

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**March 20, 2005**

## *Every Secret Thing*

Greg Gwin

In this age of modern media we have unprecedented opportunities to look at, listen to, and participate in evil things. And, with the rapid advance of technology, we can engage in these evil deeds with relative anonymity. In years gone by, if there was a desire to engage in these sordid and sinful activities, it was necessary to go out in public places to do so. Pornography was available, but only at newsstands and the like. Filthy movies were out there, but you had to go to the XXX movie house to see them. No more! A person can sit in front of his computer screen and quickly access (via the Internet) all manner of pornography – and no one can see him do it. “Chat rooms” allow perverted persons the ability to openly discuss their twisted passions with total strangers – and they are out of public view when doing so. With cable and satellite TV, it is possible to receive all manner of filthy programming – and watch it right there in the privacy of your own home.

This new accessibility – with anonymity – has already served as a downfall to many, including not a few Christians. We all need to be on guard about this powerful temptation. Never forget that God in heaven sees and knows all that you think and do. Consider:

*”For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:14).*

*”Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Hebrews 4:13).*

Are you engaged in things that you would not want others to find out about? If so, you should know two things. First, God already knows! And, secondly, in the final judgment everyone will know, for He will *“bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts” (1 Cor. 4:5)*. Christian, be careful!

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People do not usually reject the Bible because it contradicts itself but because it contradicts them.

## *Not-So-Secret Things*

Troy Nicholson

As the first article in the bulletin says, we live in a time that sin can be a “secret thing” that remains a rather private matter. Yet we also live in a time that sin does not have to remain secret, that it can be put on public display for all the world to see.

Someone does not need cable and satellite TV to have all kinds of filth delivered into their living room. Public local programming will suffice. After last year’s “wardrobe malfunction” during the Super Bowl half-time show, the NFL acted appalled at what happened. Any sense of shame it felt must have been overcome in the off-season, for this year Monday Night Football had what a news article called a “titillating...steamy introduction” when it showed the bare back of a woman who was apparently naked when she jumped into the arms of a football player. To make matters worse, when people with a sense of morals objected to the scene, U.S. regulators ruled that the “racy clip didn’t violate federal indecency standards,” that it “simply is not graphic or explicit enough to be indecent under our standard.” With regulators having such a loose and immoral standard, we should prepare ourselves for plenty more not-so-secret things to be broadcast for all to see. It is so important that we set for ourselves the same standard of David when he said, *“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes”* (**Psalm 101:3**).

Our society has become so tolerant of sin that homosexuals have “come out of the closet.” What was once a secret thing is now

flaunted for all to see. No matter how public and accepted it may become in society, we must remember that God considers homosexuality to be shameful, unnatural, and indecent (**Romans 1:26-27**) – and so must we.

Divorce was once something that no one would talk about, but it has become something that everyone is doing. While the public now accepts divorce for any reason imaginable, God still says, “*I hate divorce*” (**Malachi 2:16**). “*What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate*” (**Matthew 19:6**).

We must never deceive ourselves into thinking that we can get away with any secret thing just because no one knows about it. At the same time, as God’s children we must not allow ourselves to be caught up in sinful activities just because they are not-so-secret things that are accepted by everyone around us. Our goal should always be “*to be pleasing to Him*” (**2 Corinthians 5:9**).

*“I shall remember the deeds of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old.”*– **Psalm 77:11**

**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@myfreei.com](mailto:troyjenn@myfreei.com)

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