

The Lakeview Lamp

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

December 24, 2006

"The Lord Is Full of Compassion and Mercy"

Troy Nicholson

I ordered an item online for Christmas over a month ago. After waiting over two weeks for its arrival, I discovered that the company sent me the wrong item. I immediately contacted the company and told them, but they waited a week – even though I repeatedly pleaded with them to send it sooner – before supposedly sending the right item. I say supposedly because when I tried to track down the item, the post office told me it cannot find the item in its system. Needless to say, it won't be here in time for Christmas.

As I was turning left out of my neighborhood today – with a green turn arrow, mind you – an oncoming vehicle started to turn right in between me and the UPS truck in front of me. Thinking that he may not have seen me behind the truck, I honked my horn to let him know I was there. Instead of stopping, he kept trying to come in between me and the UPS truck, causing me to have to hit my brakes to keep from hitting him.

With the two above situations on my mind, I then turned into the church building parking lot and noticed one of the verses on the sign: *"The Lord is full of compassion and mercy"* (**James 5:11**). I must admit that compassion and mercy were not what I had in mind for those I mentioned above. Why did you have to put that verse on the sign this week, Ken?

How often are we not only not *full* of compassion and mercy, we don't show signs of any at all? *Empty* of compassion and mercy would probably better describe us – at least me – at times.

To whom does the Lord show compassion and mercy? *"He is kind to the unthankful and evil"* (**Luke 6:35**). How often have those terms described me? How often have I been unthankful or done evil, yet the Lord was still willing to show compassion mercy on me? How thankful I am for his compassion and mercy.

"Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful" (:36). If I am going to be merciful like God is merciful, then I must show mercy to those who seem to deserve it the least. I must show mercy to the company who seems determined to frustrate me. I must show mercy to the man who cuts me off in traffic. I must be full of compassion and mercy to all, just as the Lord is to me.

Remodeling the Room

Jeff Wilson

A man checks into a hotel and goes to his room. Once there he calls a contractor to start remodeling the room while he goes out and selects new carpet and buys new furniture for the hotel room. After such a busy day, he goes to bed. He gets up the next morning and checks out of the hotel.

Such an event seems preposterous to most of us. We would consider a person foolish to invest time, money, and effort into a room that wasn't his and that he would only stay in one night. What a waste of money, we think. The sobering point, however, is that we often approach this life in the same manner as the man who remodels his hotel room for only a one night stay.

So often, it seems, we approach this life as though we were always going to be here. We pursue earthly dreams and set our hearts on material goals, think in terms of the "future." Yet, in the grand scheme of things, we really aren't going to be on this earth that long. Even though we may deny or not seriously think about this fact, it does not change the reality that we are not going to live forever. And yet we so often spend so much of the currency God has given us – time – "remodeling" this earth and our lives on it through pursuit of our own desires and goals rather than the Lord's work, only to subsequently "check out" from this world after a short stay.

Listen to the wisdom of God, given through the Preacher in **Ecclesiastes 7:1-2**: "*A good name is better than a good ointment, AND THE DAY OF ONE'S DEATH IS BETTER THAN THE DAY OF ONE'S BIRTH. It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, BECAUSE THAT IS THE END OF EVERY MAN, AND THE LIVING TAKES IT TO HEART.*"

God wants us to remember that, just as we often sing, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through." Besides, if we really want to remodel something, God has told us what really needs it: "*be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind*" (**Romans 12:2**).

"When my anxious thoughts multiply within me, Your consolations delight my soul." – Psalm 94:17

Family News

Sydney Elizabeth Bansemer, Jill and Eric's baby, remains at Vanderbilt. She is doing very well. She is up to 3 lbs 8 ozs. She has been moved up to the last step of care before coming home.

Mary Burnett has had another good week.

Betty Chapman continues to recover from major surgery (three Thursday ago they removed tumor and left lung). She is slowly improving and gaining more of an appetite. Her address is: 107 Sumner Meadows Ln.
Hendersonville TN 37075

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

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

Elmo Ferrell is doing some better.

Barry Fultz is scheduled for major surgery on January 10th.

Sandra Hunt has several health problems. She remains in great pain.

Cindi Malone remains less than completely well.

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

Cotton and **Nancy Read** lately have had better weeks than usual.

Laura Reed had a Sister-In-Law pass away yesterday morning. Also, another Sister-In-Law fell and broke a hip.

Georgia Taylor may be a little better. She enjoys visitors.

Ame White fell on Friday and hurt her shoulder.

Robert Wray continues to have dizzy spells daily.

New Reports: **Ron Chaffin, Wilson Copeland**

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Many, many are or will be.**

Lakeview church of Christ

132 New Shackle Island Road

P.O. Box 514

Hendersonville TN 37077

Building: 615-824-1376

www.BibleSaints.com

Bible Call: 615-824-1310

Troy Nicholson

trojenn@bellsouth.net

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