

The Lakeland Hills Leader



Lakeland Hills Blvd 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
5:00 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_3jUtpBDIr2NPqB3iw for Live Streams and Video Archives.

Elders

Bob Marschall
Leon Miller
Larry Wisdom

Deacons

Bucky Day
Sherman Johnson
Michael Sadler
David Williams

Evangelist

Kent Heaton

The Value of Sunday Evening Worship

By Greg Gwin

In recent years, a growing number of congregations have quietly discontinued their Sunday evening worship services. Sometimes the decision is explained as a matter of practicality. At other times it is described as an effort to “meet people where they are.” And sometimes the service simply disappears without much explanation at all. Regardless of the reasoning, the result is the same—and it is becoming increasingly noticeable. When traveling, it can now be surprisingly difficult to find a congregation assembling on Sunday evening. That reality alone ought to make us stop and think.

Why would churches choose to do this? What value is gained by eliminating an assembly that generations of faithful Christians have viewed as an important part of the Lord’s Day? If there is no spiritual cost, then perhaps the question answers itself. But if there is loss—real and measurable loss—then honesty requires us to acknowledge it.

At a minimum, when a congregation abandons its Sunday evening service, it forfeits roughly half of its pulpit preaching. That is no small thing. Preaching is one of God’s appointed means for teaching, exhorting, correcting, and strengthening His people (2 Tim. 4:2). In addition, we lose a significant opportunity to assemble together—to sing, to pray, and to encourage one another as God instructs us to do (Heb. 10:24–25). These losses do not simply disappear because we have chosen a more convenient schedule.

It is true that no passage specifies multiple assemblies on the Lord’s Day. But Scripture repeatedly emphasizes the importance of Christians coming together. The issue, then, is not one of legality, but of priority. What does our practice reveal about how we value worship, preaching, and fellowship? The Lord’s Day was never meant to be something we rush through or reduce to the bare minimum.

Perhaps the better question is not, “Do we have to assemble again?” but rather, “Why wouldn’t we want to?” When God’s people hunger for His word and delight in being together, gathering again on the Lord’s Day does not feel like a burden. It feels like a blessing.

Shopping For A Church

Adapted from an Article by Wayne S. Walker

Not too far from our house is a denominational church building which we frequently pass. The church has recently installed an electronic sign. Lately it has been flashing the message, “Church shopping? We’re open on Sundays.” Since the concept of “church shopping” is not found in the Bible, it might be helpful to see what the term means and involves.

Our English word “shop” is defined as “to visit shops or stores to purchase or look at goods.” So, if one is shopping for a car, he visits various dealers to look at different makes and models until he finds one that pleases him with regards to price, features, gas mileage, color, and other acceptable criteria.

Likewise, if one’s shopping for a church, he visits various denominations to look at their different activities until he finds one that pleases him regarding size, architecture, kind of music, style of preaching, etc., or in other words, that suit his fancy. However, rather

than shopping for a church, let me suggest that one should seek for the church — the church that belongs to Christ.

Jesus built His church, singular, not churches (Matt. 16:18). He purchased it with His blood (Acts 20:28). It is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). And there is one body (Eph. 4:4-6). Moses was given a pattern for building the tabernacle (Heb. 8:5). Jesus revealed the pattern for His church in the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17). One should seek for the church that fits God's pattern.

If one is seeking for the one true church, he should seek for salvation because the Lord adds those who are saved to the church (Acts 2:38, 42). And if one is genuinely seeking for salvation and the Lord's church, Jesus promises that he can find it (Matt. 7:7-8).

Editor's Note: At Lakeland Hills Blvd, we strive to hold true to the pattern of God's Word in life, work and worship. Come and join us at 9:00am this Sunday morning as we worship God Almighty "*in Spirit and in Truth.*" (John 4:24).