

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**December 10, 2006**

## *Are Strict Teaching and Love Mutually Exclusive?*

Jacob Gwin

Many in the religious world today stress that we need to use caution in what we teach and preach from the Bible. Some tell us that we need to avoid teaching about controversial subjects and instead focus on our love for one another and Jesus' love for us. They contend that we lack love for others if we teach and demand a strict, conservative interpretation and application of the scriptures. Is this proposition valid? Can we demand strict adherence to the teachings of the Bible and still possess love for one another? Or, as many claim, are the two mutually exclusive?

To find an answer to this important question, let's look at the instructions Paul gave to Timothy. In **II Timothy 1:13**, Paul instructed Timothy to *“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”* Here Paul commanded Timothy to “hold fast” to the form or pattern that he had given him. Many in the religious world today would put a large number of the things that Paul had taught Timothy in the “controversial,” “taboo” category. What, then, did Paul mean by this instruction? Did Paul expect Timothy to disregard the controversial “sound words” that he had heard of him and only “hold fast” to the non-controversial “sound words”? Maybe Paul wanted Timothy to just use the “sound words” as a general guideline for the things that he would believe and practice, modifying the “sound words” if they got too controversial? Obviously not! Paul wanted Timothy to hold on to the things that he had taught him, controversial or not.

Some would contend that this interpretation places Timothy in a position that would cause him to be devoid of any love. After all, they would claim, if Timothy were to be inflexible and strict about something he had been taught from Paul, think of all the controversy that he would cause. The answer to this objection is found in this verse. Paul tells Timothy to “hold fast” to the things that he had been taught “in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” Clearly, then, demanding a strict adherence to the things that Paul had taught him would not cause Timothy to lack any love for others. Rather, Timothy was to possess love as he held on to the things he had received of Paul. We can “hold fast” to the teachings of the scriptures and still possess love.

While some would agree with our conclusions drawn from this verse, they might argue that this instruction was just applicable to Timothy's personal life. Paul had taught Timothy some things that would cause trouble or controversy if taught to others. They might go on say that Paul was concerned that Timothy would hold on to the pattern that he had learned, but didn't want him to teach this pattern to others. This, however, was not the case. In **II Timothy 2:2**, Paul told Timothy, *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”* We see that Timothy was not only to “hold fast” the pattern that he had received of Paul in his own life, but that he was also to teach this pattern to others. These individuals, then, would “hold fast” to the pattern in their personal lives and “teach others also,” all the while possessing the “faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

Clearly we can teach and demand a strict adherence to the teachings of the Scriptures and still possess love for others. We need not allow the rhetoric of the “religious” world to keep us from following the Divine pattern that Paul delivers in **II Timothy 1:13** and **2:2**.

## *Thank You Lord*

Ian Cherry (one of the young men here at Lakeview)

Thank you Lord,  
For all you've done;  
And now I say,  
The battle's won.

The battle of my heart,  
The battle of my love,  
The battle of my spirit,  
That I gained from up above.

Thank you Lord,  
For being there,  
And now knowing that  
I'm fearless anywhere.

I will now Lord,  
Go through life,  
Because being with you,  
There is no strife.

Thank you Lord.

# **Family News**

**Sydney Elizabeth Bansemer**, Jill and Eric's baby, remains in an incubator at Vanderbilt. She now weighs 2lbs 15ozs. Very soon they should start bottle feeding. This will be an important milestone.

**Mary Burnett** remains at home. She has had a good week.

**Arrigo Corazza**, who we help support, has thrombosis to his left eye.

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

**Elmo Ferrell** had an unexplained water blister. It is being tested.

**Barry Fultz** is scheduled for major surgery on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Sandra Hunt** has several health problems. She remains in a great amount of pain. Probably nothing will be done until after the holidays.

**Patti Parham**, Walter Boyd's niece-in-law, has advanced colon cancer.

**Fran Pickens** had bronchitis and remains sick with a very bad cold.

**Cotton Read** has new glasses. So far they are not helpful.

**Laura Reed** has arthritis in her back. It is worse.

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

**Robert Wray's** has new glasses. So far they are only helping one eye.

New Reports: **Allen Malone**.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Allen Malone** (remains in Vietnam, he will begin his trip home this Tuesday).

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