

The Lakeview Lamp

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

October 16, 2005

“If”

William J. Stewart

Indeed, the word “if” is one of the shortest which is found in the English language. However, we must not count something which is small to be insignificant. As we look through the pages of Scriptures, we find that the word “if” is an extremely important word. It is a word of condition. It is a word of responsibility. It is a word which is able to determine whether or not we are pleasing to God. It is a word which can determine our eternal place of abode.

Consider from the following Scriptures – all from **1, 2, and 3 John** – how important the word “if” truly is. It is a word with paramount consequences.

*“**IF** we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. But **IF** we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. **IF** we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **IF** we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **IF** we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:6-10).*

*“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And **IF** any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).*

*“And hereby we do know that we know him, **IF** we keep his commandments” (1 John 2:3).*

*“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. **IF** any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15).*

*“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for **IF** they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us” (1 John 2:19).*

*“Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. **IF** that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father” (1 John 2:24).*

*“**IF** ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him” (1 John 2:29).*

*“For **IF** our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, **IF** our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God” (1 John 3:20-21).*

*“Beloved, **IF** God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. **IF** we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:11-12).*

*“**IF** a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” (1 John 4:20).*

*"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **IF** we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and **IF** we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him"* (1 John 5:14-15).

*"**IF** there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed"* (2 John 10).

The word "if" affects:

- our fellowship with God;
- our fellowship with one another;
- the forgiveness of our sins;
- the confidence we can have in our salvation;
- the proof of those who are the antichrist;
- God's love showing through us;
- God's answers to our prayers;
- how we are to deal with false teachers.

Let us pay close attention to this small word, for it has huge influence on our life as the children of God.



It matters not what you lose if you save your soul; it matters not what you save if you lose your soul.

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt 16:26).

"Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your indignation toward us to cease." – Psalm 85:4

Family News

Walter Boyd has slowly gotten better this past week and is now much better.

Virginia Bryant was admitted to the hospital this past Monday. She was treated for a stomach ulcer. She was released late Wednesday afternoon. She remains in pain from her back and will get another pain shot on the 25th.

Danielle Marie Collis, the 8 year old great niece of Dori Simpson, was killed in a wreck this past Monday. Her funeral was Thursday afternoon.

There is a new report from **Alessandro Corazza** in the back of the auditorium.

Scott Edwards, Nancy Read's nephew, passed last weekend. A memorial service was held here in Hendersonville yesterday afternoon.

Geneva Nell Ferrell passed away Thursday night. Her funeral will be in Livingston at Speck Funeral Home at 2 this afternoon. She was 84 years old.

Joyfully we announce that **James Fuller** was baptized into Christ Thursday night. He, his wife **Anita**, and her daughter **Lindsey** have visited here recently. Contact information is: James and Anita Fuller; 137 Two Valley Rd.; Hendersonville, TN 37075; 428-9551; 428-9552

Sandra Hunt will not have surgery. One medicine has been changed.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer and continues treatment.

Cindi Malone had outpatient knee surgery for torn cartilage two Thursdays ago. Everything went well. Her mobility is still limited but is improving.

Sarah Neighbors continues to improve and do better and better.

There is a new report from **Fred Newman** in the back of the auditorium.

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

Doma Stewart, Ame White's aunt, had knee replacement surgery last month. She remains in the hospital but has been moved for physical therapy.

Joyce Werner had shoulder surgery 4 weeks ago. She had the sling removed on Monday and is now driving. She begins driving to therapy tomorrow.

Ame White fell on Wednesday. She is bruised.

Tom Wooton, who is living and working in Turkey, has asked for our prayers. He has been involved in Bible study with Allen and is in the process of making very serious spiritual decisions.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Connie Cobern, Hulls, Dustin Simpson**

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).