

(Due to a computer problem there was no bulletin last week. – TN)

The Lakeview Lamp

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

August 28, 2005

Blasting the Denominations

John Isaac Edwards

I received a phone call in which the party on the other end was critical of an article that identified the Baptists by name. This woman was not a Baptist, as you might expect, but said she was a member of the church.

Was she blasting me, when she called and lambasted me for blasting the Baptists? No, of course not. That was all in the spirit of love and tolerance, right?

When I write on the sin of homosexuality, am I blasting the homosexual? Is it blasting the fornicator to write on the sin of fornication? Is it drunkard blasting to speak out against drinking? What can we say without being guilty of the detestable deed of blasting?

Jesus identified the Pharisees and called them “*hypocrites*” in **Matthew 23**; does that make Him a sects blaster?

I didn't know blasting was a bad thing. Paul said, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...*” (**Rom. 1:16**). The word “power” comes from the same word from which we get the word “dynamite.” Do you know what dynamite does? It blasts. How can you light the fuse without it blasting? Tell me, how can we preach the gospel without blasting anybody or anything? You're not ashamed of the gospel of Christ are you?



Preacher's Point – The gospel not only blasts, but also it cuts us like nothing else can. In **Hebrews 4:12** we read, “*The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*” The gospel cuts right through us to the heart. On the day of Pentecost it cut through three thousand. When Peter preached the gospel to them and convicted them of the fact “*that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified...they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’*” (**Acts 2:36-37**). Those to whom Stephen preached were cut by the gospel and retaliated by wanting to kill him (**Acts 7:54**).

Have you been blasted and cut lately? If not, then read your Bible.

Priorities and Our Children

Troy Nicholson

I recently saw in another bulletin the results of a Barna Research survey about what parents considered to be most important for their children. The survey found that guaranteeing a good education for their children was the most important priority (39%). Second was helping their children to feel loved (24%). Trailing in third place was “enabling them to have a meaningful relationship with Jesus” (22%). Especially with school now back in session, we as parents need to give serious consideration to the priorities we set for our children.

While there is nothing wrong with “guaranteeing a good education for (our) children,” we should never make it the top priority. “*Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians*” (**Acts 7:22**), but as he matured he realized there was something more important in life. “*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,... considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt...By faith he forsook Egypt*” (**Heb 11:24-27**). Paul was “*educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers*” (**Acts 22:3**). While he did not deny any benefit of a good education, he later said, “*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ*” (**Phil 3:7**).

God commands us as parents to bring up our children “*in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*” (**Eph 6:4**). The absence of so many children every week from Bible classes serves as one indication that this command is not being given the priority it deserves. Instead of “*forsaking Egypt*” (a few minutes of school work), too many parents are joining their children in “*forsaking the assembling of the saints*” (**Heb 10:25**) to do their school work. Instead of considering school activities “*loss for the sake of Christ*,” too many parents are considering Christ loss for the sake of school activities. With such an upbringing, we should not be surprised when children who leave for college also leave the Lord – if they were ever with Him at all.

As a parent it makes me feel good to see my child’s name on the honor roll, but there is a roll that is much more vital for him to make: God’s roll (**Rev 20:11-15**). Parents, which roll is taking priority in your family? Your actions answer that question for you. What answer are they revealing? If they are revealing the wrong answer, then you need to reprioritize now before it is too late.

*“How blessed are those who dwell in Your house!” – Psalm
84:4*

Family News

Ralph Anderson, who used to attend here, went to the doctor this past week. Overall, he received a good report. However, he is more likely to have pneumonia in the future because he has asthma and bronchitis.

Hilda Barker, Sandy Heyboer's mother, had surgery to remove her gall bladder on Wednesday. It was going to be outpatient, but they ran into some problems that made it take five hours. She went home Friday. She is still in pain and not doing very well. She returns to the doctor on Tuesday.

Nell Ferrell remains at NHC in room # 202. The last few weeks, she has been eating more, talking more and up more. Still, on some days she just sleeps.

Sandlyn Fultz, who used to attend here, had a CT scan this past week. There was no sign of recurrent metastatic disease. There is a 2 cm soft tissue mass that is growing. The doctors believe it is a benign mass. More info. to come.

Kathy Hollingsworth, Joyce Werner's niece, had a stroke in June. You can send her cards at: Room 90, Plummely Rehabilitation Center, Paris TN 38242

Sandra Hunt is still waiting for outpatient surgery to remove some nuts and bolts from her ankle. Surgery should be soon.

Alvin "John" Jenkins, Robert's father, continues treatment for lung cancer.

Charles Kirkpatrick, Susan Ciampa's father, is now in a nursing home. He is receiving three types of therapy a day. He is showing some improvement. He probably will finish this therapy soon and then return home.

Allen Malone remains in Vietnam. There is a new report in the back of the auditorium (included is some good news regarding **Dong**).

Melissa Moore had outpatient knee surgery to replace her ACL two Thursdays ago. She is doing well and is receiving therapy for a few months. Her address is: 1216 North Spring Street Murfreesboro TN 37130

Fran Pickens fell a while ago and broke her hip. She is improving.

Remember **Dustin Simpson** who continues to serve in the Navy. He is now being assigned to an aircraft carrier. New contact information to come.

Brad Stubblefield had a kidney biopsy this past Monday. They are waiting on results.

Ame White fell two Thursdays ago. She is improving.

Robert Wray still gets dizzy. He has a doctor's appointment tomorrow.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Heyboers; Wootons** (Turkey)

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