

The Lakeview Lamp

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

May 7, 2006

The Church for Everybody

Sewell Hall

I agreed to go with a group of Christian friends to a Braves game. This was going to be different. The field was covered with performing high school bands – an appeal to all who like music. And that was only the beginning. For those preferring opera, a Metropolitan Opera star sang the national anthem. For those more political in taste, the Attorney General of the U.S. led the pledge to the flag. Lovers of money were tantalized by a \$500 door prize. Cartoon fans were entertained by a million dollar scoreboard featuring cartoon characters. Those living on the level of the flesh were treated to the sight of a young lady in short shorts running around the diamond sweeping off the bases between every inning. And to climax it all, there was a huge fireworks display. I don't remember what team the Braves were playing, much less who won, but that was a game I shall never forget. That was baseball for people who don't like baseball.

Far too many churches are trying to remodel the religion of Jesus Christ to make it a religion for people who don't like religion! For those desiring recreation, they offer recreation. For those desiring entertainment, there is entertainment. For those whose primary interest is secular education, they offer day care, kindergartens, schools, and colleges. For those whose appetite is for food, they build church kitchens and dining rooms. The attempt is to be “the church for everybody.”

Such carnal, temporal appeals were never authorized by the Lord. He intended that the church be a “called out,” separated body of people. If the gospel is the only appeal, it will make that separation. In Corinth, where the wisdom of men was valued, Paul “*determined not to know anything...except Jesus Christ and Him crucified*” (1 Cor 2:2). In a city where oratory was highly esteemed, he refused even to dress up the gospel with “*excellence of speech*” (2:1). His purpose was to see that the materials he built into the temple were “*gold, silver, precious stone*” rather than “*wood, hay, and straw*” (3:12).

No, the Lord's church is not for everybody – just for those who have those qualities which set them apart as God's elect and chosen ones.

Falling from Grace

author unknown

Is it possible for a saved person to fall from grace? One of the several clear Bible answers to this question is to be found in **1 Cor. 10:1-12**. Verses 1-5 refer to the deliverance of Israel at the Red Sea and amply demonstrate the truth of Christ's statement that "*no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand*" (**John 10:29**).

The occasion of God's delivering the people of Israel from Egyptian bondage under the leadership of Moses is scripturally referred to us as, "*the day that I took them by the hand to lead them forth out of the land of Egypt*" (**Heb. 8:9**, quoting from **Jer. 31:31-32**; see also **Deut. 5:15**).

Exo. 14:23-31 informs us that Pharaoh and his powerful army were unable to take them out of God's hand. **1 Cor. 10:6-10** reminds us that many of them fell after becoming disciples of Moses and after having eaten "spiritual food" and having drunk "spiritual drink" (:1-4). No power in earth or heaven or hell could "*snatch them out of the Father's hand,*" but they could let go of His hand – and many of them did.

Verses 6 and 11 declare that God intended the experiences of Israel to serve as examples (types) for us. How and why, if a saved person cannot fall as the Israelites did? Verse 12 emphatically warns: "*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*"

Fun Isn't Everything

Ian Neighbours (one of our young people), titled

We kids think that having fun is everything to us. Sure we like to hang out and stuff like that, but is it enough? Let's ask our friend the Bible about that.

In **Ecclesiastes 2** we find that Solomon is preaching about this very thing. He says that he felt like he was happy, but he also felt that he was missing something. He had spent every day having fun and having all sorts of dancers and slaves to make him happy. It wasn't enough, though. So he studied and studied and studied some more. Then, he found it. He found that empty space. He found what he was missing. It was God. We need to find God the way Solomon did. We need to be right with God. We need to be like Solomon and fill that empty space like he did. We need to realize that fun isn't everything.

Family News

Congratulations to **Justin** and **Julia Edwards** who are the thankful parents of a baby girl, **Jesi Camille** (5 lbs. 12 ozs., 19 inches long). She was born two Fridays ago. Mother and baby are doing well and came home last Sunday.

Barry Fultz, who used to be a member here, has three fibromas in his neck and one in his lumbar region that are causing him pain (headaches). The ones in the neck have invaded the spinal canal. For now, the risks involved with surgery outweigh the benefits. They will monitor to see how fast the fibromas are growing. Thankfully, fibromas typically grow very slowly. See a more complete update at:

caringbridge.com/visit/nathanandsandlyn

Sandra Hunt continues to have great pain in her right shoulder and arm. They may have to return to a doctor ahead of schedule.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. He has finished radiation treatments. He continues to receive chemotherapy.

Jennifer Lindzy, Fran Pickens' 33-year-old granddaughter, has cancer. She is married and has a 14-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son. She has started chemotherapy. She is weak. Her immune system is down. She remains in room # 6120 at Baptist hospital (no visitors).

Allen Malone leaves early Wednesday and will be back in Vietnam Saturday.

Fran Pickens has some problems with mobility.

Helen Pye, who used to be a member here, is now in NHC across from Hendersonville Hospital. She is not doing well.

Ame White has had an infection but is now doing better. **Angela** had outpatient surgery on Thursday. So far it appears successful, but for now she is very restricted regarding activity. She returns to the doctor tomorrow.

Robert Wray was informed on Friday that he has cataracts. This is causing severe eyesight problems. Before long he may have to have surgery.

Michael Zoladz, Joyce Werner's 46-year-old nephew, has brain cancer. He is married and has twin 17-year-old sons. He is now having seizures and is not doing well.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Janis Daniel; Robert and Candy Jenkins**

Lakeview church of Christ

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P.O. Box 514

Hendersonville TN 37077

Building: 615-824-1376

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).