

The Lakeview Lamp

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

September 5, 2004

Judge Demands Order in His Court

Troy Nicholson

“Watch what you wear, turn off those cell phones.” Thus begins an article in last Monday’s Tennessean (8-30-04). The article deals with General Sessions Court Judge Lee Bailey and his demand for decorum and order in his courtroom. He says, “It’s all about respect for the court. When I was an assistant district attorney general, I saw things like people eating and drinking in the courtroom, and people dressed in flip-flops and shorts, like they were going to the beach. They had no respect for the court; so my goal, when I became a judge in 1998, was to bring back decorum and respect for the court.” Anyone wearing shorts or tank tops is not allowed in the courtroom. The present district attorney general says, “Judge Bailey runs a very dignified court. That’s the way it should be.” The article closes by saying of Bailey’s courtroom, “This court is always in order.”

Showing respect when going before those in authority dates back to the earliest of times. Before Joseph went before Pharaoh, he shaved and changed his clothes (Genesis 41:14). Before entering the presence of King Ahasuerus, “Esther put on her royal robes” (Esther 5:1).

If human judges and kings deserve a certain amount of respect by those approaching them, then what about the heavenly Judge? Does it matter how we dress to approach Him in worship?

Before God appeared to the Israelites at Mount Sinai, they were to be consecrated and wash their clothes (Exodus 19:10), so we know their appearance mattered to Him. We never find such a command given in the New Testament, but are we not worshipping the same God? There is no “dress code” given for worshipping Him, but do we not know what type(s) of dress in our society show respect? Does He not at least deserve the same level of respect in dress that is demanded by a human judge?

“You are my hope, O Lord GOD; You are my trust from my youth.”—Psalm 71:3

Rest From What?

Greg Gwin

Someone has observed: “One disadvantage of having nothing to do is that you can't stop and rest.” Well said! There are too many lazy people in our society who need to learn that lesson.

There are some folks in the Lord's church that need to learn that this principle also applies spiritually. The Scriptures give us this promise: “I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them” (Rev 14:13).

Rest from our labors is what we've been promised. But some Christians need to ask, “What labors have I been engaged in?”

- Have I been faithful in attendance? Have I shown my love for God and encouraged my brethren by attending every service, including Sunday and Wednesday night?

- Have I tried to teach lost souls what they need to do to be saved? Have I been involved in the various personal work efforts of the local congregation?

- Can I be counted on to teach classes when needed? Or do I shirk this responsibility, leaving it for others?

- Do I pitch in and help with the chores of cleaning the building, doing repair work, preparing the communion, etc. Or do I simply expect others to get these jobs done?

- Do I gladly serve others, giving rides, visiting the sick, helping the needy, admonishing the weak?

Remember, the Lord has promised rest from our labors. But if we're not working now, we don't have anything to be looking forward to. No work - no rest. Think!

Lakeview church of Christ
132 New Shackle Island Road
P.O. Box 514
Hendersonville TN 37077

(615) 824-1376
Bible Call: 824-1310

www.BibleSaints.com

Troy Nicholson
troyjenn@bigzoo.net

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