

The Lakeview Lamp

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

January 30, 2005

Precious Time

Troy Nicholson

The “Life” section in Sunday’s *Tennessean* (1-23-05) contained an article about a little boy with spinal muscular atrophy, a disorder in which the muscle cells deteriorate. It occurred when he was only a few months old. Spinal muscular atrophy babies rarely live to their second birthday. In May Blake will be three – if he lives till then.

The article said of Blake’s parents, “They know death is imminent...They’ve known death since Blake came home from the hospital...” While Blake’s death may be more imminent than others, in a way we all came home from the hospital like him: to die. “*Man is destined to die*” (**Hebrews 9:27**). Every day we live puts us one day closer to death.

“Knowing they can’t change their son’s fate, Blake’s parents devote their lives to caring for him as long as they can.” Like Blake, none of us can change our fate. Knowing this fact, how do we respond? We should respond like his parents: with devotion. “*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,*

acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship” (Romans 12:1). As Paul later summarized it, *“We make it our goal to please Him” (2 Corinthians 5:9).* We need to live in devotion to God.

The title of this article “Precious Time,” came from the caption that introduced the story about Blake. Realizing the imminence of his death, his parents do not want to leave him alone for even a minute. They want to make the most of their time with him and be at his side when his time comes to an end. We all need to learn the preciousness of our time.

How do you spend your time? Do you even know? For the last several weeks I have been trying to keep a log of how I spend my time. I must admit that I am not doing as well in keeping up with it (and in spending it) as I should, but I am working on doing better. I challenge you to do the same if you do not already do so. God says that when realizing the brevity of life, the wise thing to do is to *“number your days” (Psalm 90:10-12)*, that the wise way to live is by *“making the most of your time” (Ephesians 5:15-16)*. Time is precious, and God expects us all to use it wisely.

While we do not know when, we already know what the outcome will be for Blake: the same as it will be for each of us. We are all going to die, and time is running out. How are you using your time?

Please Pray for Us

Tol Burk, edited

Have you ever noticed how many times the Apostle Paul asked brethren to pray for him? I think it’s at least once in every letter he wrote. Imagine!! An apostle of the Lord, guided by the Holy Spirit, who had the power to perform miracles, and yet he asks “ordinary” Christians to pray

for him. Could there be a message for you and me today in that? Could it be that preachers, elders, Bible class teachers, etc. could benefit from prayers on their behalf today?

Speaking for other preachers and I, we need your prayers. The responsibility on those who preach the Good News is great. Please pray that we may always not only teach the truth, but stand in it ourselves. Please pray that we may preach “the whole counsel of God” and know which areas need to be addressed at any given time. Please pray that we may present the truth boldly in a way that can be understood by all present. Please pray that we always present the truth in love and never compromise it. Please pray that we have not only the courage, but also the encouragement to preach “in season and out of sea?son.” Please pray for us not only during the services, but at home as well each day.

Please pray for the elders as well. While their job may seem to be an easy one, it is not. As the shepherds of this flock they are charged with caring for each soul. There are those whom it is a joy to care for, while others either see no need for their care, or are almost rebellious against them. Please pray for them individually and as a group that they may lead this church in the way that will accomplish the most good. Please pray that they may have wisdom to overcome the obstacles Satan is sure to put in our way. Please pray that their work will not be a grievous burden, but rather joyous. Please pray that we may all work together under their over?sight for the advancement of the Kingdom.

Please pray for our Bible class teachers for much of the strength of the church as a whole is in their hands. Faith comes by hearing the Word. Please pray that they will have and take the time to prepare their lessons so that maximum benefit may be gained by all. Please pray that they will re?member the seriousness of the charge they have accepted. Please pray that they may have the wisdom and compassion to teach the whole truth and that much lasting good can come from their efforts.

Please pray for all of us.

"I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works." – **Psalm 73:28b**

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