

The Lakeview Lamp

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

February 13, 2005

The Value of a Pearl

Troy Nicholson

My parents moved not long ago for the first time in over thirty years. Needless to say, they had accumulated a lot of “stuff.” Some of it was stuff left behind by my brother and me when we left home. As they sorted through it all, they found a letter addressed to me from nearly twenty-five years ago. It reads as follows:

Dear Troy,

I want to congratulate you for your obedience to God last Wednesday night. Even though you are young I believe you understood. You have a good basic knowledge of the Bible for your age. I just want you to know that I am very proud of you.

Now you have many brothers and sisters in Christ. One of the nice things you can do is to speak and shake hands with as many as you can each time we come together. This is the way we learn to love one another

more. Older people are encouraged by the young members who take time to speak.

All of us want to encourage you in any way we can. You see, you are our youngest brother, and we love you.

Read your Bible and pray to God every day, and you will grow as a Christian. Who knows – some day you could be an elder or a preacher. Wouldn't that be wonderful!

Your sister in Christ,

Pearl Kincaid

“...a good basic knowledge of the Bible...” What knowledge is more important for any young person than a knowledge of the Bible? Timothy had such a knowledge. Paul told him, “*...from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*” (**2 Timothy 3:15**). Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him this knowledge (**1:5; 3:14**). Unfortunately, not all young people have such a knowledge; and not all parents seem concerned about their children gaining such a knowledge. While I don't know what knowledge is imparted behind closed doors at home, I know that on occasions some parents allow their children to put a knowledge of school subjects, sports, work, etc. ahead of opportunities to increase their knowledge of the Bible at Bible class. It should come as no surprise when those young people grow up without the “*genuine faith*” that was in Timothy (**1:5**).

“Older people are encouraged by the young members...” Paul gave Timothy similar encouragement when he said, “*Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers...*” (**1 Timothy 4:12**). Young people, do you realize that you can be an encouragement to older Christians? It can be accomplished simply by taking the time to speak to

them. You can shake their hand or even hug their neck. When was the last time you spoke a kind word to older brethren, stopped by for a visit, or dropped them a note?

“All of us want to encourage you...” Even nearly twenty-five years later, the letter I received from an older sister is still an encouragement to me. Paul wanted to encourage his younger brethren, taking some of them under his wing and even considering them as sons *“in the faith”* (**1 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4**). Older brethren, what are you doing to encourage your younger brothers and sisters? Are you teaching them as you should (**Titus 2:3-5**)? Do they know that you love them?

“Read your Bible and pray to God every day” What better advice could be given to a babe in Christ? What better way to grow as a Christian (**2 Peter 4:18**)? Reading our Bible and praying to God are ways that we can commune with God and He with us. We have no more important relationship to maintain than our relationship with Him. This is why Paul says that we should *“pray without ceasing”* (**1 Thes 5:17**).

“Some day you could be an elder or a preacher.” Twenty-five years later I am a preacher; and yes, it is wonderful to *“do the work of an evangelist”* (**2 Timothy 4:5**). Maybe twenty-five years more I will be an elder. That could depend to some degree on how many more brethren I meet like Pearl to encourage and strengthen me in service to God.

Be a “Pearl” in the lives of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Offer them the instruction they need to grow. Give them the encouragement they need to persevere.

I left that letter behind once. I won't do it again. Thank you, my sister Pearl, from your brother in Christ.

“Let the poor and needy praise Your name.”– Psalm 74:21

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