

The Lakeview Lamp

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

May 16, 2004

“Shocking Shows”

Troy Nicholson

Around a month ago (3-11-04) there was an article in *The Tennessean* entitled “DVD players in cars giving other travelers shocking shows.” The article dealt with the increase of DVD players in vehicles, allowing for mobile X-rated movies that are being seen by passersby. Several states have laws against such a practice, and I pray that we would all be shocked if we were to see such a sight.

But what does shock us? I found it ironic that, while this article filled a quarter of the page, half of the page displayed a woman with her shirt nearly completely off—only covering her back and arms. Was this chest-baring picture a sample of the “shocking” X-rated movies being seen in vehicles? No, it was a bra advertisement that the paper allowed a department store to pay to place there. It was just another modeled underwear ad. So there is no need to be shocked about the picture, right? Wrong!

While we ought to be shocked by hardcore porn, we also ought to be shocked by all the revealing attire that constantly bombards us—whether it be a picture, in video format, or live. It may involve underwear, swimwear (which is often even more revealing than underwear), short-shorts, mini-skirts, tight outfits (including the ballerina and gymnast types) that reveal the form of the human body as much as the silhouettes often used to advertise “adult” entertainment.

Have we allowed ourselves to get to the point of “being past feeling” (Eph 4:19), our “conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Tim 4:2), to where we are no longer shocked by what is revealed all around us? How long will it be before the X-rated filth is no longer shocking to us, either?

“A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation..”—Psalm 68:5

Are You Faithful?

Jeff May

It was a sunny Saturday morning. James stepped outside to get his morning paper. Only a moment later James returned with a disgusted look on his face. No paper! James said, “I’m gonna have to get me a new paper boy. He’s just not faithful.” The problem was that James’ paperboy would deliver about 1 out of every 3 days. Fred was in a hurry to get to work, but it happened again. His car wouldn’t start. He had hoped this used second vehicle would be just what he needed, but about 1 out of every 3 turns of the ignition, the car wouldn’t start. Fred told his wife, “I’m gonna have to trade that car in. I just need one that’s more faithful.”

Are James and Fred right to call the paperboy and the car unfaithful? Would you be pleased with a paperboy who delivered 1 day out of 3? Would you be pleased with a car that only started 2 out of 3 times? Certainly not. The apostle Paul was chosen by God to carry the gospel because He counted him faithful. “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry”(1 Tim. 1:12). Paul was trustworthy. God could count on him when He needed him. Paul would never fail in his duty to God.

What about me and my attendance to the assemblies of God’s people? My brethren are counting on me to be there. I need to consider the impact of my absence upon them. My presence helps to stir up my brothers and sisters to love and good works. Furthermore, I am drawing near to God and holding fast to my faith (Heb. 10:23-25). Am I faithful if I

hit one out of every 3 services? Am I faithful if I hit 2 out of 3? Does God consider me reliable and trustworthy? Is he pleased with such performance? It's something to think about, isn't it? If I wouldn't call the paperboy faithful and the used car faithful, then why do I consider myself faithful in my service to God if my performance is no better? All of us need to realize our obligations to God and to our brethren regarding our attendance. We grow weaker through our absence. Someone once compared this to an automobile: "Brethren are often like cars. They 'sputter' before they 'miss,' and they 'miss' before they 'quit.'"

Preacher's points — Some people sputter and miss throughout their lives without ever quitting, but that does not make them faithful. Attendance is not the only barometer of faithfulness, but it is one of the most obvious.

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