

The Lakeview Lamp

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

March 6, 2005

Today I Gave Blood

Ron Williams

For several years, I have been giving blood from time to time because I have O+ that is so needed in emergency situations. Usually, I give blood either at the American Red Cross center on Washington Street or at the Huntsville Hospital where I go to visit church members.

Because I was in Kenya, Africa last year on a mission trip, I have been unable to give blood for one full year. Numerous times this past year I have been called to come and give blood only to have to tell them that I could not do so. Last Saturday, October 2, exactly one year had passed.

Today, I gave blood. In doing so, it made me think about my blood compared to the blood that Jesus gave on the Cross of Calvary. Think with me for a moment:

- I gave about a pint of my blood—Jesus “gave it all” (in the sense of the total sacrifice of His body for our sins).
- My blood was (hopefully) without any major defects since it will be

used for surgeries and such—Jesus’ blood was pure and sinless and was used to atone for the sins of all the world.

- I sat in a nice comfortable chair in a quiet, air-conditioned building with the best equipment used to ensure sanitary conditions as my blood came out—Jesus’ blood was shed on an old rugged cross in the stifling heat with sinful men shouting for Him to die.
- My blood came out of my arm via a needle—Jesus’ blood came out of wounds spread over His body as He had been inhumanely beaten, whipped, and abused prior to being nailed on the cross!
- After I gave blood, I sat around eating a snack and drinking something to give me energy to go back to my work and normal activities—Jesus’ blood was shed so that He died and His body was later taken down and placed in a borrowed grave.

I plan to give blood again in the future so that others can benefit in a medical emergency—Jesus gave His blood ONE TIME to fulfill the needs of the entire world until He comes again!

Today, I gave blood. Almost 2000 years ago, my Savior gave His blood and the world has never been the same since. I wish all my friends could appreciate the difference His sacrifice can make in their lives!

“You alone are to be feared. Who can stand before You when You are angry?”– Psalm 76:7

“A Library Burns Down”

Jarrood Jacobs

It has been said, “Every time an aged man (or woman) dies, a library burns down.” I believe there is some truth to this. No, *“Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment”* (**Job 32:9**). It is true that gray hair does not always equal “gray matter,” but I still think that the title to this article is a general truth. I especially believe it is so when we consider many of our older brethren in Christ. Their experience, their knowledge of the Bible, and of the past serve as invaluable resources to the younger folks IF we will listen!

Probably the most well-known time when someone refused older men’s advice was when Rehoboam had a chance to follow the wise council of the older men who had served under Solomon (**I Kings 12:6-7, 13**). Instead, he refused their words and split the kingdom (**I Kings 12:8, 20**)!

The longer I live, the more I am convinced that brethren in each stage of life have something to offer in the Lord’s church. Therefore, I wish to issue two challenges; one to the “older” brethren, and one to the “younger” brethren.

The first challenge is to our older brothers and sisters in Christ. Read **Titus 2:2-5**, and see the responsibility you have to teach those who are younger. It is a great and grave responsibility, but you are up to it. Friend, when was the last time you sat down and tried to impart your wisdom to someone younger than you? When was the last time you took an interest in a young person, knowing that what you would teach them would be for their good? Has it been that long? Don’t give up when you

meet “Rehoboam”! Be patient, move on, and look for others to help. Maybe “Rehoboam” will listen later.

Secondly, let me challenge our young brothers and sisters in Christ to listen to those who are older! Treat them with respect and with dignity. Read **I Timothy 5:1-2** carefully, and realize that this command applies to you! Let us pay attention to what they have to say, and benefit from their knowledge before they are gone.

There is a wealth of knowledge and experience to be gained by listening to our older brethren. No, they are not perfect. No, they are not infallible, but they have sound advice to give to those who are younger and they can help us avoid problems in this life. Will we listen? (**Prov. 11:14, 15:22, 24:6**)

“The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness”(**Prov. 16:31**).

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