

# *The Lakeview Lamp*

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”-Psalm 119:105

March 28, 2004

## **“No”**

Troy Nicholson

I got to use the word “no” many times in a row the other day. I used the word at the health clinic — not because my children were being unruly, but because the nurse was asking me health questions as part of a physical. As she asked, “Do you have...? Have you ever had...?”, I was able to continually answer, “No...no...no...”

Normally I get tired of having to give an endless line of the same two-letter-word answer, but this time was different. This time I thought about what a blessing it was to be able to say “no” to so many questions to which others have to respond “yes.” Each time I was able to answer “no” was another reminder of how the Lord has blessed me with good health.

Even if I had to answer all the questions “yes,” I would still have reason to thank God, for He “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing... in Christ”(Ephesians 1:3).

## **I Forgot to Live**

author unknown

First I was dying to finish high school and start college.

And then, I was dying to finish college and start work.

And then, I was dying to marry and have children.

And then, I was dying for my children to grow old enough for school so I could return to work.

And then, I was dying to retire.

And now, I am dying...

And suddenly, I forgot to live.

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives

in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”(Galatians 2:20).

“God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.”—Psalm 67:1-2

### **“Speeders, Beware”**

Troy Nicholson

“If you’re speeding in Nashville or breaking any other traffic laws, be warned.” So begins an article on the front page of a recent *Tennessean* (“Speeders, beware: Police giving out more citations,” 3-10-04). Why such a warning? Because Nashville has a new police chief, Ronal Serpas, who “shortly after his arrival here he saw firsthand that Nashville had a speeding problem.”

Chief Serpas has even been stopping people himself. He “has yet to issue a citation, preferring to educate drivers about obeying traffic laws.” Police spokesman Don Aaron says, “I would think being stopped by the chief of police is enough education to slow you down.” The article goes on to say, “Officers have been asked to slow drivers using a combination of education and citations.”

What should it take to get a Christian to slow down and also obey other traffic laws? Should it take an education lesson by the chief? Should it take a citation by an officer? Is not a command by God enough?

God says, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God...Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good” (Romans 13:1-4; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

What if someone wants to drive faster than the speed limit and does, and/or does not like to wear a seat belt (which is required by law in Tennessee) and doesn’t? “Whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on

themselves” (Romans 13:2). How much clearer could God make it?

The article was followed by another one two days later (“Police looking down on speeders”) that says, “If you’re one to speed through construction zones — full of confidence because police are not around — you might want to look up: a Metro police helicopter might be clocking you from above.” The article mentions the fact that the speed limit in construction zones is 45 mph, which makes driving faster in these zones resisting God who commands us to submit to such ordinances. The police are not the only ones looking down on speeders, and He sees us even when they don’t.

Do some people fear Chief Serpas more than they do the Chief Shepherd? Do they fear a ‘copter above more than they do the Creator above? Do they fear violating the law costing their money more than they do it costing their soul? Do they fear a short trip to jail more than an eternal trip to Hell? What about you?

Some Christians joke about getting a speeding ticket, but violating the law is no laughing matter. God says, “You must be subject” (Romans 13:5). Speeders, beware!

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"  
(Psalm 118:24).