

The Lakeview Lamp

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

July 31, 2005

Dangers in Discussing the Cross

Ralph Walker, Jr., edited and titled

There are two dangers in discussing the cross, it seems to me. First is that we focus too much on the physical agony of the cross to prove that Jesus surely died the most horrible death anyone could die. That simply isn't true. While the physical death of Jesus as a most painful way of dying, there are even more cruel ways than crucifixion of taking a life. The point of Jesus' dying was not that He suffered physically more than any human has suffered. He didn't.

I do believe He suffered more in His dying than any human has – in this respect: He took the sins of the whole world on Himself. He, the purest form of humanity, became the foulest of sacrifices. He took on Himself the sins of the ages: past, present, and future. All the wickedness we've ever devised and carried out or even thought, He bore to Calvary. It would be unbearable for any one of us, but especially so for One who had spent His life fending off those very sins in His own body, as well as exhorting others to repent of them. To me the great agony Jesus was dreading was the separation from His Father as Jesus became the ultimate expression of sin for us.

The second danger is that we minimize the crucifixion. It is not pleasant to talk of scourging, of humiliation, of mockery, ridicule, and beatings. We turn our faces from the scene on “the Skull” because we just can't bear the inhumanity shown us there – Jesus writhing, bleeding, gasping, dying. This is Our Lord, the one we love most. In an era of increasing aversion to any suffering – where euthanasia is waxing and animal shelter deaths are waning – we just don't have much stomach for the sufferings of Calvary.

It is ironic that we are more enamored with gratuitous violence than any American generation. Our video games proudly warn of excessive violence, and our sports glorify it. But we somehow know the violence done Jesus is different from any we witness, read about, or create.

The movie *The Passion of Christ* depicts the physical suffering of Jesus like no previous movie has. While *The Gospel of John* carefully downplayed direct portrayal of the death of Jesus, Mel Gibson's version documents every slap, bruise, and penetration.

Is one extreme better than the other? Probably not. While I respect everyone's sensitivity to the graphic violence done to Jesus by the Romans/Jews/humans of all the ages, I remind you that the Gospels spend much space telling of those details: slaps, thorns, scourgings, nails, crosses, and spears. There is so much more detail of the acts done to Jesus and the violation of His body than for any other martyr in the Bible, from Abel to Paul and John.

God wants us to know His Son was horribly treated. This is what man did to Deity. This is what our sins, mine and yours, did to God. Here is God in the hands of angry sinners. Is it any wonder He retaliates?

The cross should be graphically depicted, not to make anyone uncomfortable or sick, but so we can

realize what Jesus suffered for US. Then maybe it will make us more willing to make some sacrifices in our lives for Him. Or if the time comes, some sacrifices OF our lives.



Meeting theme and topics for the week:

Jesus the Christ: Legend or Reality?

Sunday:

10 am----He is not here – He is risen! *How that factmakes all the difference in my daily life.*

3 pm -----Singing – Come join us in song!

3:30 -----Four reasons to listen to God’s Word –Hebrews 2:1-4

Monday -----Who do people say the Son of Man is? *Was He a good man, a prophet or Lord?*

Tuesday -----What kind of man can split history into two parts? *Is Jesus the most important figure in all history? How?*

Wednesday ---What if God became a man? *What was God trying to tell us by visiting our planet in fleshly form? What does it all mean?*

Thursday -----Who is buried in Jesus’ tomb? *Is the body of Jesus there, or where?*

Friday -----Never has a Man spoken like this! *What makes the teachings of Jesus so different?*

“*Arise, O God, judge the earth! For it is You who possesses all the nations.*”
– **Psalm 82:8**

Family News

Mary Burnett has been home from the hospital for over two weeks now. This past week, her doctor found a spot on her lung showing she has pneumonia. She is currently taking medicine for this.

Quinton Coppage is not felling or doing well.

Nell Ferrell remains at NHC in room # 202. She has mostly bad days now. She sleeps most of the time and does not recognize people. Remember **Elmo** who spends most of every day with her (and is worried).

Kathy Hollingsworth, Joyce Werner's niece, is in her late 40's. She had a stroke in June. She remains unable to talk well and mostly cannot move her right side. She remains in a rehabilitation center but progress is slow.

There is a new report from **Gary Hunt** in the back of the auditorium.

Sandra Hunt has high blood pressure, PMR and other problems. She went to the doctor on Thursday, but does not have test results yet (probably will get tomorrow). She is on a new medicine.

Alvin "John" Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. He has been taking a once a day chemotherapy pill (a fairly new treatment). He is weak and lacks energy. He has a doctor's appointment one week from tomorrow.

Richard Jones, the Boyd's neighbor, has advanced cancer. He is worse, but is still able to be mobile.

Remember **Debbie Kelley** who remains at Brandywood in Gallatin. She was sick, but is doing better. She is still trying to find a place to live.

Jeff Lentz has recently been blessed with a new job in Memphis. He and his family will be moving to Memphis. More details to come regarding move date and a new address. They will be missed a great amount.

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

Georgia Taylor is about the same.

Joyce Werner is better and has more energy. She was low on some B vitamins. She received a B12 shot on Tuesday and it helped a great amount. She will be getting a shot monthly until her vitamin levels are higher.

Robert Wray is about the same.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Mark Ciampa; Connie Cobern (FL); Amanda Johnson; Fran Pickens (FL); Pat Richards**

Lakeview church of Christ

132 New Shackle Island Road

P.O. Box 514

Hendersonville TN 37077

Building: 615-824-1376

www.BibleSaints.com

Bible Call: 615-824-1310

Troy Nicholson

trojenn@intergate.com

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