

The Lakeview Lamp

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

September 24, 2006

May God Equip You

Allen Malone

Hebrews, while known for its strong warnings, is intended by God to be a book of encouragement. We are warned not to turn from Jesus, but told to consider this Savior whose blood not only takes away our sins but consecrates us for God's use (9:14). Mark it down: Being made holy by God, we can serve Him! Serving Him, we can please Him! Our assurance of this is the writer's summary-prayer at the end of his letter:

“And now, may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to Him...Amen.” [13:20-21 NLT]

WOW! Through the Lord Jesus, we can look to God Himself to equip us to do His will, and to work in us what will please Him. Talk about encouragement!

Notice: **God's provision is connected with the resurrection of Jesus.** Hebrews, while full of references to Jesus' suffering and death, constantly intimates His resurrection. Four times God is called the *“Living God”* – the God of life who gives life (3:12; 9:14; 10:31; 12:22). Twice the writer quotes Psalm 2:7, *“You are My Son...”* a prophetic reference to Christ's eternal nature affirmed by the resurrection (1:5; 5:5, cf., Acts 13:32-35). Most especially, from the very first paragraph the writer acknowledges the resurrection by affirming that Jesus, though having died, now sits at God's right hand on our behalf (1:3; 6:20). We, therefore, can presently benefit from all of Jesus' service, past and present. Read it: *“He is able to help” (2:18; 4:16). “Because He lives forever, ...He is able to save completely..., He always lives to intercede....Such a High Priest meets our need” (7:24-26). Let us be assured that God who powerfully raised Jesus from the dead can use that same power to equip and transform us for pleasing Him.*

How and when does God do this, and what responsibility, if any, do we have? The instructions Christians are given in Hebrews answer all three questions. **God equips us for doing His will and works in us what is pleasing to Him as we:**

1. **Give attention to His Word** (2:1; 4:12; 5:12-14; 8:10; 10:14-16; 12:25; 13:7-9).
2. **Persevere in hope and confidence** (3:6, 14; 6:18-20; 10:19-23, 35-36; 12:1-3).
3. **Live by faith** (4:1-2, 14; 6:12; 10:22, 38-39; 11:1-2, 5-6, 11, 13, etc.; 12:2; 13:7).
4. **Endure the discipline of hardship and trial** (2:18; 4:15-16; 5:7-9; 10:32-35; 12:1-3, 7, 10-11; 13:12-14).
5. **Diligently serve according to the ability we have** (6:7, 10-11; 13:1-3, 5-6, 15-16).
6. **Encourage one another day-to-day and by assembling together** (3:13; 10:24-25; cf., 3:6; 6:18).
7. **Imitate, submit to, and respect our spiritual leaders** (6:12; 13:7, 17, 24).

As you yield to Jesus in obedience, God will prepare you to accomplish His will, and produce in you all that pleases Him.

Believe it. Pray for it. Act upon it.

“Let us draw near to God in full assurance of faith” (10:23).

MORE ASSURANCES OF GOD’S POWER TO EQUIP AND USE US

Philippians 1:6 – *“Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 2:12b-13 – *“...Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”*

Ephesians 1:19-20 – *“[I pray that you may know] His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms.”*

Ephesians 3:20-21 – *“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”*

II Corinthians 9:8 – *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*

“You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.” – Psalm 92:4

Family News

Virginia Bryant had surgery two Wednesdays ago. She went home that Friday. She remains at home and is improving well.

Remember **Mary Burnett. Jean**, the lady who stays with her and helps her, recently fell and broke three ribs.

There is a new report in the back from **Wilson Copeland** (China).

There is a new report in the back from **Sandro Corazza** (Italy).

Metty Fain fell and broke her hip two Fridays ago. That same night they performed successful surgery to repair it. She has now been transferred to room B2 at Highland Park in Portland. Her address is: 215 Highland Circle Dr. Portland, TN 37148. Her phone number is 325-9263.

Remember **Elmo Ferrell**. He had a bad week but is now some better.

Sandlyn Fultz is scheduled to have her 6-month CT scans tomorrow morning.

Estelle Hayes was not well last weekend, but is now better.

Sandra Hunt is scheduled this Friday to begin a series of shots for her back and spine. The shots are to help with her pain.

Larry Miller, Candy Jenkins' father, is in Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, IN. He was admitted on Monday evening suffering from an apparent heart attack. A quadruple bypass was performed very early Tuesday morning. He has developed Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). Treatment for ARDS is unusual. He has been given medication to paralyze him and is heavily sedated so that he can handle this treatment.

Cotton Read has had a bad weekend.

Remember **Laura Reed**. She remains about the same. **Jimmy Lou**, her granddaughter, had successful surgery on Monday. They removed a very large tumor. It was not malignant. She is now out of the hospital.

Robert Wray still has some pain in his left eye. He returns to the eye doctor on October 10th. His dizzy spells have gotten worse.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Ken Hull** (here in am, gone in pm); **Robert & Candy Jenkins**.

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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

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