

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**February 4, 2007**

## *Nothing Except Jesus!*

Stan Cox

*"And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified"* (1 Corinthians 2:1-2).

The apostle Paul supplies us with a very important fact in the above passage of scripture. Simply put, the message is what is important. With all of the glitz and glamour which surrounds our so called "information age," this is a lesson that is often forgotten.

The television news program that gets the best ratings is not the one which supplies the best information, but rather that which packages itself best. Best looking anchorpersons, best graphics, most sensational promos. The politician who gets elected is not the candidate with the best policies and most integrity, but rather the most telegenic, who can speak in sound bytes, and who often is willing to lie in order to tell the people what they want to hear. Products are not purchased because of their quality, but rather because of the brand name, or the flashy commercials, or the celebrity endorsements.

Finally, the religious message that is most attractive today is not Christ and Him crucified, but rather the glitz, glamour and appeal of a socialized gospel. Even brethren who are ostensibly conservative and faithful can be caught in this trap. How many times have you heard the call for a local preacher, or meeting preacher who has a "big name" in the brotherhood, or has a pleasing pulpit manner, or was educated at a particular college. Christian families often place membership with a congregation not because of the potential good they can do in that fellowship, but rather based upon how many "young couples" are there, or how socially minded they might be, or what the group has "to offer" them. It seems that we too have been taken in by glamour and glitz, and are more concerned with how attractive and pleasant is the package surrounding the message, than we are in the message itself.

Perhaps we need to be reminded of the plain apostle Paul. His appeal was not in his appearance, for he was despised when seen. *"For his letters, they say, are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible"* (2 Corinthians 10:10). As he affirmed in our beginning text, the power of his argument was not in human sophistry. What was important was his message. Christ and Him crucified ... the gospel. And that is what ought to be important to us as well.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the only effectual message for the saving of man's soul. It is a simple, but powerful message, and it is the only one we need to arm ourselves with as we strike out into the world. We ought to bear it proudly. We should not apologize for it, or for our limited talents as we seek to spread it. The message is unique in that as it falls upon good and honest hearts it germinates, regardless of and often in spite of our halting delivery of it. Let us not get caught up in ourselves or others, thinking the power is in the sower. Brethren, the power is in the seed!

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:16).*

To God be the glory!

## *How to Get More from the Preaching*

Jason Moore

### ONE: APPLY WITHIN.

Imagine that the lesson is actually for you and not your neighbor. Maybe your neighbor will imagine the same thing and you'll both be helped by it.

### TWO: LOOK PAST THE PREACHER.

The Lord could have sent angels to deliver His gospel. It pleased Him to send men – with all their foibles and quirks, with their stumbling and stuttering, with their rashness and even ignorance, at times. Why? I don't know. Perhaps to test the hearers to see how badly they really want to hear the message.

### THREE: ASK, SO WHAT?

That's the practical question. It's the application question. It results in your considering what you're going to get out of the sermon. It's what brings the message home – literally.

*“Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.” – Psalm 95:2*

# **Family News**

**Sydney Elizabeth Bansemer**, Jill and Eric's baby, came home Friday night! A monitor was sent home with her because of one problem.

**Sandra Boyd** had heel surgery four weeks ago. She is doing well and healing well. On February 15<sup>th</sup> she is schd. to have a walking boot put on.

**Mary Burnett** had a better week this past week.

**Betty Chapman** is slowly recovering from lung surgery, but is now off oxygen. She is thankful for the cards she has received.

**Connie Cobern** is much better. She returns to the doctor tomorrow.

**Quinton Coppage** had a bad fall two Fridays ago. He remains at home.

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

**Elmo Ferrell** is doing fine.

**Barry Fultz** had major surgery four weeks ago. He and Sarah returned home this past week (Tuesday). He may still have some spinal fluid leaking. He has not yet recovered enough to begin physical therapy, but hopefully will soon be able. You can keep up with his progress and send messages to the Fultzs at: [caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn](http://caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn)

**Sandra Hunt** had another bad week. She had some stomach problems and sickness. She has a doctor's appointment this Wednesday.

**Fran Pickens** is about the same.

**Cotton Read** is scheduled to have surgery on February 15<sup>th</sup> on the skin around his eyes. **Nancy** has an ear infection.

**Laura Reed** broke her arm five weeks ago. It is healing well.

**Georgia Taylor** is in Christian Care Center of Cheatham Co. They are doing some therapy. Address: 2501 River Road, Ashland City TN 37015

**Ame White** is about the same.

**Robert Wray** recently received new glasses that are very effective.

*New Reports:* **Gary Hunt** (NYNY).

*Out of town, traveling, or visiting:* **David Bansemer** (in FL, returns home this Fri); **Justin & Julia Edwards**; **Allen Malone** (in FL for week).

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