



Sunday – Nov. 6, 2022

Lakeland Hills Leader

Lakeland Hills church of Christ

2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33805
(863) 688-4336

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 AM Bible Study
9:50 AM Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

7:00 PM Bible Study

Visit our Website:

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

For Sermon & Class outlines,
Bible Study Materials and
Other Information.

Visit our Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/LakelandHillschurchofchrist for events,
information, and links to
our YouTube Archives

Visit us on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCu7AG_3jUtpBDlr2NPqB3iw for
Live Streams and Video
Archives.

Elders

Bob Marschall
Leon Miller
Larry Wisdom

Deacons

Bucky Day
Sherman Johnson
Michael Sadler
David Williams

One Who Seeks the Old Paths

By Larry Wisdom

As we at Lakeland Hills Blvd look for an evangelist to work with the congregation, there are always personal expectations and desires that a man needs to meet to be the perfect candidate. In reality, the perfect candidate does not exist. No man is perfect, as all men are imperfect before God. And as everyone has differing preferences and expectations, no man can please everybody. So, putting personal preferences aside, what kind of evangelist should we be looking for?

We must have a man who is diligent in the study of God's Word.

In order to be effective in the work, an Evangelist must have an extensive knowledge of God's Word. He must be a diligent student of God's Word and not dip from the wells of sectarianism or liberalism. God's Word has the power to save. (Rom.1:16)

We must have a man who is sound in the Faith.

An Evangelist must have a strong faith. In this time of loose interpretations of what the scriptures tell us, we must have a man who is conservative in their thinking, values, and in their teaching. As recorded by Jeremiah in Jer.6:16 - *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...* we need a man who holds to the pattern of God's Word. A man who realizes that all things are not expedient and has respect for the silence of the scriptures. Some today would push the boundaries that God has set to accommodate a more liberal way of thinking. A man who supports that mindset would lead the congregation in the wrong direction. We must have a man who is sound on the Faith

We must have a man who can give the understanding of God's Word.

In Nehemiah, when Ezra read the book of the Law before the people, the people were taught the meaning of what was being read. Also *Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. So, they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.* (Neh.8:7-8) A man must be able to give the sense of God's message in a manner that all can understand. One can preach their heart out but if it isn't in a manner that others can understand, it will not build up and strengthen the congregation or convince sinners to change.

We must have a man who practices what he preaches.

We cannot hold the preacher, elder or deacon to a different standard than we hold ourselves for we are all held to the same standard by God. However, for a preacher to be able to influence others, he must measure up to what he preaches. One cannot preach on modesty who himself dresses immodest. One cannot preach on drinking and drunkenness who drinks socially, etc. He must be one who can say as Paul said in (1 Cor.11:1) *"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."*

We must have a man who is courageous and is able to discern what is needed.

Paul told Timothy to *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine"* (2 Tim.4:2). A preacher of the Gospel must be able to discern what a congregation needs and have the courage to

preach it regardless of whether it is “in season” or “out of season”. Jesus says of John the Baptist, “*what did you go out to see? A reed shaken with the wind*”? (Matt.7:11) One who is preaching to please the people will not preach what the congregation needs.

Let us give attention to the important things.

Absolutely, there are preferences that we would love to see in a preacher of the Gospel. Family, children, age, personality, etc. are important factors to consider. However, the most important thing is one who will help the congregation to grow spiritually, to lead us in the right direction, to help us continue to stand for truth, to admonish us when we need admonition and encourage us when we need encouragement. To preach the Word of God in its power, its fulness and its simplicity. *For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.* (Acts 20:7). Let us all pray for a man who is able to build us up in the faith and to help us to stand firm.