

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**January 13, 2007**

## *Are We Hungry for Heaven?*

Richard Mansel, edited

C.S. Lewis said, "If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next" (*Mere Christianity*, 118). The person who is captivated with the glory of heaven will be most adept at seeking others to accompany them on their journey.

The Apostle Paul had been honored to see Paradise, and he came back a changed man (**2 Corinthians 12:1-5**). God gave him a glimpse of glory, and he heard "*inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter*" (**2 Corinthians 12:4**, NKJV). Having this majesty before his eyes, he became a man moved by a restlessness for a better homeland. One wonders if Paul awoke to this vision each and every day. Undoubtedly, these memories were his constant companions during his days behind bars.

Paul drew upon this brush with glory and wrote, "*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*" (**Philippians 3:20**). This world was no longer his home, but a way station on the road to God's throne. He was fired with the beauty of Paradise. It lifted his steps and stilled his fears (**2 Corinthians 11:22-28**). Faith in the promises of God became a key to the ultimate rest from his labors rather than a simple theological concept.

Paul had a "*desire to depart*." The word "desire" is translated "lust" in several passages. While "lust" carries a negative connotation, it nonetheless means that Paul had an "overwhelming craving" to go to heaven. His insatiable desire needs to be ours, also. We should never be satisfied with this world. We should always be seeking a "*better, that is a heavenly country*" where pain, death, and heartache have ceased to exist (**Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 21:4**).

Paul's "desire to depart" uses the imagery of a ship weighing anchor for the final journey home. Setting sail as the ship begins knifing its way into the glorious sunset, waves parting to let it pass. Relaxing and allowing the wind and spray to caress our face, we dream of seeing the sweet face of Jesus and hearing, "*Well done, good and faithful servant*" (**Matthew 25:21**).

Richard Baxter wrote, "Why are not our hearts continually set on heaven? Why dwell we not there in constant contemplation? Bend thy soul to study eternity, busy thyself about the life to come, habituate thyself to such contemplations, and let not those thoughts be seldom and cursory, but bathe thyself in heaven's delights."

Heaven is the mission of our existence. In doing so, we bring glory to God in every way we can (**Ephesians 3:20, 21**). God's arms become our resting place. His words become our music and his plan our pathway. We hold him dear so that he will never depart (**Hebrews 13:5**). Faith in him becomes the fuel of our days. Let us be filled with the glory of heaven and never be satisfied with anything less.

# *You Finish the Story*

Author unknown

There was once a congregation in which every member was just like you.

Each one cooperated and supported every phase of the work just like you.

Everyone worked as hard and attended the same services and gospel meetings that you did.

The elders, deacons, and preacher were all as interested in the church as you are.

Everyone put the same emphasis on recreation, business, and other material affairs that you do.

Each member contributed monetarily just like you do.

Within a year or so, the congregation...

*“but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Eph 4:15-16).*

*“The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.” – Psalm 104:13b*

## **News and Notes**

The **2008 directory** is now ready and on the table in the back.

**David Bansemer** went to Hendersonville Medical Center Friday with his diverticulitis. He is in room 325 and may be dismissed today.

**Quinton Coppage** is in Skyline, room 504, with intestinal and breathing problems. He has been there since last Saturday and will probably go home soon.

**Elmo Ferrell** died Thursday morning at the nursing home. His body was taken to Speck Funeral Home in Livingston. Visitation was yesterday, and the funeral is today at 2pm.

**Cotton and Nancy Read** continue to have breathing problems. Nancy has eye surgery scheduled for Jan 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Robert Wray** died yesterday around noon at the hospital in Carthage. His body is at Cole & Garrett here in Hendersonville. Visitation will be today from 2-6pm, and the funeral will be tomorrow at 12pm.

**Out of town, traveling, or visiting: Robert Jenkins** (here AM, then CA).

**New Reports from men we support: Gary Hunt** (NY), **Chad Lynn** (WV).

**Note** – If you have any news for the bulletin (out of town, sick, etc.), then please let me know by Saturday night. Thanks!  
– Troy

# Lakeview church of Christ

132 New Shackle Island Road

P.O. Box 514

Hendersonville TN 37077

Building: 615-824-1376

[www.BibleSaints.com](http://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](mailto:troyjenn@bellsouth.net)

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