

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**November 13, 2005**

## *The Need for Gay Marriages*

Troy Nicholson

There is a lot of talk nowadays about gay marriages. As a Christian I am in favor of them. That's right. In fact, every marriage should be gay.

Maybe you are starting to figure out that I am talking about something different from how the term has come to be used. Webster's New World Dictionary first defines gay as "joyous and lively; merry; happy; lighthearted." The last definition then gives the "Americanized" meaning of the word, but I refuse to use such a wholesome word to describe such unwholesome behavior. There is nothing gay (joyous, happy) about the perversion of homosexuality.

When I say that we need gay marriages, I mean that we need marriages full of joy and happiness. In the beginning God designed a husband and wife to be "*one flesh*" (**Gen 2:24**). As Paul later said, "*No one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it*" (**Eph 5:29**). Yet too many marriages are full of hate. Some people act as though "the golden rule" ("*However you want people to treat you, so treat them.*" – **Matthew 7:12**) doesn't apply to spouses, when it ought to apply even more to the person with whom you have become one.

Husbands are commanded to love their wives "*just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her*" (**Eph 5:25**). What gayness we are able to experience because of Christ's great love for us, enjoying every spiritual blessing in Him (**1:3**). That same type of gayness would be experienced in every marriage if all husbands loved their wives to this degree.

The sexual relationship should be a gay part of marriage. Paul says that a husband and wife have a duty to one another in this regard and warns against "*depriving one another*" of this relationship (**1 Cor 11:3-5**). Some marriages are no longer gay because these duties are not being fulfilled as they should.

We could put divorce lawyers out of business if we were all committed to making marriage as gay as God designed it to be. Jesus says that divorce comes as a result of "hardness" (**Matt 19:8**) replacing happiness. We would not be separating what God has joined together (**:6**) if marriages were remaining gay.

Is your marriage gay?

# Poverty and Wealth

Gary Henry

*“So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, ‘You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, and come, follow Me.’ But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich” (Luke 18:22,23).*

We do well to remember the difference between temporal wealth and spiritual wealth. It is possible to have one without the other. Consider that there are four categories or conditions of “prosperity” in which we may find ourselves:

**(1) Poor, both temporally and spiritually.** The person who has no treasures of any kind, either in this world or in heaven, is destitute in the worst possible way. This person is poor inside and out.

**(2) Rich, both temporally and spiritually.** This sometimes happens, as in the case of Abraham (**Genesis 13:2**), but it is exceedingly rare. Few of us are exceptions to the general rule that *“it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven”* (**Matthew 19:24**). The tendency of earthly treasures to steal time and attention that ought to go to God is a tendency stronger than most people can resist.

**(3) Poor temporally, but rich spiritually.** To the church in Smyrna, Jesus said He knew of their poverty. Nevertheless, He said, *“You are rich”* (**Revelation 2:9**). We may lack much of the wealth that the world enjoys now, but if we’ve obeyed the gospel and are faithful to our Lord, then we’re the possessors of a wealth that time cannot touch, an *“inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you”* (**1 Peter 1:4**).

**(4) Rich temporally, but poor spiritually.** Unfortunately, this is how many of us who live in the affluent nations of the world would have to be classified. We’ve prospered financially, and yet our souls are starving. We have money, but money is all we have. We don’t see how poor we really are, like the Laodiceans whom the Lord rebuked: *“You say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked”* (**Revelation 3:17**).

If the Lord were to tell us to get rid of what we have, what would we do? Would we, like the rich young ruler, refuse to become poor that we might gain the thing that is wealth indeed?

“He is poor who has nothing but money” (Anonymous).

*“The LORD will indeed give what is good.” Psalm 85:12*

# **Family News**

**Neil Barker**, Sandy Heyboer's father, was admitted to St. Thomas hospital this past Monday. They ran many tests and changed some of his medicine. He is doing much better. Tomorrow, he is scheduled to be transferred to Middle TN Christian for a week or less of rehabilitation (to help him get to walking better).

**Virginia Bryant** is having more pain as the pain shot wears off. However, so far, things have gone better than they did after the last pain shot.

**Quinton Coppage** continues to not do very well.

**Nancy Fields**, Sandra Boyd's cousin, has had a relapse of cancer. She is taking chemotherapy and radium.

**Sandra Hunt** continues to not do very well (she has a high level of pain).

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

**Al Johnson**, Bob's father, remains in Skyline. He had surgery this past Monday to put in a stint. They continue to run tests. Overall he is not doing well.

**Pat Jordan**, Brian Neighbours' aunt, is in Centennial receiving chemotherapy. The cancer is in one of her bronchial tubes and this has resulted in the collapse of a lung. They have given her no more than a year to live.

**Linda Magee**, the wife of an employee of Brian Neighbours, has been diagnosed with cancer and will undergo exploratory surgery tomorrow. She has not been given any hope of living much longer.

**Allen Malone** returned safely to Vietnam this past week (there is a new report from him in the back of the auditorium).

**Dong** is the member there who has cancer. Tests show the radiation treatments have stopped the spread of the cancer (however, he has suffered side effects from the treatments). They may start some other treatments at some point.

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

**Cotton** and **Nancy Read** are both having eye problems. Nancy was scheduled to have a shot this past week but did not. Cotton is going to Centennial tom.

Remember **Dustin Simpson** who continues to serve in the Navy.

**Fred Wenger**, Teddy's father, was in the hospital this past week but has now returned to Brandywood. He is unable to walk and not doing well.

**Ame White** had several tests this past week. She should get results tomorrow.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Johnsons**

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