

The Lakeview Lamp

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

September 17, 2006

Who Made Who?

Richard Mansel

A young man, by the name of Mike, creates an entire village in miniature in a field behind his house. He places streets, parks, houses, cars, people, trees, flowers, and shrubbery within its borders. Mike is the master of his city and he spends all of his free time grooming it to perfection.

Imagine, Mike sees anger, hatred, war, and crime in the city he has lovingly created. He can manipulate them, but this will be a temporary and artificial solution. Instead, he decides to become one of them and help them solve their problems. He goes down and becomes one of the people in his city. He offers answers and an end to all conflict. Some heed his advice, but the city leaders stir up the town against Mike and imprison him. After a sham trial, he is killed for his “crimes.”

When these people kill Mike, does that make them more powerful than Mike? Are they now superior beings? Are they now greater than their creator?

Who made who?

God loves man more than we are capable of understanding. He provided for man a plan of salvation. He sent His Son to earth to teach man how to live a wonderful life, receive remission of sins, and reside in heaven for eternity. Yet, he was rejected and killed by the people He came to help.

Jesus was the agent of creation (**John 1:3**). His death was prophesied (**Isaiah 53**) and planned (**Romans 5:6-11**). He rose from the grave on the third day (**Luke 24:5-6**) and returned to sit at the right hand of God (**Acts 1:9-11; 7:55-56**). His death was not indicative of His weakness, but was the source of his plan. The fact that He left the grave behind is proof enough of His power.

Clearly, Jesus is not inferior to man. So why do men disregard what He says so easily? Why do they reject His authority through His Word? Why do they try to change His church and worship to suit themselves? Why do they smear and blaspheme His name if He is clearly superior? Who made who?

Men take His Word and try to mold it to suit their tastes. They keep the palatable and discard the rest. Committees and synods gather to pick apart the Scriptures to decide what parts will be followed. People look to culture, traditions, opinions, family, friends, and a host of other sources. They disregard Jesus' teachings and present a diluted version of Him to the world. Who made who?

Men have seemingly lost the fear of God. Thieves use His name to steal money from the poor. In His name atrocities are committed. Technology and superior military ability have blinded men to the overwhelming power of God. He exists in their minds as a concept, harmless and waiting to dispense blessings and favors. He supposedly sits by and waits until He is called for, and if He doesn't perform adequately He is to be criticized and discarded. Who made who?

God is loving, forgiving, compassionate, and longsuffering. Yet, He will not be ignored nor allow men to disregard His authority. Men must humble themselves before His throne (**Job 38-41; Leviticus 26:14-22**).

God is not willing that any should perish (**2 Peter 3:9**). He is eager to save us from our sins and extend His grace upon us all (**John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-10**).

We must realize that God made man, and we must submit to His will or suffer the consequences. And when we do, we will find greater blessings than we can ever conceive (**Malachi 3:10; Leviticus 26:1-12**). We would be very wise to realize our place in His plan, not His place in ours.

A-C-T-S

David McPherson

Christians are to “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thes 5:17). Some have trouble doing this simply because they forget what to do in prayer.

The acronym “A-C-T-S” is one way to remember.

A - Adoration. Prayer is a time to adore/praise God. David prayed, “*Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty...*” (1 Chron. 29:11). Don’t just ask things of God, acknowledge His awesomeness.

C - Confession. Prayer is also a time to confess sin. John wrote, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...*” (1 Jn. 1:9). One whose iniquities have separated him from God should exercise this privilege. Admit your wrongs!

T - Thanksgiving. In prayer, we should express our gratitude to God. It is “*with thanksgiving*” (Phil. 4:6), that our requests are to be made known to Him. Do you appreciate the good things you have, love, and hope for? Tell God “thank you.”

S - Supplication. This is where we make our requests. There are many things for which Christians ought to ask - wisdom, peace, patience, opportunities to teach, etc. Brethren, don’t forget to pray.

*“It is good... to declare Your lovingkindness in the morning and Your
faithfulness by night.”*
– **Psalm 92:2**

Family News

Virginia Bryant had surgery as scheduled this past Wednesday. Everything went well. She went home Friday afternoon.

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

Wilson and **Becky Copeland** are now in China.

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

Janis Daniel has another job interview in Chattanooga today. Chattanooga is close to where her mother lives. Janis is not sure of what to do and she has requested prayers for her decision.

Metty Fain fell and broke her hip Friday morning. Late the same day they performed surgery to repair it (with a rod and pins). She remains at Hendersonville Hospital. She is eating well.

Remember **Elmo Ferrell**. He remains about the same.

Sandra Hunt has been prescribed some shots by a neurosurgeon. She has been approved to stop taking a heart medicine to prepare for these.

Allen Malone returned home from Vietnam late last night.

Remember **Fran Pickens**. She is not doing too well.

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

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. His eyesight is improving.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Janis Daniel; Lyda Plank.**

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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).