

# ***The Lakeview Lamp***

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

***October 10, 2004***

## **Laying Up Treasures**

Troy Nicholson

The last two years I have taken a week off because of storms. Each time it was to repair damage done from the storms. While similar in some ways, there were also great differences in the two years. One year I worked for a fee, while the other year I worked for free. One year I laid up treasures on earth, while the other year I laid up treasures in heaven.

Last year we had some severe thunderstorms come through our area. With those thunderstorms came hail large enough to do damage to vehicles. I get excited about hail, but for a different reason than most people. While most people get excited because they dread it, I get excited because I delight in it. You see, like Paul, I have a “tent-making” job I do occasionally on the side; and that job happens to be paintless dent repair, which includes repairing hail damage. So last year I took a week off from preaching to focus on removing hail dents. The work can be rather tedious. Have you ever seen a vehicle just covered in hail dents? Imagine having to remove them one at a time! I tried to stay focused on the check that would be my reward at the end of the week. I survived, and the extra money came in handy.

This year the storms were in the form of hurricanes. Since we live in Tennessee they were not a real problem for us, but the same could not be said for many living near the coast. When the reports starting being broadcast about all the damage done by the storms, I thought about taking one of my weeks of vacation to go help with the cleanup. Then a brother called to say he was trying to get a group together to go. I took

that as the Lord's way of telling me I needed to go, so I did. Five of us went down to southern Alabama and the Florida panhandle to help brethren in that area remove some of the many trees that had been blown down on their property. The work was hot and tiring at times, but the brethren there kept us well fed and fueled. We all made it back alive and had a great time.

Then I got to thinking about the contrast between those two weeks of work and the reward as a result of each. The extra money I made as a reward for the first week of work was nice to receive, and I feel that we wisely used it; but when I think about it, I'm not getting a lot of real joy out of most of it. Then I think of the reward for last week. I made some new friends that will last a lifetime and beyond. In the last few days I have received several notes of thanks to let me know how much my work was appreciated. And I am confident that the Lord took note of the work as well.

In **Matthew 6:19-20** Jesus says, *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."* He is not saying that it is wrong to save any money, but instead that our main focus should be on a heavenly reward instead of an earthly one. When giving us a glimpse of His final judgment, Jesus says that He will judge and reward us based on the good deeds we have done for others: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, taking in the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison (**Matthew 25:31-46**). *"Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me...Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"* (:34, 40). James tells us that *"pure and undefiled religion"* involves *"visit(ing) orphans and widows in their trouble"* (**James 1:27**). To truly be religious we must help those in need. To be saved in the end we must help those in need.

"Moth and rust" will someday destroy the treasures I laid up last year on earth – at least what they have not already destroyed; but nothing can ever destroy the treasures I laid up last week in heaven. Paul assures us that *"your labor is not in vain in the Lord"* (**1 Corinthians 15:58**). Where are you laying up treasures?

---

Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace, and your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.

*"My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits."*— **Psalm 71:15**

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

***Building: 824-1376***

***www.BibleSaints.com  
Bible Call: 824-1310***

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).