



Sunday – Feb. 19, 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.

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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

Walking In A Manner Worthy Of God

By Jordan Lawson

God's children are called to something special, nay something spectacular. We are called to walk in a manner worthy of the God of Heaven. I want to examine Colossians 1:8-10 where we are called to walk in a manner worthy of God.

Before we dive in, it's important that we understand the context and theme of the book. The book of Colossians was written as a book to encourage this new church of Christ to further faithfulness. It was also written as a warning against false doctrine such as the empty philosophies of men, rituals such as the New Moon, Sabbath, and the worship of angels. God's faithful servant Epaphras taught these people the Gospel and they obeyed. They became part of the body of Christ. They were a church that belonged to the Lord.

The main subject of this book seems to be that all completeness and spiritual wholeness is found in Jesus Christ (Col. 1:19-28, 2:8-10, 3). In Christ dwells all the fullness of God (Col. 1:19, 2:9). It was Christ who reconciled all things to God through the blood of His cross (Col. 1:20). It is Christ who reconciles us to God through His fleshly body (Col. 1:22). The great mystery that was hidden for centuries in the history of mankind is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). Christ is the image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15). Christ made all things and is preeminent in all things, He is also the head of the church (Col. 1:16-18). Our life is also hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).

Now, in light of these spiritual truths, let's look at Colossians 1:8-10: "And he (Epaphras) also informed us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God".

Notice, the passage calls on these brethren (and us today) to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. The question is: how can we possibly do that? How can us fallible human beings walk in a manner worthy of the glorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords? The answer is revealed in the passage for us.

Be Filled With The Knowledge of God's Will:

Paul says in verse 9 that we are to be filled with the knowledge of God's will to walk worthily before God. How shall we walk worthily of God if we don't know His will?

The definition of "walk" in this instance speaks of our lifestyle or how we typically live our lives. If we want our lives to be truly pleasing to God we must be filled with the knowledge of God's will. The phrase "be filled" is often used to describe the fulfilling of a prophecy (Matt. 1:22, 2:15). Or the completion of an activity or task (Matt. 13:48). It speaks of wholeness and completeness.

In regards to our knowledge of God, this does not speak of a cursory knowledge that can quote a few verses here and there. The idea of being filled with the knowledge of God is for us to have a thorough and complete understanding of God's will. God wants us to know as much about Him as we possibly can. We learn about Him through His inspired word (2 Tim. 3:16). We are to "let the word of Christ richly dwell within us" (Col. 3:16a). God wants His children to reach for the knowledge of Him. He wants us to "excel still more" (1 Thess. 4:10). If we are weak in an area of the Bible, let us admit that to ourselves and seek to grow in that area.

Spiritual Wisdom And Understanding:

It's been said that knowledge is the ability to quote and know the facts, but wisdom is that knowledge in practice. Paul builds on his thought in Colossians 1:9 where he says "Be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Paul does not stop at knowledge, but that knowledge must be coupled with spiritual wisdom and understanding. Wisdom is the ability to develop sound judgement based on knowledge. Wisdom is that quality that is highly praised in the Proverbs (Prov. 1:2, 2:2, 6).

We must put the knowledge of God's will into practice and make sound judgements. For example: think about the person who wants to come as close to sin without committing sin. They may say "see, I didn't actually commit the sin, I am strong."

To put yourself in that position is not using wisdom or sound judgement. It is setting yourself up for failure. Wisdom would say we need to stay as far away from sin as possible so we can remain in fellowship with God (1 Jn. 1:8-10).

Walk In A Manner Worthy Of The Lord

Paul called on these brethren to have a full knowledge of God's will with all wisdom so they could walk in a manner worthy of God. Remember the question we asked at the beginning: how can we possibly walk in a manner worthy of God? We do that first, by finding out what is pleasing to God through His word (Col. 1:10), and then we obey what God's word says! Simple in principle, but difficult to practice. Jesus says we are His family members if we do what He says. Let's use that as motivation and walk in a manner worthy of the God of all glory! Let us put away sin and unrighteousness and obey the Lord our God!