, even Christ” (Ephesians 4:15), that we all will do our share to cause the growth of the body (Ephesians 4:16), because we desire the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3), and in this instance that we all want leadership concerned for our spiritual health in Christ Jesus. If we enter into this study with this as our aim, we can ensure the health and welfare of this church that meets here.