

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**May 1, 2005**

## *It's Hard to Obey God*

Pat Jones

ADOLESCENCE is a hard time to obey God. Many youthful lusts are presenting themselves to minds which are just beginning to discern good and evil. Immaturity and the "sowing of wild oats" make faithfulness a difficult goal.

LATE TEENAGE YEARS are a hard time to obey God. Many of the young are soon to face the world on their own for the first time. Their sense of responsibility will already be taxed to the limit with the challenges of college life or new jobs which will present a host of diversions from a course of service to God.

EARLY ADULTHOOD is a hard time to obey God. Marriage becomes a likely prospect for many in this age group and proves to be a relationship demanding much of each partner. Getting established in the business world will steal the time and attention of most. These new requirements of one's life will hardly make allowing some moments for God an easy task.

PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN have a hard time obeying God. It is so difficult for a new mother or father with restless little ones to give full attention to a worship service. The feeling of being a distraction to others makes some embarrassed to attend. And, too, the hassle one must go through to get the child who is sleepy, fussy or messy ready to go to church seems hardly worth the effort.

MIDDLE AGE is a hard time to obey God. Quite often both husband and wife are involved in jobs that are tiring. The weekend is about the only time a family has together (after all, the kids will soon be gone). You wish the children were more moral and had more interest in obeying the gospel, but you hate to force religion on them, and your various activities leave so little time to spend worshipping.

RETIREMENT YEARS is a hard time to obey God. For the first time, couples have a chance to do all the camping, fishing, or traveling they've always wanted to do. They have to go visit the kids and grandchildren. And, naturally, friends and relatives will be coming to visit on the weekends, hindering church attendance (After all, you can't just leave company at home, can you?).

OLD AGE is a hard time to obey God. You no longer feel as spry as you once did. You're sick a lot and becoming tired easier. You'd love to be able to work for the Lord's cause, but your infirmities make it more difficult.

THEN FINALLY A PERFECT DAY comes to obey God. There you are all dressed up right up front; there's a crowd come together; and the preacher stands ready to speak from the scripture. There is only one problem - the preacher is there to preach your funeral, the crowd is there to mourn your death, and your body lies in a coffin.

### THE MORAL:

There is never a perfect time to obey God. Never will one see a time when all hindrances are removed - Satan has seen to that. Whether it's obeying the gospel, living a godly life, teaching others, or assembling

with the saints to worship, we will always face certain obstacles. Therefore, we must determine to serve in spite of the hindrances.

*“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 12:1-2, NKJV).*



## *What Is Your Motivation?*

Alan Smith

What is it that provides you with the motivation to serve God day after day?

Perhaps you are motivated by the fear of punishment if you don't. It's a valid motive – that's why Jesus told us about hell.

Or perhaps you are motivated by the hope of reward. Again, it's a valid motive – that's why Jesus told us about heaven.

But I would suggest to you that there is an even higher motive, and that is to serve God out of a love and appreciation for all that He has done for us. As a parent, that's what I hope for my children. They may at times obey me to avoid punishment or to gain some reward I've promised them, but I hope that in time they come to listen to me simply because they love and respect me.

*“We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).*

*“He commanded our fathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them,...and they in turn would tell their children.” – Psalm 78:5-6*

# **Family News**

**Helen Brewer**, Sandra Boyd's aunt who lives in MI, has cancer.

**Mary Burnett's** arthritis has been worse with this past week.

**George Bynum**, Karen Moore's uncle, has severe heart problems. He is scheduled to have surgery on May 12<sup>th</sup> (put in a defibulator).

**Nell Ferrell** remains in room # 110 at NHC. She continues to eat and improve. She is awake and talking more and more. She is in much less pain.

**Brenda Fuqua** is able to eat sometimes. She is weak and tired most of the time. Yesterday she had a bad day. She is on pain medicine.

**Estelle Hayes** continues to do doctor prescribed exercises about every other day (so far they have increased her pain and have not really helped).

**James Hunt** does not have skin cancer. **Sandra** had a blood test that showed the new medicine is effective. She returns to the heart doctor on Thursday. (They are thankful for all the prayers and give God the glory for better health.)

**Alvin "John" Jenkins**, the 80-year-old father of Robert, is currently battling lung cancer. He is taking chemotherapy. The cancer has spread.

**Fran Pickens** had a really good week this past week. She is doing much better. She remains on oxygen and is receiving some therapy.

**Cotton** and **Nancy Read** are both doing better.

**Laura Reed** is doing some better.

**John "Jack" Reiger** has started having a graft verses host reaction. This usually occurs and was expected. He has lost his appetite and some weight. Also, his voice is not very strong. He has about four more weeks to go of this.

Remember **Dustin Simpson** who continues to serve in the Navy. He is now in New York continuing his training. You can send him cards, cookies (if you are a good cook), letters, notes at: 91 Quevic Drive Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Nancy Webb**, S. Boyd's cousin, has cancer and will have surgery this week.

**Ame White** is trying different combinations of pain medicine in an effort to better control her pain (the doctor told her to do this experimentation).

**Robert Wray's** doctor's visit showed blood pressure and sugar were high.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Ken Hull (PM); David Hutson; Mildred Lancaster; Malones (MD)**

## **Lakeview church of Christ**

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*"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).*