

The Lakeview Lamp

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

July 9, 2006

True Value!

Rick Duggin

The death of celebrities makes news. But when an outstanding teacher dies on the same day as the famous person, his death receives no extra attention – just the regular obituary column.

This practice sends the message that some people are more valuable than others – not because of worthwhile services they render, and not even because of their good moral influence, but because society idolizes them.

Children of God live and die without worldly fanfare or appreciation, and they expect none. In some cases, however, their enemies rejoice over their departure: *“They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword...”* (**Hebrews 11:37**).

Christians often value what society scorns, and scorn what society values. They ask, “What does *God* esteem?” The Lord almost never values what people consider important. For example:

God does not require eloquence. He used Moses in spite of his inability to speak well (**Exodus 4:10**).

God does not require wealth. Those who think they could do great things for the Lord if only they had millions of dollars are deceiving themselves (**Mark 4:19**).

God never required an advanced education of His people. Jesus never attended the rabbinical schools. The religious officials were “scholars,” but their education didn’t help them where it mattered most (**John 7:45-49**)!

God does not require physical beauty. In this age of extreme makeovers, Americans determine the worth of an individual by his looks. God looks on the heart (**1 Samuel 16:7**).

God does not require convenience. Paul and Silas experienced great inconvenience in a Philippian jail, but they served God anyway (**Acts 16:25-34**). People always make time for things they consider important.

God requires a deep respect for His word that leads to a strong faith that obeys Him. He rewards the one who diligently seeks Him (**Hebrews 11:6**). This is true value!

Update of the Trinity

Troy Nicholson

Last Sunday's (7-2-06) *Tennessean* contained an article titled "Update of the Trinity draws a lot of groans." The article was written because "Presbyterians USA seek more relevant form of 'Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.'"

Twelve different wordings were "essentially endorsed last month by delegates to the church's policy-making body to describe" the trinity. Among the suggestions were "Compassionate Mother, Beloved Child, and Life-giving Womb;" "Lover, Beloved, and Love That Binds Lover and Beloved Together;" "Rock, Cornerstone, and Temple;" and "Rainbow of Promise, Ark of Salvation, and Dove of Peace."

In defense of the report that committee members took five years to develop, one member said that critics miss the point and that "what we are speaking of is supplementary ways of referring to the triune God – not replacements, not substitutes;" but how is calling the Father "Mother" a scriptural supplement? It is no more so than calling any father "Mother" is a correct supplement. One woman said, "What we want to say is that no words can fully describe God; and so we want people to seek a variety of expression, so we can do justice to the greatness of God." We already have a variety of expressions all throughout the Bible that do justice to the greatness of God. Why are they not adequate? Why do we need supplements?

One Presbyterian unhappy with the additions rightly said, "You might as well put in Huey, Dewey, and Louie." Another one said, "It's very clear that God refers to Himself as the Father...Jesus, when He walked on the Earth, referred to Himself as the Son. All through Scripture, the Holy Spirit is referred to as the Spirit. What would give any of us the right to change that?" Amen! "*If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God*" (**1 Peter 4:11**), not make up his own words and add to (supplement) God's.

Other actions by the assembly of delegates included "giving local authorities the ability to ordain gays and lesbians living openly with same-sex partners." If people go against God's word in one area, then we should not be surprised when they go against it in other areas, too. One church leader said "that decisions like this will encourage some churches to consider leaving the denomination." We should all pray that this will be true and that they will turn to following only the truth revealed in God's word.

"*Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'*" (**Galatians 4:6**). May God's language always be good enough for us.

"O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days." – **Psalm 90:14**

Family News

Alex Bansemer is in Sewanee for two more weeks. You can email him at alexbans@comcast.net or write him at (use four lines):

Alex Bansemer SSMF 735 University Ave Sewanee TN 37383

Remember **Quinton Coppage**.

There is a new report from **Arrigo Corazza** in the back of the auditorium.

Elmo Ferrell is doing a little better.

James Fuller has moved to Arkansas.

Norman Harbor, the Lanning's son in law, continues to recover from viral meningitis. He is tired a great amount, he has headaches and his eyes are sensitive to light. However, he has returned to work and is improving.

Sandra Hunt still has a great amount of shoulder pain. She has several doctors' appointments over the next few weeks.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer.

Jennifer Lindzy, Fran Pickens' 33-year-old granddaughter, still faces more chemotherapy treatments for cancer.

Cotton Read had a new eye lens put in several weeks ago. His eyes continue to hurt and are sensitive to light. However, his eyesight continues to improve. He returns to the doctor this week. **Nancy** continues to have some stomach trouble.

Remember **Laura Reed**.

We regret that the **Simpsons** are no longer members here.

Remember **Georgia Taylor**.

Robert Wray had surgery on his right eye on Thursday to remove a cataract. On Friday they removed the patch. So far he can see much better and the surgery appears to be a complete success. He will return to the doctor on July 25th. If things continue to go well, he should have surgery on his left eye soon after that.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Alex B.; Gaws; Malones** (in AM).

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