



Sunday – Aug 13, 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

“KNOW NOTHING BUT CHRIST”

We can remember the statements of the older preachers, and they will always ring in our ears because they repeated them time and time again. In the beginning of almost every sermon before they took up the message proper, they would make these two declarations. “It will be my purpose to hide behind the cross and to preach nothing save Christ and him crucified,” and then, “I am here to please God, not men, if men are pleased, I shall rejoice but my principal concern is that every word I shall speak will be pleasing to my God.”

Now many great truths are embodied in these words. If preachers today have lost the power of their message, perhaps it is because they are failing to hide behind the cross. Regardless of how old the saying may be, it is a part of the truth of the Master. Paul said in Galatians 6:14, “*God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” No room here for a show of scholarship, a demonstration of dramatic art, or a collection of flowery phrases.

Place cannot be found for stories of personal success or experiences. Little use of the pronoun “I”. The need today is for preachers who, with Jeremiah of old, have the word of the Lord in them like a burning fire. Who by their concern for the lost men and women in their audiences will forget the personal glory, and pour out the story of the cross, as though it were their last sermon on this earth. The message rings out from the pioneers of yesterday, when you preach hide behind the cross.

Now let us consider the last part of the familiar saying, “*And I know nothing save Christ and him crucified.*” Paul sounded that great cry nearly two thousand years ago in I Corinthians 2:2, and it needs to be read over and over. There would never be a theory preached in the pulpits of the churches of America if this old rule were observed. There would never be a division over the idea of some preacher who wants to write it into the faith delivered to the saints. Little sermonettes would not be the order of the day, while the masses are starving for spiritual bread.

The story of the cross on Pentecost, which converted men to Christ in the first century, will convict and convince men of sin today if we will give it the opportunity.

When these older preachers stated that they wanted to please God, they were restating the principle of Paul. He looked down the avenue of time to tell Timothy, his son in the gospel, as recorded in II Tim. 4:3, “*The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears.*” The tendency for soft and still softer preaching is sweeping over the land like the tides of the sea. Let us in answer sound again from the walls of spiritual Jerusalem the trumpet of truth, and say with Paul, “*It is a small thing with me that I be judged of you.*”

Taken from Philadelphia Radio Sermons, 1947, by James P. Miller, pgs. 69 and 70.

“BE STRONG AND TAKE COURAGE”

David faced many adversaries, from the enemies of the nations around him to the king of Israel, Saul, who hunted him down and tried to kill him. Despite all of this, he was firm in his trust in the Lord.

In one of his psalms, David asked, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?” (Psalm 27:1). He said, “Though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident” (Psalm 27:3). At the end of the psalm, he explained that without this trust in God, he would have no reason to have confidence in the face of his opposition. “I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13). He then encouraged all of us, “Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord” (Psalm 27:14). The example of David shows us that no matter what trials we face in this life, we can have confidence because God is our “light,” our “salvation,” and our “defense” (Psalm 27:1).

So be strong and take courage. Remember that the Lord will take care of His people. Even in situations that seem hopeless and we are tempted to despair, let us keep in mind the goodness that God has promised and hold onto our faith.

Andy Sochor