

The Lakeview Lamp

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

November 26, 2006

Affluenza

Roger Wright

It's flu season again, only there's a not-so-new strain that is out there that is more vicious than any germ. Its Latin name is *affluenza-gottabuyitis*. The symptoms affect us all unless we are inoculated with the contentment serum that comes only from having something in our lives that is more valuable than all the things that money can buy.

You might have affluenza if you get frustrated by all the stuff you have filling your life and yet you make frequent trips to those who sell more. You might have affluenza if you are too ill or frail to come and sit in a comfortable place of worship, but manage to negotiate the aisles at Wal-Mart. You might have affluenza if you are actually interested in some of the junk mail that you get, especially the weekly sales ads. You might have affluenza if you would lose at Bible quizzes, but know all the answers on *The Price Is Right*. And finally, you might have affluenza if you actually know how many shopping days are left until Christmas.

If you've got affluenza and want to get over it, here is the cure:

1) **Take a dose of reality.** Recognize that "I need" and "I want" are not the same. Realize how many people in the world live without the latest (you name it) and get along just fine.

2) **Get a shot of compassion.** Consider the last time you bought to please yourself and how your purchase brought joy for such a short time. Now think of how a gift to someone who is truly in need will bring you joy that lasts.

3) **Don't make any purchase without prayer.** That includes giving God thanks for your daily bread and for the bounty that allows us to have many more things that make us comfortable and that give us a pleasant way of life. While you pray, seek God's will instead of just seeking to satisfy your own cravings (cf. **James 4:13-5:7**).

4) **Get a booster shot of contentment.** God is so good, and He has blessed us in so many ways with so many things.

Let us never take our eyes off the truly valuable things of God which are everlasting and replace greedy affluence with gracious thanks.



"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content" (I Timothy 6:6-8).

72 to 32

Troy Nicholson

This time of year you may think that such numbers would be some lopsided sports score. Unfortunately, it is the lopsided ratio of the attendance numbers from last Sunday here at Lakeview. Why did less than half who were here Sunday morning come back Sunday night? Here are some possible reasons.

Lack of ability. Some people here Sunday morning had good reason to stay home then if they so chose to do so. In spite of physical weakness, though, their spiritual desire brought them here anyway. They understand the meaning of the words of Paul when he said, “*Though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day*” (2 Corinthians 4:16). They used up all the physical strength they had to be here Sunday morning for some spiritual renewal and thus were not back Sunday night.

Lack of desire. While others had the physical ability to be back Sunday night, they lacked the desire to do so. They did not come back because they did not want to come back. David said, “*I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD’*” (Psalm 122:1). Would someone truly glad to go once not also be glad to go twice? Yes, but someone who thinks “*What a burden!*” (Malachi 1:13) when it comes to worshipping God would not.

Lack of proper priorities. Some people did not come back because they put something else ahead of worshipping God. It may have been some type of entertainment or recreation (2 Timothy 3:4). It may have been many things that were sought ahead of God. Jesus said, “*Seek first the kingdom of God*” (Matthew 6:33). Not all people did last Sunday night.

Lack of love for others. Those who chose not to come back did not consider those who did and needed to be “*spur(red)...on toward love and good deeds*” (Hebrews 10:24). They failed to encourage others by assembling together with them then (10:25). God commands us, “*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves*” (Romans 12:10). Some were more devoted to themselves last Sunday night than they were to their brethren.

If you were among those who did not come back last Sunday night, why did you not? Was it one or more of the reasons mentioned? Was it something else? You know; and do not forget that God knows, too.

“He who planted the ear, does He not hear? He who formed the eye, does He not see?” – Psalm 94:9

Family News

Jill & Eric Bansemer's baby **Sydney Elizabeth** remains in an incubator at Vanderbilt. She has been gaining weight and doing well. It will be a long time before she comes home from the hospital, but so far things are good.

Mary Burnett remains at home. She has had a better week this past week.

Connie Cobern had bronchitis but is slowly recovering.

Arrigo Corazza, who we help support, has thrombosis to his left eye. He also had this in 1997. In 1997 he was blind for a while, but not this time.

Metty Fain is in Room B2, 215 Highland Circle Dr, Portland TN 37148.

Elmo Ferrell is about the same.

Barry Fultz, who used to be a member here, is scheduled for major surgery on January 10th. He will then be unable to work for a little while.

Sandra Hunt has several health problems. Now she also has hip pain.

Michaela Nicholson has a bacterial infection last weekend, but is better.

Fran Pickens had bronchitis but is slowly recovering.

Cotton Read has several health problems. He has a doctor's app. tom.

Laura Reed is doing fairly well.

Georgia Taylor continues to not do very well. She remains in assisted living. She appears to be about the same.

Joyce Werner had been sick for a few weeks. She has started to improve.

Ame White had surgery on her right wrist two Thursday ago. Recovering at home. She has some arm pain. She returns to the doctor on Tuesday.

Robert Wray's eyes are much improved. He has an appointment tom.

New Reports: **Allen Malone**.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Allen Malone** (remains in Vietnam).

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