

The Lakeview Lamp

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

December 31, 2006

The Light of the Gospel

Tommy Hagewood

The New Testament does not contradict the teaching of the Old Testament. It complements and completes it. The Old Testament is the New Testament enfolded and the New Testament is the Old Testament unfolded.

The light of truth in the Old Testament is dim when compared to the light shed by the New Testament. This is because God revealed His truth to man gradually over a long period of time as people were able to receive it (cf **Matt. 19:7, 8**). We do the same, on a much smaller scale of course, with our own children. Jesus taught His apostles in this same manner. He revealed truth to them while on earth and afterwards as they were capable of receiving it (cf **John 16:12-13; Acts 10:9-17, 28**).

People today make a serious mistake when they ignore the light of the gospel and stretch some Old Testament passage beyond what God intended when He first revealed it. For example, consider the following quote from the Jehovah's Witnesses' publication *The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life*, page 35:

“The Bible clearly teaches that the dead are unconscious and lifeless in the grave. Note what **Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10** (AV) says regarding the condition of the dead: ‘*For the living know that they shall die but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*’ This means that the dead cannot do anything and cannot feel anything.”

This interpretation contradicts not only plain New Testament passages but also totally misses the point of the context in which it is found. The **Ecclesiastes** writer is talking about what is done on earth *under the sun* – not what is done in eternity. Verse six makes this clear: “*Also their love, and their hatred; and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in anything that is done **under the sun***” (emphasis mine, TAH). Verses 3, 9 and 13 use the same expression. In fact, chapter one, verse three states a major question which the rest of the book answers: “*What profit hath a man of all his labor which he taketh **under the sun**?*” (emphasis mine, TAH).

So, if you want to learn the profit of a person's labor under the sun, study Ecclesiastes. You will learn that the whole duty of man while on earth under the sun is to fear God and keep His commandments (**Eccl. 12:13, 14**). If you want some light on life and immortality, study the New Testament. You will learn that when faithful Christians die they depart their bodies and this world to go be with the Lord, which is far better (**Phil. 1:20-24; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; 12:1-4**).

Endings and Beginnings

Joe R. Price

The end of the calendar year is a good time for reflection and resolution; for remembering and pledging to do better and be better in the coming year.

It is right to evaluate where we are and where we are headed. The word of God says, “*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves*” (2 Cor. 13:5).

Are you still living in sin? If so, now is the best time to put away your sin, obey Jesus in faith, and be saved from your sins. If you are not a Christian you are living in sin – you are walking in darkness (John 8:12). It takes more than saying you are in fellowship with God; it takes practicing the truth that Jesus has given us (1 John 1:6; John 12:35; Jas. 1:22). Why are you waiting? End the darkness of sin in your life; become a Christian today! (Acts 2:37-41; 22:16)

Are you becoming a better husband or wife? If not, it is past time to begin. We must improve ourselves as husbands and wives. Each person has a responsibility to the other – before God – to honor and serve one another in marriage (Eph. 5:22-29; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:1-7; 1 Cor. 5:3-5). Love is shown by actions of unselfish service and sacrifice (1 John 3:16-18). Husbands and wives must not only say “I love you,” but also show their love in their treatment of one another.

Are you doing the things you know will please God? Or, do you know what God’s will for your life is, but choose instead to do your own will? “*Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin*” (Jas. 4:17). Are you putting Christ and His will first in your life (Matt. 6:33)? Do pure thoughts fill your mind and come out of your mouth (Matt. 12:34-37)? Is your mind to do the will of God and no longer live for the lusts of the flesh (1 Pet. 4:1-2)?

These are just a sample of the things to consider as we end 2006 and begin 2007. By the way, we must never forget that God is not defined by the ending of one year and the beginning of another; He inhabits eternity (Isa. 57:15; 2 Pet. 3:8).

For He says: “*In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.*’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).

“The LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.” – Psalm 94:22

Family News

Sydney Elizabeth Bansemer, Jill and Eric's baby, remains at Vanderbilt. She is doing very, very well. She is up to 3 lbs 15 ozs.

Mary Burnett has had another good week.

Betty Chapman continues to recover from major surgery (removed a tumor and lung three weeks ago). Her address:

107 Sumner Meadows Ln. Hendersonville TN 37075

Connie Cobern was in the hospital this past week with pneumonia. She improved slightly and went home late Friday. She remains on medication, is still very sick and is not doing very well.

Dorothy Davis, Troy's grandmother, is back in the hospital and has pneumonia. No medicine is effective. Also remember Troy's mother.

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

Elmo Ferrell had a bad day yesterday

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

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

Fran Pickens is at her granddaughters while Connie is sick.

Cotton and **Nancy Read** have been better the last few days.

Laura Reed's Sister-In-Law's funeral was this past week in KY.

Georgia Taylor had a bad week.

Ame White fell two Fridays ago and hurt her shoulder.

Robert Wray continues to have dizzy spells daily.

New Reports: **Gary Hunt** (NY,NY), **Bob Nichols** (Japan).

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Malones.**

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