

The Lakeview Lamp

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

May 6, 2007

A Covenant with the Eyes

J.S. Smith

He was nineteen years old and had just recently obeyed the gospel. There were still several issues he was diligently trying to work through, but his new zeal was strong enough, he thought. When the preacher spoke on **Matthew 5** last Sunday, however, he became a little discouraged. *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery in his heart.”*

His commitment to Christ a few months ago made the thought of committing fornication or adultery loathsome to him. He had even begun talking to his friends about their bad sexual habits. Now the sermon on the mount was staring him in the face and he realized that, in God’s eyes, he could be guilty of the sin without ever lifting a finger.

He listened to the rest of the preacher’s lesson, which touched on Paul’s admonition to ladies in **1 Timothy 2** to dress modestly. He heard some words from **Proverbs 5, 6, and 7** and learned how dangerous an immoral woman can be to the heart and faith of a young man like him.

He left the meeting house a little worried that day and spent the afternoon on his couch with the Bible open before him to those passages he had noted from the sermon:

- **Matthew 5:27-30** – Looking at a woman to lust for her is tantamount to committing adultery in the heart. Extreme measures should be taken to avoid falling into this temptation.
- **1 Timothy 2:9** – Women should dress with modesty and a profession of godliness in mind. Short skirts, shorts, dresses, and low cut blouses do not profess godliness but carnality.
- **Matthew 18:6-9** – There is great evil in becoming a stumbling block, and those who dress immodestly in a public, mixed gender setting are showing blatant disregard for the souls of those of the opposite sex who see them and may fall into lust. Skimpy clothing is designed to catch attention and focus it on private parts of the body, which tend to inflame the senses.

- **Proverbs 5:15-20** – Married men should learn to be satisfied with their own wives, and single people should control themselves until they enter a marriage covenant in which sexual needs can be fulfilled properly (**Heb. 13:4**).
- **Proverbs 6:20-29** – An immoral person will flatter and allure through her charms, so that a vulnerable man will stumble.
- **Proverbs 7:6-27** – This temptation is so strong that many young men fall into it before they realize what is happening.
- **Proverbs 11:22** – *“As a ring of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.”*

The young man began to think about the way he dressed and the way girls at his school dressed. He went to his dresser, found a few pairs of shorts that he realized could send the wrong signals, and disposed of them. But dealing with others’ dress would not be so simple.

As he walked across campus, he found himself averting his eyes from things that he used to delight in seeing. He repeated the words of Job like a mantra: *“I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?”* (**Job 31:1**).

It was not going to be easy, but the young Christian was devoted to overcoming his weakness and avoiding the temptation as best he could. He arrived at the meeting house for evening services and started for his pew when he began to notice something that had not impressed him before. The young ladies were almost universally dressed in modest skirts and dresses. Nothing so tight, so short, so sheer as he had seen outside. The few young ladies in short skirts looked wildly out of place and he actually pitied them as he resolutely averted his eyes from his own sisters in Christ.

It Is Better

Adrian Rogers

It is better to be divided by truth than to be united in error. It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. It is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It is better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie.

“The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.” – **Psalm 97:6**

Family News

Virginia Bryant has not been feeling well.

Mary Burnett is feeling better.

Betty Chapman will receive her last chemo treatment tomorrow and then a scan to see what is next.

Quinton Coppage got a good report at the doctor last week.

Elmo Ferrell is back on medicine for his blisters and is doing better.

Michael Gillihan, who used to attend here, is in Hong Kong on business and will be there for over another week. His wife Brittany (Jenkins) requests our prayers for him.

Sandra Hunt is still having trouble with her stomach and colon and is losing blood and in a lot of pain. She goes back to the doctor on the 9th.

Bruce Jones, Karen Moore's dad, was awake some yesterday.

Cotton Read is still having trouble sleeping. Both he and **Nancy** go to the doctor tomorrow.

Ame White is still having a lot of pain. She checks with the doctor in the morning before her trip (see below).

Neal Williams, Randy Williams' dad, continues to have health issues. The family appreciates any prayers for wisdom for them to do what is right for all involved.

New Reports: **Alessandro Corazza, Gary Hunt, Chad Lynn.**

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Edwards** (KY, guard duty), **Malone's** (GA, meeting), **White's** (VA till 15th to visit Bill's parents).

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