

The Lakeview Lamp

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

December 12, 2004

The Need for Armor

Troy Nicholson

By now you have probably all seen or at least heard about the question/comment offered by Spc. Thomas Jerry Wilson of the 278th Regimental Combat Team to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday (12-8-04). In case you haven't, here it is again: “Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to up-armor our vehicles? We do not have proper armored vehicles to carry with us north.” Many soldiers have been injured and even killed during the war as a result of being in unarmored or under-armored vehicles.

Rumsfeld responded that the shortage of properly armored vehicles is “essentially a matter of physics. It isn't a matter of money. It isn't a matter on the part of the Army of desire. It's a matter of production and capability of doing it.” Basically, the military was not prepared for the war tactics used by insurgents. It did not realize

the need for armored vehicles was going to be so great. Now that it realizes the need, the vehicles cannot be produced fast enough to meet the need. Meanwhile, soldiers continue to be injured and killed because of a lack of protection.

As Christians we are in a war. Paul says that we “*must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*” (**2 Timothy 2:3**). But we do not have to endure this hardship unprepared and unarmed. Christ understands the danger of the enemy. He not only warns us of the sneaky ways of the devil (**1 Peter 5:8**), but also He gives us the armor we need to do battle with Him. He tells us to “*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil*” (**Ephesians 6:11**).

We have all the armor we need to war against the devil. We have truth for our waist, righteousness for a breastplate, the gospel for our feet, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the word of God as our sword (**Eph 6:13-17**). God has seen to it that we are as “up-armored” as we can be! So why do we still sometimes suffer spiritual injuries and casualties? Because we do not always wear the armor as we should, we go into battle without our armor in place.

God wants to lead us to victory. He has armed us for victory. We must follow Him to victory. “*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (**1 Corinthians 15:57**).

“Blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory.” – **Psalms 72:19**

The Fight for Abstinence

Troy Nicholson

Wade F. Horn, the new assistant secretary for children and families in the Department of Health and Human Services, has been named the “chastity czar” (“Abstinence debate sets off alarms, *The Tennessean*, 12-5-04). “His new job is to promote sexual abstinence and his mission...is to make it socially acceptable for American teens to just say ‘no’ to sex.” God has always promoted abstinence between the unmarried, meaning that it has always been spiritually acceptable.

Horn says that young people who abstain from sex now “don’t feel supported in that choice...They believe the broader culture sees them as odd, that they are strange if they commit to abstinence.” Those who submit themselves to God instead of their own selfish desires will always be seen as odd by “the broader culture.” The apostle Peter said long ago that those of the world “*think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you*” (**1 Peter 4:4**). He also said that “*they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead*” (:5). It’s better to be strange and saved!

Horn rightly “blames Hollywood for giving irresponsible messages that casual sex has no consequences.” We also need to blame ourselves when we fund the immorality produced by Hollywood and allow our children to be “entertained” by it. As parents – especially as fathers – we have the responsibility to “*bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord*” (**Ephesians 6:4**).

In regard to teaching about contraception and condoms, Horn stands

opposed to it. “You don’t hand out low-tar cigarettes to youths when you are saying it’s not a good idea to smoke.” How true. Mike McGhee, vice president of education for Planned Parenthood, says that such an approach “ignores reality and that teen sex is inevitable.” Interestingly, the very next sentence in the article quotes statistics showing “that 61% of graduating high school seniors have had sex.” Teen sex obviously was not inevitable for 39% of those teens, just as it was not for the other 61%. God tells us to “*flee sexual immorality*” (1 **Corinthians 6:18**) because we can. He tells us to “*flee youthful lusts*” (1 **Timothy 2:22**) because we can. The reality is that it is not inevitable.

Horn said, “I want to give young people a fighting chance to make the healthiest choice to preserve their futures.” Most important is preserving their souls. We all need to realize as Moses did that the pleasures of sin are “*passing*” (**Hebrews 11:25**), while our souls are eternal. As Jesus asks, “*What will a man give in exchange for his soul?*” (**Matthew 16:26**). Premarital sex just isn’t worth the cost.

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

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