

The Lakeview Lamp

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

April 16, 2006

God's Control

Troy Nicholson

.Have you ever had one of those moments where, at least for a brief period, you feel overwhelmed? I had one of those moments last Friday afternoon. I was sitting in the hospital waiting room where my parents live, waiting for my dad to complete bypass heart surgery. I was thinking about the fact that it was taking longer than the doctor told us it would take, when all of a sudden something on The Weather Channel caught my attention – the name of the town where I live flashed across the bottom of the screen. It was under a tornado warning. I quickly called home to check on my wife and kids. When I asked my wife what was happening there, she said that they were in the closet. There I sat, with my dad possibly dying on the operating table and my wife and kids potentially being blown away by a tornado, and there was nothing I could directly do about either one.

Nearly two thousand years ago, God watched as His Son was betrayed by a friend, treated with shame and contempt, subjected to a joke of a trial, and then nailed to a cross. Unlike me, God could have stopped the scene at any point. As Jesus Himself said, God could have sent *“more than twelve legions of angels”* to deliver Him (**Matthew 26:53**). Yet God did nothing. Even when the religious leaders said while Jesus hung on the cross, *“Let God rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said, ‘I am the Son of God’”* (**27:43**), God did not do anything but allow it all to happen. Even though He could have done whatever He wanted, He was even willing to allow His Son to die so that we might live (**John 3:16**).

We may not be able to understand allowing our son to suffer and die as God did with Jesus – especially allowing Him to die for sinners (**Romans 5:8**). Aren't we glad that God is in control instead of us! How differently things may be for the worse if we had the control we sometimes wish we did.

Fortunately, my dad soon successfully completed his surgery, and the tornado stayed north of our house. Fortunately, on the third day Jesus arose from the dead. The first two things happened even though I had no control. The latter happened because God was in control and raised Jesus from the dead (**Acts 2:24**). *“God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name”* (**Philippians 2:9**). Praise be to the one who is in control of all things. May I always give Him complete control of my life.

A Fresh Look at the Bible

David McConaghy

Twenty-five years ago I entered into the temple of Christianity. I entered at the portico of Genesis, walking down through the Old Testament art galleries where the pictures of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Daniel hang on the wall.

I passed into the music room of the Psalms where the Spirit swept the keyboard of nature until it seemed that every reed and pipe in God's great organ responded to the tuneful harp of David, the sweet singer of Israel. I entered the chamber of Ecclesiastes where the voice of the preacher was heard. Next I visited the business office of Proverbs.

Then I glanced into the observatory of the prophets where I saw telescopes of various sizes pointed to far-off events, but all were concentrated upon the bright and morning star which was to rise above the moonlit hills of Judea.

I entered the audience room of the King of kings and caught a vision of His glory from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I learned from the book of Acts how the Holy Spirit did His work in the formation of the early church. I walked into the correspondence room where sat Paul, Peter, James, and John writing their epistles.

Last of all I stepped into the throne room of Revelation, where towered the glittering peaks; and I saw the King sitting upon the throne in all of His glory and splendor.

I then cried with great joy.



Preacher's point – Bible study would take on new meaning if we viewed it in the beautiful way portrayed above. As Paul says, "*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope*" (**Romans 15:4**). May we always view God's word in such light and live in such a way to enjoy the hope it gives.

"I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in the heavens." – **Psalm 89:2**

Family News

Franklin Neil Barker, Sandy Heyboer's father, passed away late Friday at the age of 82. His body is at Williamson Memorial Funeral Home. Visitation will be today from 3 to 8. The funeral will be at 11 on Monday.

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

Elmo Ferrell has a bad back and has been in pain recently.

Carolyn Hamlett, a friend of John Moore, is scheduled to have breast cancer surgery tomorrow.

Sandra Hunt received good blood test results (because of some medicine she takes they do these tests about every three months). She will soon be seeing an orthopedic surgeon to check on options for her right shoulder and arm.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. He remains about the same.

Ruth Kelly, who used to be a member here, has cancer in several major organs. She is scheduled to see the doctor again within a few weeks.

Shirley Merritt, a friend of Joyce Werner, had a heart procedure started on Friday. Unfortunately, they had to stop because of bleeding. They will try to complete the procedure tomorrow.

Harvey Nicholson, Troy's father, is home and doing well after heart surgery.

Fran Pickens has a lot of knee pain.

Laura Reed continues to be about the same.

Jack Reiger is scheduled to have sinus surgery this Wednesday.

Georgia Taylor continues to have many health problems.

Ame White had a doctor's appointment on Thursday. They are trying to find some answers and have now scheduled a CAT scan for tomorrow afternoon.

Robert Wray continues to be about the same.

Michael Zoladz, Joyce Werner's 46-year-old nephew, has brain cancer. His pain is being effectively controlled with pain medicine. He now loses his balance easily, and, therefore, cannot walk very well.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Heyboers; John Hunt** (preaching).

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