

The Lakeview Lamp

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

Oct 19

2008

Six Ways to Boost Attendance

Larry Acuff

A while back I attended my first University of Tennessee football game. Boy, it was great! Being a student of human nature and psychology, I learned several things at the game – basically, how we can boost our church attendance. Here is what I have come up with:

1. We’re going to replace our cushioned pews with steel benches and remove the backs.
2. We’re going to make people sit very close to each other – especially close to those we don’t know.
3. We are going to let those who smoke sit in front of those who don’t and blow smoke back in their faces.
4. We’re going to take the top off the building. There must be something about having a top on the building that keeps people from coming.
5. We’re going to have someone holler real loud into the loud speaker. I guess that will be me, since I’m the preacher.
6. Oh yeah, one last thing. We’re going to make everyone pay \$40.00 to get in, even before they know the outcome.

UT is second only to the University of Michigan in attendance at football games, averaging over 100,000 per game. But, we’ll settle for 95,000 in church. Oh, and one more thing, we’re going to change our services to last three hours instead of one. Boy, with these changes, you’d better come early next Sunday to get a good parking place!



For some reason I have the feeling that such changes would make attendance at worship worse instead of better. So why do so many people attend ball games under such conditions but won’t assemble to worship God in a comfortable building? Could it be because priorities are out of order? Jesus said to “*seek first His kingdom and His righteousness*” (Matthew 6:33). If this much is sacrificed to see a ball game, then think how much should be sacrificed to serve the Lord!

Some Sound Investment Advice

Gary Henry

Investments of money involve some risk. However much we learn about the thing we are investing in and however cautiously we proceed, there is a chance that our investment may prove, in the end, to have been a bad one. When that happens, we look back regretfully and wish we had put our money into something else.

But time is also a thing we “invest.” We “spend” our time for various things – generally on the assumption that these will provide some kind of “payoff” to show that our time has been “well spent.” We may not always consciously think in terms of benefit, but it is nevertheless true that we do whatever we do on the grounds that there is something in our activities that we want, something “worth” the time spent.

Time is, of course, the very stuff of life. It is the basic medium of exchange with which we purchase the objects of our desire. And as in “Monopoly,” where everybody gets the same amount of money at the start, everybody gets exactly twenty-four hours each day. We take those hours and do many and varied things with them, exchanging them for whatever it is that we want. Since no two individuals are exactly alike, no two individuals spend their time on exactly the same things. We each exchange our allotment of time for that which is of value to us, even if others think we are “wasting” time. Hour by hour we are sinking our time – our very lives – into one pursuit or another.

Now the important consideration is simply this: many people get to the end of their lives and come to the realization that they have invested their time in the wrong things. Early on, they may have thought that things like money, career, advancement, and social standing were worth large amounts of time. Later, when the investment has already been made, it becomes tragically obvious that other things would have yielded a more substantial “return.”

Someone has said that the only worthwhile use of life is the building of something that will outlast life. For the Christian that means pursuing spiritual ends (cf. **Eccl. 12:13, 14**). Paul wrote, “*Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day*” (**2 Cor. 4:16**). And really, the pursuit of spiritual ends comes down, at the practical level, to investing our lives in the spiritual uplifting of people, particularly our families. The folks who are the happiest with the lives they have lived tend to be those who have spent life building godly relationships with other human beings, rather than chasing the American Dream.

With any investment, whether of money or time, there comes a “day of reckoning.” This is the day when we find out for sure whether our investment has been wise. Until that day, both foolish and wise investments may at times appear to be other than what they are. In the short run, silly investments may seem to pay off, and sound investments may seem to work out poorly. It is only

News and Notes

- * We still need someone to sign up on the sheet in the back hallway to prepare the trays for November.
- * We have Bible studies available for both those who are not Christians and also those who are and would like to learn more about the Bible. Please let Troy or one of the elders know if you would be interested in any study or know someone who would.
- * There will be a work day at the building on Saturday, October 25.

Members:

- * Mary Burnett had a stroke recently but was better this week.
- * Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.
- * Margie Frizzell is having cataract surgery tomorrow.
- * Nancy Reed has an ear infection and is going to a specialist this week.
- * Ame White had to come off some of her medicine, increasing her pain. Her **pain patches have been upped, but they haven't really helped yet.**

Friends and Family:

- * Robbie Ridings, **Sandra Boyd's sister**-in-law, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She has had surgery and will begin treatment soon. Please remember her in your prayers.

Absent: None known.

New Reports: Bob Nichols (Japan).

in the final analysis that the wisdom of the wise is fully revealed. In the investment of our time, even more than our money, the bottom line is that we need to spend what we have in exchange for the truly valuable equities, and not for things that perish with the using. There is just too little of life to invest any of it wrong-headedly. There comes a time when we will want to be pleased with the "basket" we have put so many of our "eggs" into for so many years. If we are not pleased then, it will be too late to change plans. Let the investor beware.



"Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments." – **Psalm 112:1**