

The Lakeview Lamp

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

July 17, 2005

Meditations in the Outer Court

Ralph Walker, Jr.

(Ralph Walker, Jr. will be with us for our gospel meeting in two weeks. As a way to “introduce” us to him, we will have a few bulletin articles from him leading up to the meeting. - TN)

Today, as we participate in the memorial feast to our crucified Lord, let me offer some thoughts that might enhance that act of worship. I call this the meditations in the outer court because they’re the kind of thought we might have if we were to witness the slaying of lambs as sin offerings for Israelites.

1) Sin is so pervasive. Josephus tells us that during the time right after the lifetime of Jesus there were 256,000 lambs offered for the Passover alone! Can you imagine the stench of blood and the cries of dying lambs all over the camp of Israel? Could we sit in the outer court and watch that and not be moved by the terrible price sin exacts? Now, think about your own life. How many lambs would die for you if God demanded that today? We are constantly bombarded with temptations. We need to always watch for sin’s approach. The Lamb of God died for our sins. Let us not crucify Him again (**Hebrews 6:6**).

2) God is so merciful. Every lamb that died for Israel was a billboard to God’s grace. He allowed them to escape the penalty of their sins – death – by substitution. The meal we eat today is a memorial to the One who substituted Himself on my cross, your cross, and our crosses. God provided the lamb (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

3) God is so exacting. I was asked if Israelites had to offer sacrifices every single time they sinned in deed or thought. I don’t think the scriptures indicate that, but blatant sins had to be atoned for. And then, once a year, on the Day of Atonement, God allowed the High Priest to offer two goats – one a burnt offering; the other the scapegoat, sent off into the wilderness, to cover all the transgressions that yet remained in Israel’s camp. Point? No sin escaped God’s notice. Every sin mattered and needed wiping out. There is no sin that isn’t deadly. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world (**1 John 2:1-2**). Don’t treat your sins lightly. God doesn’t.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. Amen.

Lessons Learned from a Barbeque Grille

Ralph Walker, Jr.

I got a new grille this year. Not a gas one, either. An old-fashioned charcoal grille. I love the way food tastes and smells cooked on a charcoal grille. I don't like the way I smell when I use it.

I think most people who opt for gas grilles do so for the convenience. The big frustration of a charcoal grille is the lighting of the coals. I was working on that this week when I got a few thoughts that might help us all.

First, the key to lighting the coals is lighter fluid – how much to use and how long to let it soak in. If you soak the coals and let them sit five minutes, they are more likely to burn.

Second, I always stack the coals in a pyramid to get them started. The reason for that is pretty obvious – coals huddled together take heat from each other, and the whole bed of coals gets hot. That stray lump of charcoal which falls off the heap and sits alone in the corner of the grille doesn't do anything but stay black and cold. All the others are turning gray with a deep red glow inside.

My point?

Christ has got to live in us. We can't just squirt a little bit of gospel truths on each other and expect we'll burn with the zeal of God. In **Acts 2:46** the disciples continued with one mind “*day by day.*” The noble Bereans examined Scripture “*daily.*” We need to be soaked in truth to burn with God's light.

Second, we need each other. I need to feed off your fire, and you probably need to do the same with the “charcoal” sitting on your pew today. If there is a good reason to be with the saints as often as the church assembles, it is watching that cold lump of charcoal, only getting colder because it is removed from the heap. **Hebrews 10:24** says we are to consider stimulating each other to love and good deeds. We do that when we assemble together, verse **25** says.

Nothing like a charcoal grille. Nothing like the Word and the people of God.

“Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you; O Israel, if you would listen to Me!” –

Psalm 81:8

Family News

Mary Burnett was admitted to the hospital last weekend (on Saturday). She went home (to her daughter's) this past Wednesday. She was in very serious condition. She was sent home because she was some better and they could not help her any further. She is very weak. She wants everyone who did anything to know how thankful she is for all that was done.

Neal Cobern had a bad infection in his leg. He is some better.

Remember **Quinton Coppage**.

Nell Ferrell remains at NHC in room # 202 (it is better to send cards and notes of encouragement to her home address and **Elmo** will take them to her). Yesterday she was up for three hours. This encourages her family.

Sandra Hunt has high blood pressure, PMR and foot/ankle problems. Her blood pressure medicine was doubled last month. They are still waiting to see if this will be effective (so far it has been ineffective).

Alvin "John" Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. He has been taking a once a day chemotherapy pill. This is a fairly new cancer treatment. It is not meant to be a cure, but so far things have gone well.

Remember **Debbie Kelley** who remains at Brandywood in Gallatin. She is ready to leave Brandywood as soon as she finds a place to live.

Dorothy Newbold, Ame White's aunt, had knee replacement surgery two Tuesdays ago. She went home this past Thursday. She is walking on a walker and making progress.

Nancy Read has macular degeneration. This Tuesday she is scheduled to receive a shot in her eye.

John "Jack" Reiger continues to improve and feel better.

Remember **Dustin Simpson** who continues to serve in the Navy. He remains in training. Contact him at: 91 Quevic Drive
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Remember **Georgia Taylor**.

Ame White got shots for pain on Wednesday. They helped for two days.

Robert Wray is about the same (he still has dizzy spells).

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Ciampas** (St. Louis); **Heyboers**; **Bob & Terri Johnson** (Russia); **Fran Pickens** (FL for a while); **Malones**; **Joyce Werner**

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