



Sunday – July 09, 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

Do I Have to Attend Evening Services?

By Mike Thomas

"Oh, what a weariness!" This was the attitude of the Jews who lost interest in worshiping God, as described in Malachi 1:13. They had grown tired of gathering for the scheduled feasts and sacrifices and were uninterested in applying themselves to genuine worship. "Oh, what a weariness" it was for them to take time out of their busy schedules to meet this necessary obligation to God. Worship wasn't just a chore; it was an interference. They saw no real purpose in centering their lives around it, much less in giving more than they had to. The same verse also says, "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Instead of their worship being a joyous event in their relationship with God, these Jews viewed it as a wearisome task and necessary burden. "I'm doing this because I have to, not because I want to" is another way of describing their attitude.

Have we also grown cold in our love and appreciation for God? Do we no longer see Him as the One who has given us life—in a world filled with beauty and joyous moments? Have we forgotten His great love for us in providing salvation for us through His Son? What about attending Sunday evening services? Is our attitude "do I have to" and "we're only required to worship once on Sundays"? Or do we have a spirit of gratitude for the privilege and opportunity to have one more time together as brethren to build each other up and glorify God? God wants us to view public worship as a blessing. "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:24-25).

I realize the number of services is a matter of judgment. And I also believe it is possible for faithful brethren to decide it is best for their situation to forego an evening service. Who am I to "judge" a group for that decision (Rom. 14:10)? That's between them and God. However, if we have the opportunity to assemble at a scheduled service, why would we NOT want to meet? Are we so caught up in life that the thought of glorifying God is no longer appealing? Could it be we have lost sight of our purpose in life and have hardened our hearts to all He has done for us? That is the warning given us when looking back at unfaithful Israel. "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God...lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:12-13).

Elton Dilbeck asked some very good questions regarding our attitude toward the church in "Which Disturbs You the Most?"

- A soul lost in hell or a scratch on your new car?
- A sermon ten minutes too long or lunch a half-hour late?
- Your missing the worship or missing a day's work?
- The church not growing or the garden not growing?
- Your Bible being unopened or your newspaper being unread?
- Contribution decreasing or your income decreasing?
- Your children late to Bible Class or late to school?
- Missing Bible class or missing your favorite TV program?
- Church work neglected or housework neglected?
- Low attendance at worship or low attendance at a party?

These are soul-searching thoughts that should get us to see how we truly view the church and its assemblies. What matters most to us – this earthly life or the eternal life to come? Which has our highest affection? Honestly, if we have the ability to assemble one more time on Sunday, to honor God “in spirit and truth,” why would we not want to be there? Is He deserving of our finest efforts and sacrifices, or is it a “weariness” to give Him a little bit more?