

The Lakeview Lamp

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

March 12, 2006

Worship Distractions

Greg Gwin

Our coming together in times of worship are intended for the purposes of 1) honoring and glorifying God (**Ps. 138:2**), and 2) edifying and encouraging one another (**Heb. 10:25**). Therefore, all that we do and say in these assemblies should take these things into consideration.

In regards to the first objective, it is clear that we must conduct ourselves so that God is properly revered and praised. We should never do anything that would result in a dishonor to Him. This would obviously require that we carefully follow scriptural authority in all the parts of worship. Additionally, worshippers should use caution in their personal actions, including what they say, what they wear, and how they behave. We should never lose sight of the fact that we are serving in the presence of the Almighty God.

With the first priority firmly established (i.e., honoring God), we must also make a serious effort to exhort other worshippers. Anything that we might do which could be a distraction to them must be avoided. This is not just simple courtesy, rather it is a divine imperative. Here are some specifics to consider:

- Avoid tardiness. If you are late in arrival, your entrance causes an immediate disturbance. Others have their thoughts diverted as they notice you. So, by being tardy you have failed to greet other members and visitors, you have shown an apparent lack of concern for the assembly, you have not been careful to respect the worship itself, and you have failed to encourage your brethren. If you are one who is consistently late, we urge you to think about it. You can do better! You **SHOULD** do better!!
- Never whisper, talk, pass notes, play with babies, or do other things that suggest a lack of attention. All the various aspects of worship are important, and you need to be an attentive and active participant. Don't distract others!
- Don't "clock watch." Some seem to be overly concerned that the service might run a few minutes too long. Some will even get up and leave if the service goes beyond a certain time. This shows that they don't appreciate what we are doing – and shows others that they would rather be somewhere else.

The Truth Sometimes Hurts

Jonathan Perz

How much do you appreciate the truth? The truth is easy to hear when it is flattering, encouraging, and uplifting. However, the truth can sometimes hurt. Do you always desire the truth from those around you, regardless of whether it is favorable or not? Do you always demand the truth from those who preach and teach the gospel of Christ?

The truth pleased the rich young ruler until Jesus told him the one thing he lacked (**Mark 10:17-22**). Some would call such a declaration of truth unloving, but the Spirit called it love (note **:21**). How do we feel when someone courageously and honestly points out our shortcomings (**Proverbs 27:6**)?

Many of the Jews who heard Peter on Pentecost appreciated the truth, though it indicted them. They chose repentance and baptism (**Acts 2:36-40**). Whereas, those Jews who heard Stephen speak that same truth hated what was spoken. They responded by stoning Stephen to death (**Acts 7:54-60**). How do we respond to the truth?

The Galatians loved the apostle Paul – so much that at one point they were willing to pluck out their own eyes and give them to Paul. However, in the very next verse Paul was compelled to ask if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth (**Galatians 4:14-16**). Do we despise those who tell us what we need to hear?

A few reminders should help us to realize the value of truth. 1. Jesus is the truth (**John 14:6**). 2. God's word is truth (**John 17:17**). 3. Knowing and abiding in the truth can set us free (**John 8:31-32**). 4. Those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness will face the wrath of God (**Romans 1:18**). 5. We must always speak the truth with our neighbors (**Ephesians 4:25**). 7. Love rejoices in truth (**1 Corinthians 13:6**).

Simply stated, unless we have a love of the truth, we will never appreciate the truths that hurt (**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**). Unless we are willing to accept painful truths, we cannot know the sanctifying power of truth (**John 17:17**). Unless we obey the truth, we will be condemned (**Romans 2:8**).

How much do you appreciate truth? The answer is painfully obvious when we are confronted with agonizing truths that require change in our lives. Change hurts, but the truth saves. How will you respond the next time you are confronted with the truth?

*“You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger,
abounding in love and faithfulness.” – Psalm 86:15*

Family News

Neil Barker, Sandy Heyboer's father, was admitted to Williamson Medical Center late yesterday. He was having trouble breathing because he has pneumonia.

Mary Burnett is not doing too well because she has the flu.

Linda Clark, James Fuller's mother, has very severe breathing problems.

Connie Cobern pulled a muscle two weeks ago and now has also hurt her leg.

Elmo Ferrell has also had problems with his legs.

Sandlyn Fultz received good, clear results from all the scans and tests she had this past Monday. Everything did not go exactly as scheduled, but everything eventually was completed and she and her mother are back home in AL.

Jimmy Hunt received good news from the heart doctor on Thursday. He basically has a very healthy heart and there is nothing to worry about. (I think his feeling different to start with is simply due to his constant and continual aging!)

Sandra Hunt continues to not do well. She returns to the doctor next week.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. He continues to sleep a lot. He is scheduled to receive another round of chemotherapy tomorrow.

Allen Malone remains in Vietnam. There is a new report from him in the back of the auditorium. He has safely completed (for this trip) his benevolent work in the areas that had been hurt by typhoon and flood. Remember **Dong** who has very advanced cancer. He is not doing well and is in constant and excruciating pain.

Fran Pickens has not been feeling well.

Laura Reed continues to be about the same.

Georgia Taylor continues to have many health problems.

Ame White remains about the same.

Robert Wray continues to have dizzy spells.

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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).