



Sunday – Mar. 05, 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
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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

Being Here, Where... – Part One

By T. Sean Sullivan

Editors Note: This article was too large to fit in one bulletin so will be continued with part two next week. The article is excellent in showing the importance of worship.

Introduction:

Hebrews 10:25 is a direct statement that authorizes the necessity of attending the assembling of the congregation of which we are members. The Hebrew writer reveals the importance of gathering with our brethren in God's plan for our spiritual survival. Many have been misled, or have falsely concluded, that we can worship as "Christians-at-large", or independent of the organization called the church. Some conclude, "I can worship in my deer stand" or others, on the way to the lake Sunday morning, say, "Okay kids, let's think about God for a few minutes; that will be our church service today".

There are things that are expressed; provided; and gained, only here in our assemblies. Some have forgotten the benefits of doing the will of God. David in Psalm 103:2 exhorts, "*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits*". There is something wonderful to being involved in the assembling of the church in this place. Let's open the Scriptures and seek to encourage our desire to be here at every opportunity to fulfill our role, and to receive the benefits that are intended to be ours.

Be Here, Where We Worship God:

Another statement of David found in Psalm 122:1 declares, "*I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'*" This is a declaration of one who understands "the opportunity" of gathering with the people of God for worship. The New Testament refers to "the church" as "*the house of God*" (1 Timothy 3:15), so putting these two similar thoughts together, are you "Glad to gather with the church"? Those who understand "the opportunity" of gathering with the people of God for worship, are glad to do so, each and every time they can. Gathering with our brethren in worship is a blessed opportunity that should be eagerly desired. When we understand that worship is an opportunity to participate in something great.

The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah gives us an interesting insight to "coming before the presence of God in worship". We clearly see that God is to be hallowed—*God is to be revered*. Isaiah 6:1-3 is a glimpse into the throne room of Heaven, and God on His throne. There were seraphim (Winged Heavenly Host) over the throne of God and they praised God with the words, "*Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory*" (v. 3). What is interesting to see is the "reverence" of the seraphim; who covered their faces in the presence of God (v.2). If the host of Heaven cover their faces in the presence of God, how reverent should we be as we come to His throne in worship?

I am afraid with our culture's desire to make all things more and more casual; we have lost sight of what it means to enter into the presence of God in worship. It seems as though today we are supposed to treat everything in life like it is "No big deal". There is no way to fully express the importance of our hope, through Christ, but is worth every moment of trying. It is awesome to be invited to reverence God in worship. We are given an opportunity to join in the worship of the Almighty Father, the One who willed into existence all that is, that One who is from forever and will forever be, has invited you (John 4:24). What is reflected by our rejection of His invitation by choosing not to attend?

... to be continued in next week's bulletin