



Sunday – Jan. 29, 2023

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

Evangelist

Chuck Kozens

What Are We Doing?

This is the first day of the week—*the Lord's Day*. We are here because of this book – *the Bible*. We have been instructed through this book to worship God, pursue righteousness, and support one another in both of these endeavors. Based on the modern evidence, and claims of religious bodies, many are being led to believe that the Bible is full of “options”. The evidence is presented in nearly every town in this country – *there are many choices presented as worship*. We need to know “why” we are here, instead of partaking of other options in our local “buffet of faiths”. Is it that we are practicing just another way among the many choices? Or, does it really matter, what we do or how we do what we do?

Let's take the time to consider what we are doing here and why it matters.

Why are We Here? We are worshipping the God of Heaven, whom we would not know apart from the information found in the Bible. We are seeking God with the understanding that He desires our attention (Acts 17:27). We are seeking Him with the knowledge of His willingness to reward us (Heb. 11:6). We worship God here by song, prayer, and proclamation of His word, remembrance, and monetary offering.

We are using God's word. We study with the intention of knowing the truth. Jn 8:31-32 “*Abide in My word...you shall know the truth*”. 2 Tim. 2:15 “*Be diligent to show yourself approved to God*”. We listen to the sermon with the intention that we will be strengthened or edified. (1 Thess. 5:11-14); and, as needed, convinced, rebuked, or exhorted (2 Tim. 4:2).

We are supporting one another (Rom. 12:9-6): Loving “*without hypocrisy*”. Every member here needs to know, with full assurance, that every other member loves them. Enough to rebuke them. Enough to understand and bear with their weakness. Enough to consistently seek the most important factor in this life – *our salvation*. Heb. 10:24-25 admonishes us to “*consider one another*”. I need you here, to consider me, and to allow me to consider you.

Why are We Doing “These Things”? This is something that we all need to know (1 Pet. 3:15). Is there a standard of right and wrong that everyone needs to verify with? A guide that can be used as authority for the practices of a congregation?

The Bible is the standard! If everyone would take the courage and the time to search the Scriptures, they would see what things are “so” (Acts 17:11). 2 Tim. 2:15 prescribes, “*Be diligent to show yourself approved of God*”. We must be found doing what He has authorized. We must be found rightly dividing the word of truth.

We need to study and properly gather information from God's word. There are three ways of finding God's authority. They are all used in Acts 15. There was a question concerning the Gentiles' requirement to become circumcised, in order to become a Christian. Some of the Jewish brethren in Jerusalem wanted to enforce it. The apostles used three methods of determining whether God authorizes the Gentiles to be saved without circumcision. verses 6-11 *necessary conclusion*. verse 12-*approved example*. verse 13-18—*direct statement*. There is also another boundary that must be respected. In verse 24, the apostles said, “*...to whom we gave no such command*”. What we learn is, where there is no directive there is no authority. The “*silence of God*” is prohibitive, not permissive, and it must be respected. We cannot say that “we are doing God's will” by actions He has not authorized.

Why does it Matter? Does it even matter if we make it up as we go along, or does it matter if we add to, or take away from, God's word? God has constantly warned man to not tamper with His word (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18). We are to abide within the boundaries of the word (Jn. 8:31; 2 Jn. 9).

What we preach and teach matters. Paul declared there is only one gospel (Gal. 1:6-9). If we teach anything other than that which is established by the New Testament we *will be accursed*. Later, to Timothy, and all who would "preach", a charge was given to "*preach the word*" (2 Tim. 4:1-2). Only "*the word of God*" is to be proclaimed.

What we do matters. Jesus teaches us that our Father in Heaven desires "*worship in spirit and truth*" (Jn. 4:24). Truth is not validated by our emotions, our desires, or our majority vote. Truth is validated only in the word of God (Jn. 17:17) – *His emphatic truth is the standard that sanctifies us*. Jesus teaches us that our hope of Heaven is only found in doing the will of the Father in Heaven (Matt. 7:21-23). We must do the will of God!

Conclusion: God has given His word so that we will actually listen. That is "*why*" we strive, each step of the way, to do God's will. This one book is the true hope of ultimate success. That is "*why*" we purpose to rightly divide this book, to find the success it promises (2 Tim. 2:15). We can know why we do what we do, and we need to. Our Father, through the revelation of His divine will, has established a plan for you to be saved. That is "*why*" this moment can be the beginning of your greatest hope. So "*why*" are you waiting? Come to God on His terms today.

By T. Sean Sullivan