



Sunday – May 07, 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 Marshall
Leon Miller
Larry Wisdom

Deacons

Bucky Day
Sherman Johnson
Michael Sadler
David Williams

Evangelist

Chuck Kozens

PREPARING OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

By Richie Thetford

Most everyone realizes the need for preparation in our lives. Before we leave for work or school, we freshen up, comb our hair, and put on clean clothing. After a hearty breakfast, we leave the house ready to face the day's activities.

Parents prepare and make sure that their school-age children are ready with their homework before they head to school. One hosting a get together values preparation and usually goes the second mile when company is coming. The menu is planned, grocery shopping done early, and the meal gets put on the table at the right time.

Preparation really does pay off! When we're well prepared, our lives are happier and runs smoother. We've all learned that facing a test in school without studying, getting to work late without our lunch, or serving guests after a long delay, disturbs us. We've learned the value of preparation in various areas of our day to day lives.

Therefore, don't we feel that our worship of God would be better if we made adequate preparation for it? I want to offer just a few suggestions that should make our worship to God much better on the Lord's Day.

First, we need to get up on time. It really makes a difference when we get up, get ready, and leave in plenty of time in order to arrive at the building early so we can greet our brethren, and begin focusing our attention on the privileges and joys of assembling together.

Secondly, we need to come with a prepared, seeking heart. Attending the assembly should not be approached as a matter of habit or burden of duty. It's an opportunity to get completely away from the world and be in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ and have a deeper contact with our God.

Thirdly, we need to come with a prepared attitude. We need to come prepared to give of ourselves. If we come only to receive, we will, in the end, get nothing. The success of the assembly depends on people who are prepared to give of themselves. Assembling isn't just a matter of getting some people together. It's a matter of getting hearts, minds, and needs together. Our preparing for the assembly will most likely make all the difference in the world. Come prepared to worship our almighty God and to edify and encourage one another.

THE BENEFIT OF MEETING FACE TO FACE

By Andy Sochor

When John wrote his second epistle, he expressed his joy over their conduct, encouraged them to love one another, and warned about false teachers who could come in and deceive them (2 John 4, 5, 7-8). Even today, we are able to read his letter and receive the same encouragement and warnings.

However, while much good can be accomplished through the written word, it does

have its limitations. John acknowledged this at the close of the letter: “*Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made full*” (2 John 12).

John was an inspired apostle. The things he wrote to these brethren were directly from the Holy Spirit. Yet he knew the importance of meeting with these brethren in person – both for his benefit and theirs.

This is an important lesson for us today, especially with technology that can deceive us into thinking that virtual connections are the same as personal ones. Yet God knew that we needed a deeper connection with others in order to receive encouragement and be held accountable. This is one of the reasons why He designed the church as He did where we physically and personally gather together on a regular basis.

So, remember the benefit of meeting face to face. Yes, other forms of communication (whether written or digital) can be helpful. However, if we truly want to grow closer to one another and strengthen each other in the Lord, there is no substitute for being *with* one another.