

The Lakeview Lamp

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

February 18, 2007

God’s Word Works

Frank Himmel

Jesus once told the story of two acquaintances who died (**Lk. 16:19-33**). His target audience was primarily money-loving Pharisees. One of the men in the account was a rich man, the other was a beggar named Lazarus. Day after day, the rich man ignored Lazarus’ obvious need.

When Lazarus died, angels carried him to Abraham’s bosom where he was comforted. When the rich man died, he was tormented in Hades.

The rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus to comfort him. He could not go. Then came another request: *“Then I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father’s house – for I have five brothers – lest they also come to this place of torment.”*

“But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’

“But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’

“But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead’” (vss. 27-31).

There is a hint of complaint in the rich man’s second request, as though he was not adequately warned of his impending doom. The implication is that if God governed differently, more might be saved. Something more dramatic than the Scriptures was needed.

Interestingly, not long after the Lord related this account, He raised a man named Lazarus from the dead. Did it have the effect the rich man anticipated? Hardly! Read **John 11:47-53** and **12:9-11**. When the report of Lazarus’ resurrection reached the ears of the Jewish leaders, they convened a council and determined to kill both Jesus and Lazarus!

The gospel is God’s power to save (**Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18, 21**). Carnal inducements do not assist it. Neither do slick-talking preachers; they are more hindrance than help (**1 Cor. 2:4-5**). Miracles are not necessary, either. Honest, humble, truth-seeking souls will be moved by the gospel when they hear it. Let’s make sure they do.

Happily Unmarried?

Troy Nicholson

A recent article (“Look who’s happily unmarried,” by Rory Evans) began by saying, “Get your grandma her fan and smelling salts: More and more couples are living in sin...A Census Bureau survey found that...a hair more than half – 50.3 percent – of households are headed by unmarried people.” At least the writer of the article recognizes the situation for what it is: sin. It is not Grandma’s reaction we need to be concerned about as much as God’s. “*Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge*” (**Heb 13:4**).

The executive director of the Alternatives to Marriage Project said, “These numbers suggest that couples living together can’t be scandalous...It’s hard to scandalize when you’re the majority.” The majority has never been a good measure of what is and is not truly scandalous. Jesus said that the majority is on the road to destruction (**Matt 7:13-14**), and such is the case with unmarried couples living together. A psychotherapist said, “Unmarried long-term relationships are absolutely more accepted than they were a generation ago,” but they are still not accepted by God – the One who really matters.

The director also said that “people are happy about defining themselves outside an institution and all its baggage...There’s a real sense of independence separate from how marriage gets defined.” Oprah Winfrey was mentioned as an example, who admitted to not marrying Stedman Graham for fear of losing her own identity. That “independence” and “fear of losing her own identity” is just another way of saying selfishness keeps many people from getting married. Indeed, marriage is not for the selfish. It is a very selfless relationship, where one gives up control of his/her own body (**1 Cor 7:3-4**) and becomes one with someone else (**Matt 19:4-6**). A wife must submit to her husband (**Eph 5:22-24**), and a husband must love his wife to the point of being willing to give himself for her (**:25-30**). No selfishness allowed here, but happiness still is.

The article went on to say, “For some unmarried couples, there is concern about ‘What will happen if we break up?’ Those who marry don’t have to wrestle with that.” How true. Those who mean what they say when they get married commit to remain with their spouse for life, no matter what – in sickness and in health, in prosperity and in adversity. They commit to being bound together until death separates them (**Romans 7:1-3**).

God’s way is best. *True* happiness comes from marriage.

“He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.” – Psalm 95:7

Family News

Sandra Boyd had a walking boot put on this past week. She is now mobile! She continues to do well.

Mary Burnett was in the hospital this past weekend. She went home on Monday. She remains at home and had a better day yesterday.

Quinton Coppage had a bad fall three weeks ago. He is still bruised but is getting better. He remains at home.

Barry Fultz had surgery six weeks ago. In some ways, he is slowly improving. He still is getting headaches, but they are not as severe. He will attempt physical therapy this Tuesday. You can keep up with his progress and, also, send messages at: caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn

Sandra Hunt is waiting on test results (Ultrasound and blood work). She has a great amount of pain in her right shoulder and arm.

Dorris Johnson has moved to FL (hopefully, contact information to come).

Fran Pickens continues to recover and improve.

Cotton Read had surgery around his eyes on Thursday. It went well, but he is still recovering from it.

This past week **Laura Reed** had the cast removed from, and a brace put on, her arm. She continues to heal well.

Dustin Simpson, who used to attend here, had a motorcycle accident a few weeks ago. Phone: 804-675-6628. Address:

McGuire VA Medical Center, Traumatic Brain Injury Unit
Attn: Dustin Simpson
1201 Broad Rock Blvd
Richmond Virginia 23249

Georgia Taylor's address is: 2501 River Road, Ashland City TN 37015

Ame White received a back brace on Wednesday as scheduled. It is helping some. The new pain medicine also helps some. She returns to the doctor in two Wednesdays.

Robert Wray had a very bad dizzy spell on Friday. Sees doctor this Friday.

New Report: **Chad Lynn** (Huntington, WV (Marshall University)).

Out of town, travelling, or visiting: **Allen & Cindi Malone** (Allen in preaching at Broadmoor this am; Allen leaves for Vietnam on Thursday).

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

troyjenn@bellsouth.net

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