

# *The Lakeview Lamp*

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105*  
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*"That You May Know"*

Troy Nicholson

As a child of God you can receive *"the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know"* and experience certain things of Him (**Ephesians 1:17-18**). What are some of those things?

## **The Hope of His Calling**

*"...that you may know what is the hope of His calling."* When we are called to be children of God, we are assured of His faithfulness to us. The **Hebrew** writer says, *"We who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure"* (**Heb 6:18-19**). As a Christian you can *"rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ"* (**1 Peter 1:13**).

## **The Riches of His Inheritance**

*"...that you may know... what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."* What makes His inheritance so "rich"? Peter tells us when he describes it as *"an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away"* (**1 Peter 1:4**). There is no comparison between the riches of any earthly inheritance we may receive and the riches of His eternal inheritance.

## **The Greatness of His Power**

*"...that you may know... what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places"* (**:19-20**). If God's power is great enough to raise Christ from the dead and seat Him at His right hand, then we can know that He can do great things for us. If He can raise Christ from the dead, then we can know that He will raise us from the dead (**1 Corinthians 15**).

How great it is to know God and experience the joy of being a child of His!

*“Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds—His name is the LORD—and rejoice before him.” — Psalm 68:4*

*“Thou Mighty Man of God”*

Sewell Hall

*“The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor...Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the Midianites.”* To what brave and stalwart soldier were these words spoken? To Gideon, a man who truly deserved them — eventually. But when they were first spoken he was far from what the words implied.

If Gideon had ever wielded a sword, there is no record of it. When God called him he was threshing wheat secretly for fear of the Midianites who regularly plundered his country. Being told by the Lord to throw down Baal’s altar, he did so — but under the cover of darkness *“because he feared his father’s house and the men of the city.”* Before he would even attempt to organize an army he required not one, but two signs from the Lord involving a fleece and the dew of heaven. And before he was ready to go into battle, God had to grant him yet another omen, allowing him to overhear Midianite soldiers expressing their fear of Gideon. *“Mighty man of valor,”* indeed! God must have been looking at what he would become, not what he was.

Simon’s friends must have raised their eyebrows when Jesus called him Peter — a stone. How unlike a stone he was throughout the personal ministry! Yet, following the resurrection and the encounter with Jesus by the sea, Simon was indeed Peter, exactly what Jesus challenged him to be.

Does not God still deal with us in this way? Sometimes He speaks of the unconverted as His people (**Acts 18:10**). Those newly converted are addressed as saints, though possessing only the faint suggestion of that holiness that is implied in the word. They are *“children of God,”* though only beginning to be *“partakers of the divine nature”* (**2 Peter 1:4 - TN**) They *“sit together with Christ in heavenly places,”* although they are still

struggling with the flesh and their old worldly habits.

Shall we not learn from this? Recently, I expressed doubt that a certain alcoholic could ever be changed. Another brother (formerly a heavy drinker himself) disagreed, expressing hope for him. Which of us will be more likely to reach him?

Our children are all potentially devout faithful Christians. We must let them know this is what we expect. They must never be labeled "bad." Occasionally they make mistakes, perhaps grievous ones, but these must be dealt with as actions out of harmony with their true character. We are disappointed, but never disillusioned.

If Paul could write to the church in Corinth with all its problems, "*I thank my God always concerning you,*" then surely we can speak positively to any modern congregation. More is accomplished by encouraging and exhorting than by constant brow-beating and fault-finding. Regular commendation of what is good lends effectiveness to rebuke when it is necessary. Even to the weak, we may say, "*Go in this thy might!*"

**Lakeview church of Christ**  
**132 New Shackle Island Road**  
**P.O. Box 514**  
**Hendersonville TN 37077**  
*(615) 824-1376*  
*www.BibleSaints.com*

Troy Nicholson  
[troyjenn@bigzoo.net](mailto:troyjenn@bigzoo.net)

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