

The Lakeview Lamp

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

December 5, 2004

Be a Nobody!

Troy Nicholson

Four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody knew about work to be done. Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody even got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody would not do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Does this sound familiar to any situation(s) you have seen before? It has been said and often proven that around 10% of the people do 90% of the work. Is this true when it comes to the work of the church, specifically here at Lakeview?

It is easy to think that somebody else will do what needs to be done here. Have you ever thought that in regard to a work day? What about when it comes to checking on the sick? What about the tape program for the shut-ins? Are you not involved in these and other tasks because anybody else can do it?

In **John 9:5** Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world.”* He preceded this statement by saying, *“I must work the works of Him who sent Me” (:4)*. Jesus understood His importance as the light of the world, and He demonstrated it by His work.

In **Matthew 5:14-16** Jesus said, *“You are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* Do we understand our importance as the light of the world? Do we demonstrate it by our good works?

Everybody, Somebody, and Anybody do not bring glory to God. They are like the one-talent man in **Matthew 25** who put his talent in the ground. Jesus called him a *“wicked and lazy servant” (:26)*. Nobody is like the five and two-talent men who put their talents to work and took advantage of the opportunity given them. Jesus told each of them, *“Well done, good and faithful servant” (:21, 23)*.

When it comes to the service of the Lord, be a Nobody. Be among those who take it upon themselves to do the work set before them, in spite of what others may do. Be like Isaiah who said, *“Here am I! Send me” (Isaiah 6:8)*. May we work together to do the Lord’s work. May we all be a Nobody!

“Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things!”– Psalm 72:18

Christmas, In Reverse!

Greg Gwin

It has been frequently noted that the Scriptures do not authorize any kind of religious observance of the day that men call “Christmas.” There is simply no mention of any such observance in the Bible, and we know from historical accounts that the significance attached to this day originated hundreds of years after the church began in the first century. We do not even know the birthday of Jesus. In fact, we can be almost certain it was *not* December 25th. Any attempt to make this a day of special religious significance is without Biblical authority and should be avoided (**Col 3:17**).

It is sad, but many in the Lord's church who would defend the statements made above are guilty of a sort of “reverse” observance of Christmas. While condemning the denominational folks for their practice of making a “holy” day which the Bible does not mention, they allow this day – and the season which surrounds it – to crowd God completely out of their lives.

Special activities associated with family and friends, school events, special performances, traveling, entertaining, visiting, partying, etc., are all conducted at a frantic pace this time of year. Many Christians allow these secular activities to push God out of His place (**Matt 6:33**). Assemblies of the church are missed, Bible study is neglected, personal work and other efforts of the local church are abandoned. Verbally we denounce the religious observance of Christmas but, in practice, we have established a kind of “reverse” observance. In December we become *less* religious!

So, Christian, as you go through your busy schedule at this time of

year, we hope you will stop to realize the things that are most important. Do not allow this man-made day to crowd God and His service out of the picture. Keep working and growing. Keep on keeping on. Think!

Don't complain because you don't have what you want; rejoice because you don't get what you deserve.

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