

The Lakeview Lamp

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

March 2, 2008

Hands

Mike Davis

It seems doubtful anything is more pleasant than a baby's hand grasping our finger. As that child grows, the security they obtain by holding our hand (and the fondness of love we receive in holding theirs) is immeasurable. We often trace those little hands, identify them and date them and treasure the drawing. All too soon that tiny hand becomes a larger hand; and God willing, soon becomes a strong working hand. Then as time passes, the age of one's hand becomes quite apparent. The once calloused hand of leather has returned to its soft and tender state, and like the baby's hand, cannot grasp with strength, but only for security.

Doctors are able to determine much about one's physical health by examining hands. When oxygen levels are low, they can tell by the color of the fingernails. Dehydration is evident by the texture of the skin and its pliability. Patients with stroke symptoms and/or other neurological ailments express their progress by the amount of "squeezing" strength they have in their hands.

Those of us who spend a great deal of time with elderly folks are able to determine much about our dear aged friends by observing their hands. If they are cold to the touch, circulation is diminished. If their hands quiver, it usually indicates something amiss; perhaps some concern of which they can do nothing, or some ailment similar to a form of palsy. One can tell much about weight loss or gain by simply observing the hands.

What has all this to do with spiritual things? Just this: God knows the works of our hands better than we! Read **Psalm 90:17**: *"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."* According to Thayer, one definition of the word, "beauty" is "agreeableness or delight." The idea of the passage is that God blesses His children with agreeable things. These works of beauty (agreeableness/delight) are not merely within our hands as blessings, but become our labor by which God is agreeable/delighted with us. Solomon warns, *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest"* (**Ecl. 9:10**). Paul would have us know, *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men"* (**Col. 3:23**). Thus, our hands must be busy in serving Him faithfully. He can tell our spiritual health, our age, and our concerns simply by noticing the work of our hands. If Jehovah notices the work of our hands, how much more our actual hands? Is it not reasonable to understand He must see them doing more than merely holding His Word? From the babe in Christ who holds His hand for security, through the toils of life guided by His unerring counsel, to the time when we can but again gain the security of His hand with ours, let Him notice our busy hands with Him! Then muse on the comfort such beauty affords to us!

I'm Divorced – What Are My Options?

John Isaac Edwards

It is not uncommon for this question to be asked as divorce is common these days – half of all marriages end in divorce, we are told. One has to set aside his emotions and let the Lord answer the question, through a careful and prayerful reading of His Word, and be satisfied with His answer, whatever it is.

1) **The Rule: No Divorce.** We need to realize that God's rule is, No Divorce! In fact, God hates divorce (**Mal. 2:14**). God's marriage law from the beginning (**Gen. 2:18-24**) made no provision for divorce. Jesus said, "*What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder*" (**Mt. 19:6**). "*...from the beginning it [divorce] was not so*" (**Mt. 19:8**).

2) **One Exception: Fornication.** The Lord gave one exception to the no-divorce rule, when He said, "*That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery...*" (**Mt. 5:32**). And again, "*Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery...*" (**Mt. 19:9**).

3) **If You Did The Putting Away.** If the marriage was Scriptural to start with, and you divorced your spouse for some reason other than fornication, then you have an unscriptural divorce. You need to repent of putting asunder what God joined together and "*be reconciled*" to your spouse (**1 Cor. 7:11**). If reconciliation is not possible, then you have no choice but to "*remain unmarried*" (**1 Cor. 7:11**). If you put away your spouse because they were guilty of the sin of fornication, then, according to **Matthew 5:32** and **19:9**, you have the right to either remain unmarried or marry another, provided you marry one who has a Scriptural right to marry: one never before married (1 Cor. 7:1-2), one whose spouse has died (**Rom. 7:2-3**), or one who put away a fornicating mate (**Mt. 19:9**).

4) **If You Were Put Away.** If you were put away by your spouse (it makes no difference what the reason was), then you cannot marry another. Jesus never gave the put away person the right to marry. If so, where is the passage? Jesus taught, "*...and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery*" (**Mt. 5:32**). And again, "*...whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery*" (**Mt. 19:9**).

Marriage is a life-long contract and we need to think very seriously about it before we enter it. "*For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man*" (**Rom. 7:2-3**).

News and Notes

Mary Burnett is feeling much better after returning home from the hospital.

Quinton Coppage died last Sunday at the age of 82. He was buried on Wednesday.

Chris Gertsch has a new address:
549 East Main Street, Apt. G104
Hendersonville, TN 37075

Nancy Read is still having pain in her eye. She is scheduled to go back to the doctor tomorrow.

Cotton and Nancy Read will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary tomorrow, March 3rd. Congratulations to them!

Wanda Reiger has had the flu but is feeling better.

Out of town: **Chris Gertsch** (Huntingdon), **Pat Richards**.

New Reports from men we support: **Wilson Copeland** (China), **Gary Hunt** (NY), **Allen Malone** (Indonesia/Vietnam).

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

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Troy Nicholson
troyjenn@bellsouth.net

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