

The Lakeview Lamp

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

June 24, 2007

Your Heart's Desire

Chuck Bartlett

“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” (Romans 10:1).

Stop and consider the apostle's affection and concern for people. Paul's desire was genuine: he wanted lost souls to be saved.

Christians need to have the same attitude today. The “heart's desire” is a strong feeling of sympathy and compassion. This cannot be created without proper cultivation.

Consider our loved ones who need to be saved. Generating interest in seeing them obey the gospel should not be a hard task. The question is, Are we as concerned for their souls as Paul was for all Israel? Paul expressed what his desire was; have we?

Next time opportunity knocks, go up to your loved one and say something like, “I want you to know that my desire and prayer to God is that you might be saved. Will you obey?”

People have told me that they long for the day when a certain one will be baptized. The truth is, the best thing that can help that to come about is to express it openly to the individual.

Jesus, when seeing the sinful state of the people, cried out, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” (Matthew 23:37).*

Our Lord illustrates perfectly that a meaningful spiritual concern comes when seeing the true state of the lost. Many opportunities to express our heartfelt desires are missed because we close our eyes to the sinful state people are in. We may love someone, but if they are not a Christian, they must be viewed as being in bondage to sin.

When we see the end of their way, which is everlasting destruction, then efforts are put forth. It may be hard to see that the Lord would damn one who loves you so much, but remember, it's not their love for you that will get them into heaven; it's their love for the Lord.

Go ahead; say something today while today still is.

God Is Serious

Jim Deason

Sometimes people have the wrong concept of God. They picture God as some type of doting grandfather who, despite what his children or grandchildren do, he never holds them accountable.

The apostle Paul tells us that Old Testament history was recorded for our instruction (**1 Cor. 10:11**). Though we are not under the law of Moses and we do not worship in a temple nor offer animal sacrifices, there are valuable lessons found in history that we are foolish to overlook. One such lesson is recorded in **Numbers 15:32-36**:

“Now while the sons of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering wood on the Sabbath day. And those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation; and they put him in custody because it had not been declared what should be done to him. Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘The man shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.’ So all the congregation brought him outside the camp, and stoned him to death with stones, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.”

Old Testament law was clear about Sabbath observance. As a part of the fourth commandment God had said of the Sabbath, “...*in it you shall not do any work...*” (**Exodus 20:10**). This man caught gathering wood on the Sabbath was unquestionably in violation of God’s commandment.

Gathering wood on the Sabbath might seem insignificant to some, but not God. God is Sovereign, He alone has the right to rule. When one violates His command he puts God to the test. “Does God really mean what He says?” “Is God really serious?” “Come on, surely gathering wood is not such a significant thing?” If we are not careful, with such reasoning we can find ourselves sitting in judgment upon God. In fact, many have put themselves in the place of God by imposing their own will above His.

If this Old Testament story teaches anything, it teaches that God is serious about His word. You don’t fool around with God and get by with it. You don’t put God to the test.

So the next time you are talking about sins that might be considered “trivial”, realize that there is no such thing with God. And realize that, for all your sins, God will bring you into account. All, that is, that have not been forgiven by the blood of the Lamb. It does make a difference what you say, what you do, and how you live – it makes a difference with God!

“The Lord reigns; let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; let the earth be moved!” – Psalm 99:1

Family News

Virginia Bryant continues to suffer back pain and returns to a chiropractor on Wednesday.

Mary Burnett is home from the hospital and feeling better.

Quinton Coppage has a doctor's appointment on Tuesday.

Elmo Ferrell is back at NHC, room 103A, and is doing better.

Sandlyn Fultz suffered a broken leg last week. She had surgery on both legs Thursday and returned home yesterday. Please visit www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn for more details.

Don Gaw was sent a letter of withdrawal.

Al Johnson, Bob's father, has been in the hospital with his hip.

Bruce Jones, Karen Moore's dad, has been moved to rehab in Columbia, which is closer to his home.

Laura Reed had to put her final dog to sleep last week.

Ame White is still having a lot of pain from her recent falls.

New Reports: Allen Malone (who is now home).

ut of town, traveling, or visiting: Tanya Stubblefield (Atlanta to see her dad), Randy and Peggy Williams (AR, pm - Sat.)

Note – If you have any news for the bulletin (out of town, sick, etc.), then please let me know. I will be printing it most weeks on Saturday night, so please get the news to me by then. Thanks! – Troy

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