

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

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## *The Modus Operandi of False Teachers*

Joe R. Price

False teachers do not carry about a banner proclaiming their occupation. The New Testament repeatedly warns us of the stealth by which false teachers gain access to the hearts and lives of the unsuspecting (**Gal. 2:4; 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4**). After first warning of the crafty nature by which false teachers gain a foothold among the saints, Jude describes them throughout much of the rest of his book (**Jude 3-13**). By what Jude wrote, the Holy Spirit assures us that God will punish those who teach error (**Jude 14-16**). It matters to God what we teach (**1 Pet. 4:11**). It ought to matter to us (**1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:2-5**).

Jesus taught us to beware of false prophets, reminding us that we “*will know them by their fruits*” (**Matt. 7:15-20**). God’s word equips us to recognize the purveyors of error so that we can turn away from them (**2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 16:17**). **Jude 11** names three men who epitomize the attitudes and conduct of those who abandon “*the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*” for doctrines that turn God’s grace into lewdness and deny Christ (**Jude 3-4; Col. 1:5-6; Acts 20:32**). Let us briefly consider Cain, who murdered his brother; Balaam, who counseled Israel to sin; and Korah, who rebelled against God’s leader.

From Cain we learn to never be presumptuous before God. While Abel offered his sacrifice to God by faith, Cain presumed that his offering was sufficient (**Heb. 11:4**). False teachers offer to God what they have chosen to be acceptable instead of what God has commanded He will approve. In so doing, the false teacher acts arrogantly and presumptuously toward God’s word. Driven by presumption rather than humble and faithful obedience, “*the way of Cain*” is also cluttered with the immoral debris of hatred, murder and lies (**1 John 3:11-12**). The saints of God do not reject the authority of God’s word, but in faith, obey it (**Jude 8**).

From Balaam we learn to avoid evil motives. Balaam “*loved the hire of wrong-doing*” and successfully counseled Israel to commit idolatry (**2 Pet. 2:15, ASV; Num. 31:16; 25:1-3**). Not content with God blessing Israel, he sought and found a way to achieve his objective of self-profit to the detriment of God’s people (**Num. 22-24**). It continues to be so

with false teachers. Selfish motives and self-serving interests have caused many to advocate error and foist it upon unsuspecting souls (**Rom. 16:18; Phil. 3:18-19**).

From Korah we learn the danger of gainsaying. Korah led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, but it was really against God Himself. He and his companions were not satisfied with the role God had given them in the service of the tabernacle (**Num. 16:8-10**). They wanted more. The priesthood and leadership over the people of God was their objective (**Num. 16:10, 3**). The definition of gainsay is to “contradict, oppose, lit., say against” (Vine’s, 260). A gainsayer seeks to gain the advantage over people or over a situation through opposition. Gainsaying is rebellion against the Lord and His revealed will and purposes (**Num. 16:8-11, 28**). This reminds us of Diotrephes in **3 John 9-10**. The gainsayer yearns for prominence and power. Humility is foreign to him. The gainsayer is not content with God’s ways. He presses for new and different arrangements of the divine order. In doing so, like Korah who perished, he “*despise(s) Jehovah*” (**Num. 16:30**).

None are immune from the temptations to which these three men succumbed. We must be vigilant against presumption toward God’s will. We must abandon greedy motives that satisfy self while destroying souls. And, we must always be content with God’s revealed way of doing things. “*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds*” (**2 John 10-11; cf. Gal. 1:6-10; 1 Cor. 4:6**).

## *Dealing with Sickness*

author unknown, titled

People who are physically sick go to the doctor. They listen to him and take the medicine he gives them, following the directions carefully. They are thankful for the doctor being able to tell them what was wrong and how to cure it. Why? Because they do not enjoy being sick.

Not so when it comes to spiritual sickness. When someone (whether it be a preacher, elder, friend, etc.) points out that there is spiritual sickness in one’s life, they often do not want to hear others warn them of its dangers. They refuse the spiritual medicine offered them to cure their spiritual sickness. Instead of being thankful for the spiritual doctor, they get mad at him and resent him. Why? Because they enjoy being in sin.

# News and Notes

## Members:

- \* Virginia Bryant **is still having problems with her knees.** She has a doctor's appointment on the 23rd and hopes to be referred to a specialist.
- \* Mary Burnett remains at home on Hospice care.
- \* Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.
- \* Sarah Neighbours will have her pre op on the 18th and surgery on the 22nd to correct what is believed to be a hernia.
- \* Fran Pickens was in the hospital last week and came home Friday.
- \* Cotton and Nancy Reed are doing some better right now.
- \* Ame White **has several doctors' appointments in the next few weeks.**

## Friends and Family:

- \* **Sandlyn Fultz's** latest results indicate the tumor from her bowel was benign, but the one from her head was malignant. She will have more tests and surgery this week. See note on back board for more details.
- \* Peggy Ridings, **Sandra Boyd's mother, will be 85 years old Sept. 23.** She is in poor mental and physical health but enjoys getting mail. Sandra has requested cards for her birthday. 1002 Hart St.; Gallatin, TN 37066.

Absent: Ken and Rhonda Hull (CA).

New Reports: None known.



*“Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them. Splendid and majestic is His work.” –*

**Psalm 111:2-3a**