



Sunday – Nov 20, 2022

The 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

The Christian's Retirement

by Jarrod M. Jacobs

Something that impresses me when I read 2 John and 3 John is that John had not "retired" from being a Christian (2 Jn. 12; 3 Jn. 13-14)! In both letters, John called himself an "elder" (2 Jn. 1; 3 Jn. 1). In this case, he refers to his advanced age, not that he had oversight over a particular congregation. Therefore, we read about a man, an apostle, someone who has seen Jesus, who has performed miracles, who has endured suffering, and someone who has enjoyed many victories and experienced defeats. He had a life similar to Paul's (2 Cor. 11:23-28), and John was not ready to quit yet!

John is an old man, an old Christian, when he writes these letters. Though advanced in years, he is not sitting in an easy chair! He is not grumbling about the young people! Conversely, he is not complaining about his advanced years and saying, "let the young people do it." He has not stopped serving God. Before this man dies, he will have written five books of the New Testament. In addition to this, he was consistently and continually preaching the truth. In two of his letters, he promises to visit the recipients and talk with them "face-to-face." I do not know the miles between them, but I read of a man who writes in concern for souls and then says, "I am ready to do more. I'll be there soon." John did not "retire" from the Lord's service when he reached a certain age!

Since our society considers 65 the "retirement age," I am concerned at how much this mentality has spilled over into the Lord's body. How much work are we letting slip by because those 65 and above might see themselves as retiring, not only from an occupation but also from our work as Christians? I know there are exceptions to what I just wrote. I am thankful for such people and I wish that there were more like them.

More often than not, though, I hear older folks say that they think the "younger ones" ought to "step up" and take on more responsibilities. If this is said with the mindset of furthering the Lord's work, I agree. If this is said because the older ones wish to do less, then I think this is the wrong motivation!

Don't forget that the older men are here for our instruction, and we need to be influenced by them while they are around (Lev. 19:32; Prov. 16:31; 1 Tim. 5:1; 1 Pet. 5:5)! John knew he had work to do to the end of his life. May we remember the same thing! Yes, the work of older people will look different than younger folks' work, but I beg the older folks to please not deprive us of your wisdom and experience by "retiring" too soon! It has been said, "When an old man dies, a library burns to the ground." How true! I pray older Christians will give us the benefit of their wisdom and experience while they are still here (Jn. 9:4). All of us need to be faithful to God until we leave this world (1 Cor. 15:58)! Then, we can "retire" (Heb. 4:9-11)! I am thankful John didn't retire too soon, aren't you?

Running with Endurance

Looking at Luke 15-19, with the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son, we need to rejoice with the angels when the lost are saved. When we aren't fulfilling our obligations, we can stop, make changes and get back on the right track. Once we leave this life, our eternal destination is sealed.

Always be willing to forgive those who ask forgiveness. Whatever we do in service, it's simply our duty. Always be thankful for what God does for us. Be prepared, we never know when Jesus will return. Remain humble and realize good as we think we may be, failure to do all will cost us our goal of heaven. Use the abilities God has given us to the very best of our ability.

By Steve Klein