

The Lakeview Lamp

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

January 29, 2006

The Truth About Success

Troy Nicholson

I recently read in a deer hunting magazine an article entitled “The Truth About Deer Hunting Success,” by Don Mulligan. In it he said, “If a deer hunter doesn’t have some groveling to do with both his spouse and boss at the end of deer season, he didn’t manipulate his time as efficiently as he could have. Likewise, if he feels completely rested as deer season comes to a close, he didn’t sacrifice nearly enough sleep for the cause.”

What deer hunter would not like to be more successful at hunting deer? The truth is that sometimes success comes at a price that is higher than one is willing to pay. Some hunters are not as successful at deer hunting as they could be because they consider other things (like their job and their family) more important than hunting. Some are not more successful because they are not willing to sacrifice any more sleep than they are already sacrificing. The truth is, until one makes hunting more of a priority and is willing to sacrifice more things for the cause, he is not going to be any more successful than he currently is.

What sincere Christian would not like to be more successful in the Lord’s service? The truth is that sometimes success comes at a price that is higher than one is willing to pay. The truth is, until one makes serving the Lord more of a priority and is willing to sacrifice more things for the cause, he is not going to be any more successful than he currently is. That may involve letting your boss know that there are certain times you cannot work because of more important commitments, such as assembling with the saints to worship God. That may mean letting family members know that there are some times you will not be able to be with them because you will be with your spiritual family. It may also mean sacrificing sleep so you can get up early enough to study your Bible and pray before work and/or staying up late enough to study and pray before bed. Jesus said, “*Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; [qvb://0/anchor/38](#) and anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me*” (Matt 10:37-38).

God told Joshua, “*Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. [qvb://0/anchor/9](#) Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful*” (Joshua 1:7-8). For Christians to truly be successful, we must be fully committed to obeying all that the Lord requires of us, with no wavering. We must meditate day and night on His word and carefully do all that it says. The truth is that until we are that committed to Him we will not be as successful as we could and should be. How successful are you willing to be?

"Children, Obey Your Parents"

Troy Nicholson

Children, this article is especially for you. Yes, it even applies to you who are teenagers – even more so than to those who are younger. It applies to those of you who are old enough to reason yet are still living under your parents' oversight. In **Ephesians 6:1-3** God commands you to "obey your parents," and He also gives you three reasons to do so.

"For this is right." When your parents tell you to do or not to do something, then God says to obey them because it is the right thing to do. While there may be times that an explanation may be beneficial for why they have told you something, your parents are not required to always try to explain why they tell you everything. It ought to be enough of an explanation when God says to obey them because it is right. If your parents tell you something as simple as to take out the trash, then God says to do it because it is the right thing to do.

If it is right to obey your parents, then it is wrong to disobey them. Disobeying parents is listed among such sins that *"ought not to be done"* as *"murder, strife, deceit and malice,"* and God says that *"those who do such things deserve death"* (**Romans 1:28-32**). Under the old law those who disobeyed parents *were* put to death (**Deut 21:18-21**). God does not take disobedience lightly, and neither should you.

"That it may go well with you." Sometimes you may feel like your parents are depriving you of a quality life with some of the things they require of you. The opposite is actually true. While you may not want to admit it or even believe it, your parents have more wisdom than you. They have a better idea of what is good and what is bad for you than you do. Will the wicked sometimes prosper? Yes (**Psalm 73:3**), but it is the exception instead of the rule. If you want things to go well with you in life, then obey your parents. Too many children learn this lesson the hard way by doing something in disobedience that negatively alters the rest of their lives. Don't be among that number.

"That you may live long on the earth." What does this mean? Exactly what it says. Eli's sons would not listen to him, and they ended up dead as a result (**1 Samuel 2-4**). A recent article in *The Tennessean* dealt with an accident that left two teens dead. It began by saying, "The teenagers were out way past curfew and they were disobeying their parents,..." The stepfather of the boy who died said, "I have one things to say. Kids should listen to their parents. If Paxton had listened to us, we wouldn't be out here doing what we're doing."

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right...that it may go well with you and that you may live long on the earth."

"You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God." – **Psalm 86:10**

Family News

Dorothy Davis, Troy's grandmother, is in CCU at Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia. She has been on a ventilator since Thursday, but is some better.

Tiwana Ellis, who has visited with, has MD.

Elmo Ferrell is doing better since the increase in medicine. He is having some back and leg pain and will return to the doctor soon.

Sandlyn Fultz is doing very well. She returned to school this past week.

Nathan Fultz is doing well. After examining his last MRI they consider his tumor to be stable at this point and not growing. If nothing changes they will wait until May or June to perform another MRI.

Jimmy Hunt had some heart tests last week. He should get results this week.

Robert Hunt has colon cancer (we help support his son Gary (NY NY)). He is scheduled for surgery this Wednesday.

Sandra Hunt went to the pain clinic this past week. She received injections in her spine to relieve her pain. So far they have not helped. She is scheduled for two treatments a week for three weeks.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has had less pain recently. He is scheduled for another round of chemotherapy this week.

Becky Newman, we help support her husband Fred (Slovakia), has been sick.

Cotton Read is now doing better.

Laura Reed remains about the same.

Remember **Dustin Simpson** as he continues to serve in the Navy. You can write him at (please use four lines):

MM3 SIMPSON, DUSTIN USS Enterprise CVN-65 Box 44 FPO AE 09543-2810

Georgia Taylor continues to not do very well.

Remember the Christians in **Vietnam** while Allen is here.

Ame White returned home from Vanderbilt MC Monday afternoon. She is doing well this weekend.

Robert Wray still suffers from many dizzy spells and is weak.

Lakeview church of Christ

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www.BibleSaints.com

Bible Call: 615-824-1310

Sunday:

Bible class 9 am

Assembly 10 am

Worship 6 pm

Wednesday:

Bible study 7 pm

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