

The Lakeview Lamp

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

May 4, 2008

"I Don't Want To Be A Hypocrite"

Greg Gwin

A man begins to neglect his spiritual duties. Though once faithful to attend all of the assemblies, now he never does. He has basically severed all ties with the local congregation. He refuses to return calls, and is never available to meet with concerned Christians who try to visit with him.

Finally, a face-to-face meeting is held. Why has he followed this course of action? What has happened to cause this dramatic change in him? Here's his explanation:

"I know that I'm not living right. I have a problem with sin in my life. I'm tired of 'living a lie.' When I come to church I feel like a hypocrite. I just can't continue on like this. So, I've decided to stop the charade. I won't be coming to church anymore, because I don't want to be a hypocrite."

What can we say about such a situation? Certainly, hypocrisy is an ugly thing. In fact, the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees received Jesus' strongest words of condemnation. It is right, therefore, to rid oneself of hypocrisy. And, we definitely ought to be honest with ourselves about such a situation. *"If our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things"* (1 Jn. 3:20).

However, here is where we think the fella in our example (along with many real persons) makes a terrible mistake. He assumes that he has only two alternatives:

- 1) continue to act as a hypocrite by remaining in his sin while making a pretense of faithfulness, or
- 2) give up his service to God completely.

Those are not the only choices! What has been overlooked here is the right choice. Repentance is the answer! Yes, you should stop being a hypocrite, and you can do so by repenting!



"Therefore putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander" (1 Peter 2:1).

Our Aim

author unknown

“The great danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.”

Read it again. Isn't this a true evaluation of many people in this world? Is it true about us? Just what kind of goals do you set? If you don't have any, then you have removed the chance for failure. But, in all reality, your failure is certain!

Christ expects us to aim high. The apostle Paul, speaking by inspiration wrote, *“If, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me...I press towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:11,12,14).*

Pressing towards Heaven demands our all. This requires setting goals to overcome obstacles and reach the mark. It isn't that we create obstacles to overcome, for obstacles will always be there. Since Satan is relentless in his endeavor to destroy us, temptations loom everywhere about us. Thus, goals of spiritual development are what the god of this world (**II Cor. 4:4**) sets out to hinder.

Whether it be developing our knowledge of truth, our abilities, or qualities of godliness, all are an abomination in the devil's eyes. If we set our aims too low, the evil one will be more than gracious to help us achieve that end. The reason being, contentment can settle in, then apathy – and such will leave one lost.

Our God doesn't want us to set our aims on things which are impossible. Unfortunately, though, we sometimes may consider something out of our reach when it is not. This is the reason some fail to *try* to do things, or fail to *try* doing things differently.

To be afraid of change is a dangerous state to be in. The life of a Christian is nothing but change (**Romans 12:1-2**). When one obeys the gospel, one changes direction. In changing direction, one eventually changes in growth. In changing in growth, one changes in his abilities. These changes only come with desire to press forward – aim high.

When saints start doing as the sentence sermon suggested, to aim low and reach it, one basically ends up like the Laodiceans. Here were a people that became lukewarm (**Rev. 3:16**). They did this by saying to themselves, *“I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing” (v. 17)*. If you don't see a need for change, you see little need for God to help you. These brethren were blind and couldn't see it (**v. 17**).

Let us all put away from us goals that are too low for fear we might reach them and become satisfied. Brethren, *aim high!* Think about it. Reason being, God wants us to think about it.

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting even to everlasting. And let all the people say, ‘Amen.’ Praise the LORD!” –
Psalm 105:48

News and Notes

Burton Brown, Bonnie's brother, has a spot on his lungs and other issues and is not doing well. He goes for more tests on Tuesday.

Mary Burnett is back home after another trip to the hospital Tuesday.

Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.

Lyda Plank received good results on all her tests after passing out recently.

Joyce Werner has a pinched nerve in her leg and has a doctor's appointment Tuesday.

Out of town, Visiting: Ken and Vickie Berry (Grand Canyon, thru the 11th), Jim and Tanya Stubblefield (FL), Ken and Rhonda Hull (NC and VA), Chris Gertsch (FL) .

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

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