

The Lakeview Lamp

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

November 25, 2007

Breaking the Huddle

Tim Hall

Eleven uniformed men gather in a huddle on the playing field. Across the line of scrimmage awaits the opposing team. In the huddle, the quarterback reminds the others of plays they have practiced and of the importance of this game. With a final exhortation, the players join hands and give out a shout. Then they head for the locker room, convinced that they’ve just enjoyed one of the best pep talks ever.

But didn’t they forget something? What about the game? Is football only about huddles, or are the huddles a means toward playing the game?

I’ve never seen that scenario happen, but I’ve seen Christians break the huddle and then head for home. In the minds of such people, the huddle (i.e. the worship assembly) is the extent of their Christianity. Once home from worship, their faith is removed along with their Sunday clothes. Both hang in the closet until the next Lord’s Day comes around.

Worship is an important aspect of our faith, but there are other aspects. The author of the **Hebrew** epistle described the place of worship: *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching”* (**Hebrews 10:24,25**, NKJV). The assembly is a time for exhortation, he taught, much as the huddle is a time for players to regroup, receive instructions and be motivated. Once the huddle is concluded, they go out to play the game. In a similar way, we “play our faith” after leaving the assembly.

James wrote about religion beyond the assembly: *“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world”* (**James 1:27**). James said nothing about worship in that admonition. He didn’t deny the importance of worship, but pointed out the goal of our faith. If we don’t live our faith Monday through Saturday, then our Sunday huddles aren’t accomplishing that for which they were designed.

The Lord spoke of the same standard in **Matthew 5:16**: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” It’s hard to confine those directives to a house of worship. Most realize Jesus was referring to “marketplace religion,” showing the world the good effects God has made in our lives.

Don’t miss the huddle! It’s vital that we make that appointment. But when the huddle is concluded and you’re walking out the door toward your car, realize that you’re walking onto the playing field of your faith.

Feeling vs. Hearing

David McPherson

In Genesis twenty seven, we read where feeble-eyed Isaac sent his eldest son Esau out to “*take me some venison*” (:1-3). Upon his return, his father intended to bless him.

While Esau was away, Rebekah plotted for Jacob (Esau’s little brother) to deceive his father and cause himself to be blessed rather than his brother (:6-17). Since Esau was a hairy man, much effort went in to placing animal skins upon Jacob’s hands and neck. This way when Isaac felt him, he would believe he was dealing with Esau.

Upon entering the room of his father, Jacob said, “*I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me*” (:29). Isaac was a bit puzzled at how quickly “Esau” had returned, but soon “*...felt him, and said, ‘The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau’s hands: so he blessed him’*” (:22-23).

Isaac was deceived by relying upon what he “felt” instead of what he “heard.” Many today “feel” saved even after they “hear” otherwise. Some “feel” justified in sin although they “hear” why they should not. Don’t allow feelings to block out the plain words of truth!

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Family News

Geneva Copeland has been sick all week.

James Daniel, Janis Daniel's father in Alabama, recently had a massive stroke and is paralyzed on the left side of body. He has digressed more than he has improved. Janis requests our prayers.

Katie Green's great-grandmother died last Sunday at the age of 96. Also, Katie has a new street address: 129 Cherry Hill Drive, #14B.

James Hunt came home from the hospital for a few days this week but is now back in ICU at Centennial with a small puncture in his lung.

Macy Nicholson's adoption will become final with a court appearance Wednesday morning at 8am. All are welcome to attend.

Jessica Stubblefield has been found and is presently in a treatment facility. If you would like Jim and Tanya to deliver a card or note from you to her, then please give it to them today.

Ame White has been approved for a lumbar puncture procedure to give her relief from her back pain, but no date has been set.

Robert Wray is in Summit Hospital, room 630. He may have had a stroke, and he has e-coli. He is being restrained to keep him from pulling out his IVs, so he may not be able to answer the phone if you call.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Bonnie Brown** (sister's), **Nicholson's** except Troy (AL, am), **Pat Richards** (Bob's family), **Tanya Stubblefield** (Atlanta), **Joyce Werner** (FL).

New Reports from men we support: **Allen Malone** (Indonesia).

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