

The Lakeview Lamp

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

September 10, 2006

What God Prepared

Troy Nicholson

“God works in mysterious ways.” Have you ever heard someone say this? Maybe you have said it yourself. If you ever doubt the validity of this statement, then just consider the various ways that God worked in the life of Jonah, the various things He prepared for him.

When Jonah boarded a ship trying to escape Him, *“the Lord sent a great wind on the sea” (1:4)*. This storm started off strong enough to almost break up the ship (1:4) and kept getting worse (:11-13). It got so bad that the sailors finally threw Jonah overboard (:15).

When they did, God was waiting. *“The Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights” (1:17)*. *“Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish’s belly” (2:1)*. *“So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land” (2:10)*.

Jonah then decided to obey the Lord and go preach to the city of Ninevah (3:1-3). When the people repented and God had compassion on them and did not destroy them (:10), Jonah got mad and went out of the city to wait and see what would happen (4:1-6). *“And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant” (:7)*.

But God wasn’t through preparing things for Jonah. *“But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered” (:7)*.

As though this wasn’t enough, God still had another thing for Jonah. *“And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah’s head, so that he grew faint” (:8)*.

So why did God prepare all these things for Jonah? He prepared the storm and the fish to get Jonah’s attention and turn him to the right path (3:1-3). He then prepared the plant, worm, and wind as part of an object lesson for Jonah (4:9-11).

If God prepared these types of things for Jonah, who knows what He may have prepared for you? Who knows when certain things happen to you if it may be God at work in your life? How will you respond to what God has prepared for you?

Do You Remember?

Troy Nicholson

“I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. [qyb://0/anchor/14](#)I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body...[qyb://0/anchor/16](#)And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things” (2 Peter 1:12-15). Again at the beginning of chapter three Peter emphasized the importance of remembering. What things did he consider it so important to remember?

- *“...the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets” (3:2a).*

While the Old Testament does not serve as our source of authority for what we do today, it still contains much useful information for us to remember. Peter says concerning *“the word of the prophets”* that *“you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (1:19)*. Paul told the Romans that *“everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4)*.

- *“...the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles” (3:2b)*

While we need to remember the words of the prophets, even more so we need to remember the words of Christ. The writer of **Hebrews** said, *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, [qyb://0/anchor/3](#)but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” (1:1-2)*. As God said at the transfiguration, *““This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!”” (Matthew 17:5)*.

Notice that Peter did not say that we only need to remember the “red letters” of Christ, as some people today claim, but instead *“the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.”* The words of the apostles in the epistles are just as authoritative as the words of Christ recorded in the Gospels.

Before we can remember what Peter has said we need to remember, we must first know it. To know it, we must read and study it. Are you reading? Are you studying? Do you know? Do you remember?

“It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.”

– **Psalm 92:1**

Family News

Virginia Bryant is scheduled to have major surgery this Wed. at Baptist.

Remember **Mary Burnett**. She remains about the same.

Wilson and **Becky Copeland** leave this Thursday for China. He plans to proclaim good news about Jesus there for 6 weeks. She plans to be there for 3 weeks. Lakeview has decided to help them financially in this effort.

Remember **Quinton Coppage**. He remains about the same.

Elmo Ferrell has two ongoing, seemingly intractable, problems.

Sandra Hunt has been prescribed some shots by a neurosurgeon. The first is to be given on Sep. 26th. She must first stop taking a heart medicine.

Jennifer Lindzy, Fran Pickens' granddaughter, had cancer and completed chemotherapy treatments. This past week the latest scan showed she is cancer free. She continues to recover and improve at home.

Allen Malone remains in Vietnam. There is a new report in the back.

There is a new report from **Fred Newman** in the back of the auditorium.

Troy Nicholson began serving as a deacon earlier this month.

Remember **Fran Pickens**. She remains about the same.

Remember **Laura Reed**. She remains about the same. (Her granddaughter is scheduled to have surgery on September 18th.)

Remember **Georgia Taylor**. She remains about the same.

Ame White has some ongoing breathing problems. Lately these problems have been worse. She has started taking some new medicine for this.

Robert Wray still has some pain in his left eye. This past week he received a good report from the doctor. His eyesight is improving. He is not scheduled for another checkup for 4.5 weeks.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Cindi Malone**.

Lakeview church of Christ

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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).