

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

"I Don't Preach On Sin"

By Jefferson David Tant

In case you're not familiar with the title of this article, it's a quote from the well-known denominational preacher, Joel Osteen. The whole quote says: "I don't preach on sin. God hasn't called me to do that. I want my people to feel good." Osteen's Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas has an attendance on Sundays of some 45,000 people.

Wow! So, if some who attend services are liars, thieves, adulterers or other sinners, do not make them feel bad and ask them to repent. Don't criticize them. Just make them feel good. Help them to be content in their sins.

One wonders how Osteen can claim to be a "Gospel" preacher when his philosophy of preaching is obviously in direct contradiction to God's Word with respect to dealing with sin.

Jesus Christ was very plain in his teaching concerning sin. Notice Christ's words to the religious leaders during His time on earth: "THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'" (Matthew 15:8-9)

We read of the Apostle Paul dealing with sin in various passages, including I Corinthians 6:9-11: "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

The apostle Paul encouraged the young evangelist Timothy to "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction." (I Timothy 4:2)

And while there are some negative things to consider, there is also a positive side. As Paul had some good things to say on occasion: "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32) "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea" (Romans 16:1)

Note John's words to the church in Philadelphia: "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.'" (Revelation 3:7-8)

So, let us be aware of the need to correct, rebuke and condemn sin, when necessary, as well as to commend and be positive when we can be. That encompasses the Whole Gospel.

“Nothing in the World is Worth Our Souls”

In emphasizing the serious nature of discipleship, Jesus said, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me” (Matt. 16:24). To take up our cross means that we must be willing to sacrifice our lives for Christ, putting Him and His ways first in everything. How far are we to take this? Jesus continued, “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it” (Matt. 16:25). Life here is only temporary. The only way to truly preserve it is to give ourselves completely to the Lord.

Unfortunately, many are not willing to do this. They want to continue in sin or pursue the things of this life over the things of Christ. Many fool themselves into thinking that it is better to focus on things that are physical and temporal rather than those that are spiritual and eternal. Yet Jesus explained the folly of this: “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mat. 16:26). Even if we have everything we could ever dream of in this life; it will do nothing to save our soul for eternity. So, remember that nothing in this world is worth our soul. We cannot neglect earthly responsibilities, and must diligently carry out the work that God had given us to do here. At the same time, we must make sure our priorities are in order and put spiritual things first.

By Andy Sochor