

The Lakeview Lamp

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

July 15, 2007

“Oh Boy! It’s Allowed!”

Bill Hall

How many times have new converts received sound instructions concerning the life of a Christian, only to have the instructions nullified by the example of older members? A brother in Canada recently told me of his first trip south after his conversion. Struggling to overcome his tobacco habit – because he had been taught that he ought to do so – he watched with delight as the men of the “down south” congregation went out between Bible study and worship to enjoy their cigarettes. “O boy!” was his immediate reaction; “It’s allowed!”

The same thing happens in other areas of teaching. “Attend every service,” new converts are told, and sound reasons are given to back such instructions. But Brother Smith only attends the 11:00 o’clock service, and he is accepted as a faithful member. “One service a week must be sufficient,” they say to themselves. “O boy! It’s allowed!”

“Study your Bible daily, and prepare beforehand for every Bible class,” they are wisely told. But they see little evidence of Bible study on the part of others, and some of the comments in Bible classes definitely betray a lack of preparation. “Ignorance of God’s word must not be too bad,” they conclude. “O boy! It’s allowed!”

“Modesty of dress is essential for Christians,” they hear repeatedly. But then they hear of mixed swimming among the members and see Sister Jones wearing the tightest pants in town. “O boy!” they think, “It’s allowed!”

Older Christians ought to be constantly aware that they are being watched, watched by newer converts who are looking to them for examples. Part of the teaching those new converts are receiving is coming from the pulpit; the other part is coming from the lives of the other Christians around them. What are they seeing? What are they learning? How sobering to think that some new convert might have been discouraged and led astray by something he saw in my life! Let each live in every aspect of his life so as to be able to say, *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1)*.

Newer converts, though, must learn that God’s word is the standard of authority, not the conduct of other Christians. Loyalty in a kingdom is determined by loyalty to the king rather than to the subjects of the king. It is to Him that one pledges his allegiance when he becomes a Christian, and he must be faithful to Him whatever others around him may do or fail to do.

One’s “O boy! It’s allowed!” then must be limited to those things which God allows in His Word. But even then he would anticipate a certain reserve in one’s expression, for the true Christian’s greatest delight is not in some activity that just happens to be “allowed,” but in serving the Lord. *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6)*.

Price

Steve Higginbotham

When I was a boy, I had a bike that I had grown tired of. There wasn't anything wrong with it, I just wanted something better...a 10-speed. So I took my fire-engine red, Huffy bicycle, with a white banana seat, and slick back tire to my friend's house and asked him if he wanted to buy it. He said, "Sure, I'll give you \$5.00 for it." The bike was worth 10 times that, but I took it. Needless to say, after my parents discovered what I had done, I realized the "error of my way" and regretted my decision, but it was too late. My bike was gone, and all I had to show for it was a meager \$5.00.

Long ago, Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob for just a bowl of soup. After Esau's hunger subsided, he regretted his bargain, but it was too late to change what had been done. Esau's birthright was gone, and all he had to show for it was an empty bowl.

Then possibly, there's our story. The God of heaven has called us His children through our obedience to the gospel, and yet we fail to cherish such a standing and relationship and choose to sell it for what...? The contents of a liquor bottle? A moment of illicit passion? A grade on a test? A grudge that we won't let go? Hurtful gossip? And if we engage in this sort of "bargain," what will we have to show for it in eternity? Such choices lead only to regret.

My bike was worth more than \$5.00, and your soul is worth more than anything this world might offer you. Give it some thought.

“Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy.” – Psalm 99:9

Family News

Virginia Bryant is having a lot of pain in her knee.

Mary Burnett has a doctor's appointment on Thursday.

Geneva Copeland successfully had surgery last Wednesday.

Quinton Coppage has a doctor's appointment on Wednesday.

Elmo Ferrell is in room 101A at NHC and is doing better.

Sarah Neighbors gave birth to **Aidan Thomas Cherry Neighbours** on Thursday. At birth he weighed 5 lbs 12 oz and was 19 inches long.

The **Nicholson's** have a new address. It is 114 Milburn Rd. All are welcome to join them there for Game Night this Friday night at 7pm.

Ame White has been suffering from migraines this week.

Bill White has some minor blockages, but none of real concern.

Robert Wray has a doctor's appointment on Thursday.

New Reports: None known.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: Ken and Rhonda Hull, Allen Malone.

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

If you would like to subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your address to this bulletin, then simply respond to this message and state your request.

Troy Nicholson
troyjenn@bellsouth.net

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