

The Lakeview Lamp

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

January 14, 2007

Dealing with "Guilty Pleasure"

Troy Nicholson

A recent *Life* section in *The Tennessean* (12-31-06) featured an article entitled "Burlesque is booming." It focused on Rachel Kallas (aka Lula Licious) and Panty Raid, a burlesque group she founded.

Just in case her name is not enough to give you an idea what her form of burlesque involves, let me quote from the article: "These women up there, they bump, they grind, they tease. They vamp and camp it up...in frilly can-can skirts, lace bloomers, bras bedecked with flowers and rhinestones, in satin geisha robes, fringed go-go bikinis, opera-length gloves and black-seamed fishnet stockings." Enough said.

The article goes on to say of Kallas, "If there's one thing she loves more than dancing, it's the Lord in heaven." The cover page, captioned "Guilty pleasure," states that she "finds her love of burlesque at odds with her love of God." The article says, "It's what she does on Saturday nights that has her worried."

Kallas said, "I get this feeling every now and again that I'm going to hell. When you grow up religious, or you grow up thinking that you're supposed to be a certain way, and all of a sudden you have some monster in you like Lula Licious that is trying to come out of you, it's kind of scary because you feel like you're demon possessed ...There's the Bible, but no one's written an exact rulebook on what you can and cannot do and what you should and should not do in terms of going to hell or heaven. Like you can take your top off as long as you have pasties on. He didn't say that. How do I know? It's really unclear...It's very hard because I have such a passion for it, and at the same time I have such self-loathing."

The paper asked, "She loves her work, and she loves God. But does God love her work?" They then "consulted some local experts" for the answer. One "pastor" responded, "People do not go to hell for doing what she's doing, they go to hell for not believing in Jesus Christ." The Bible says that people go to hell for being sexually immoral just as surely as they do for being unbelieving (**Rev 21:8**).

Another religious leader responded, "I have no idea." How sad. She (yes, "she") went on to say, "I would...help her come to her own feelings about that and help her come to her decision and choice about what she needed to do." The main thing would be to help her come to see what *God* says she needs to do.

The next religious leader responded, "There certainly is not a list about that,..." There are plenty lists in the Bible of what is wrong and will eternally condemn someone (**1 Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Rev 21:8**; etc.), and most of them include what Kallas is doing as Lula Licious. The religious leader went on to refer to **Romans 14**, a passage dealing with personal judgment, and said, "What St. Paul basically says there is that if you think it's sin it's sin, but if you don't think it's sin it's not sin. I think that should be the ruling principle over something like that." First, the Bible says what Kallas is doing is sin, so it really doesn't matter what she thinks about it. Nevertheless, she does feel guilty about what she is doing, which in itself from **Romans 14** means she is condemned for what she continues to do (:23).

It is a shame that so many people who claim to love the Lord are not willing to tell people what the Lord has to say about the way they are living. We do no one a favor when we give a "politically correct" response

when what someone really needs is a “book, chapter, and verse” response. *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy” (Proverbs 27:6)*. Will we be a friend or an enemy to those in sin?

Unfortunately, telling someone what they need to hear does not always solve the problem. Kallas went to a church one Sunday morning and heard what she needed to hear: “The preacher said, ‘I’ve seen...people addicted to a lifestyle, and it’s never too late to change. It’s never too late to get right. As long as you repent...’ He said you can’t blame anyone else, you have to be accountable, and you have to be sorry, and you have to repent. He said a lot of really valid stuff. After that, it was like, I’m done.” Two paragraphs later, though, she said, “I can’t foresee an end to it.”

So how should we deal with guilty pleasure – whether it is someone else’s or our own? We must turn to God’s word and find out how *He* feels about it. We must then be bold enough to tell someone else the truth and/or to apply that truth to our own life. If someone else refuses to hear the truth, then we can know that we have done what we could; and as Paul said, *“I am innocent of the blood of all men. qvb://0/anchor/30For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God” (Acts 20:26-27)*.

There *is* pleasure in sin (**Hebrews 11:25**), but there should also be guilt. May the guilt overcome the pleasure and lead us to repent. Then we can experience the pleasure of being right with God.

*“The Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.” – Psalm
95:3*

Family News

Sydney Elizabeth Bansemer, Jill and Eric's baby, remains at Vanderbilt. She is doing very, very well.

Sandra Boyd had surgery (heel spur) two Thursdays ago. She is in a cast and will be at home for a while.

Bonnie Sue Brown has been sick.

Mary Burnett is doing well.

Betty Chapman had major surgery five weeks ago. She is not doing very well. Her address:

107 Sumner Meadows Ln. Hendersonville TN 37075

Connie Cobern continues to improve some, but is still sick.

Geneva Copelin has been sick since the week of Christmas. She had started to improve some this past week.

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

Elmo Ferrell is doing all right.

Barry Fultz had surgery as scheduled on Wednesday. It went very well. At first it was thought to be successful. Right now he is not actually better than before surgery. This has caused the doctor to consider doing a second surgery. If this is needed it will probably be done today. For now he remains in the hospital. You can keep up with his progress and send encouraging messages to them at:

caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn

Fran Pickens is doing better.

Laura Reed fell and broke her arm two Tuesdays ago. She is scheduled to again see the doctor this Wednesday.

Georgia Taylor no longer has a roommate. For now, this is better.

Robert Wray continues to have dizzy spells.

New Reports: None.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **David Bansemer** (FL for a month); **Hulls; Malones.**

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