

The Lakeview Lamp

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

October 9, 2005

Why Are You Standing Here?

John Hendrix

After Jesus rose from the dead He spent forty days teaching the apostles about the Kingdom of God (**Acts 1:3**). What a time that must have been! They lost Him once; now He was back, and He was as real as any man! Yet He was not staying. *“Stop clinging to me,”* He told Mary Magdalene (**John 20:17**). I have to go back to the Father. It was hard but true: He would not be on earth forever. He was going to leave them again.

When it was time for Him to go, He gave them final instructions: after waiting for the Holy Spirit at Jerusalem (**Acts 1:4**), they must go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation (**Mark 16:15**). That might seem like a daunting task to most men, but, after all, the Risen Son of God had commanded it.

As He spoke His final words He was taken tip to heaven. He rose into the sky and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Their response was very predictable—they just stood there and looked up.

“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as (Jesus) went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ‘Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven’” (**Acts 1:10-11**). Why are you just standing here? How long will you wait? Jesus is coming back just like He left.

We read the word of God, the glorious and joyful gospel of salvation and hope. We learn of a man who was more than a man. We learn of a great teacher sent from God (**John 3:2**). A true miracle-worker. An honest and direct teacher of righteousness: love for God and fellow man. *“The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them”* (**Matthew 11:5**). Could this be the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One? *“I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven”* (**Mark 14:62**).

We read His final instructions, and the apostles reveal the details of the gospel to us in the New Testament books. New attitudes are called for, many commands are given, great things are promised.

Are you just standing around? Jesus is coming back! You had better get to work.

From childhood many of us are taught the Golden Rule: *“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets”* (**Matthew 7:12**). Wonderful! Beautiful! What a blessed teaching!

Don't just stand around! Put it into practice. Do what Jesus commanded. Jesus is coming back in the same way that He went up. Do you want to be found idle? The Golden Rule is more than “don't treat other people mean.” Of course that is included. But Jesus' command is proactive: go out and do good things to other people. What are you doing for other people? To whom are you taking the gospel? Whose suffering are you trying to relieve? Whose hunger are you trying to fill? *“He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall*

receive a righteous man's reward, And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 10:41-42).

The teaching of Jesus about our treatment of those who mistreat us is nothing less than revolutionary: *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father In heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:44-45).* Rise above the ill-treatment of others and treat them with all kindness! Overcome evil with good (**Romans 12:21**). Truly, this is the Grand Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**), We are all in awe of this wisdom.

Now don't just stand there! Put it into practice! Jesus is coming back, you know. How will you be found of Him? Are you willing for Him to find you returning evil for evil? Will you be overcome of evil or will you rise above it?

And Jesus taught us the true priorities that should mark our lives: *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).* No one was better qualified to teach this. Jesus devoted His entire life to pleasing God. He lost all earthly things. Yet, in the end, God gave Him everything (**Matthew 28:18**). Jesus proved fully that God will take care of us if only we will serve Him with a whole heart. Jesus gave up all, and God gave back all. They put Him in a tomb, and God raised Him out of it. Then God lifted Him on high—brought Him back to heaven and out of all harm's way.

And we should not just stand here. This lesson is for us. Jesus is coming back, and we do not want to be found holding on to some petty earthly possession instead of seeking God with all our might. Do not let the pursuit of any earthly thing get in the way of our pursuit of the righteousness of God. The harder we grasp our earthly possessions, the faster they will slip through our fingers. Yet if we hand them over to God, He will keep all things safe for us and reward us in the end (**2 Timothy 1:12**).

The key here is action. After learning about Jesus, after being awed by the wonderful news of the gospel, after learning of a way of life that raises you above the world, put it to work. Practice what you have learned because Jesus is coming back.

For your own soul's sake, don't just stand there.

"You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin." –
Psalm 85:2

Family News

J. D. Berwington, the Whites' friend, has cancer and is receiving hospice care.

Walter Boyd was admitted to the hospital on Thursday with very high pain. They ran many tests and eliminated many things as the source. They changed some medicine and he is now in less pain. He went home yesterday afternoon.

Virginia Bryant remains in a great amount of pain. She has started therapy but her pain may actually be greater. She will get another pain shot on Tuesday.

Scott Edwards, Nancy Read's nephew, passed away yesterday. Although he lived in another state, the funeral will in Hendersonville.

Nell Ferrell remains at NHC in room # 202. She has been eating very well.

Jessica Gore, Ame White's niece, was in the hospital and had surgery because of a car accident. She has improved some and went home on Tuesday.

Sandra Hunt will see a neurosurgeon on Wed. and a cardiologist on Thu.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. He is the same. He has had problems with being cold all summer and the cooler whether makes this worse.

Cindi Malone had outpatient knee surgery for torn cartilage on Thursday. The surgery went well. She will be very limited in activity over the next two weeks.

Sarah Neighbors had Devin, a healthy baby boy last Sunday. She had gall bladder surgery on Wed. Everybody went home Thursday and are doing well.

Fran Pickens remains in Vanco Manor receiving therapy. She is now able to walk some. She is scheduled to come home next Monday. Her room # is 308 and the address is: 813 South Dickerson Road, Goodlettsville TN 37072.

Ray Ranes, Ame White's nephew, had heart bypass surgery last month. He remains at home but is not doing very well (trouble with pain and depression).

Doma Stewart, Ame White's aunt, had successful knee replacement surgery last month. She was readmitted to the hospital this past Wednesday.

Joyce Werner had shoulder replacement surgery 2.5 weeks ago. She remains at home and is receiving therapy. Therapy is going very well and she is showing improvement. She returns to the doctor tomorrow.

Ame White had surgery two Tuesdays ago to remove a knot in her intestines. She remains at home. She remains tired and on limited activity. She returns to the surgeon this week for follow up.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Bonnie Sue Brown** (gone in AM, here in PM); **Hulls** (gone all week)

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).