

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

Nov 9

2008

## Honor the King!?

Clay Gentry

The votes have been cast, the results tabulated and our next president will be Barak Obama. There were many who rejoiced Tuesday night at the news the Obama would be the next President and there was a large group of Americans who were saddened if not angry that McCain was not elected. In the politically charged, party driven atmosphere that is American politics, there is a great temptation to deride any and all candidates/leaders with whom we do not agree. Because there is this great temptation we would do well to recall the words of the apostle Peter in **1 Peter 2:17**, “*Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.*”

The apostle Peter, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, directed those of “*the Dispersion*” (**1 Pet 1:1**) who were being “*grieved by various trials*” (**1 Pet 1:6**) to honor the king of the government that was in part afflicting them with those trials. By using the word *honor*, Peter is saying that as Christians we respect, value and revere the king, or in our case the President. It should be noted that the word *honor* as used in **1 Peter 2:17** is the same word as “*Honor father and mother*” (**Eph 6:1**), and “*Honor true widows*” (**1 Tim 5:3**). As Christians, we are called upon to show our leaders the same respect as we would our parents or a widow.

Therefore, since we are to “*honor the king*” we must recognize that as Christians we are called to cease from gossiping, ridiculing, mocking and/or slandering our President. Does this mean we cannot disagree with our President or voice that disagreement? Of course not, we can disagree and at times must voice that displeasure but we should never do it in a way that is disrespectful and does not show honor. You might also be saying to yourself, “But the First Amendment gives me the right to say anything I want about the President.” But I would ask you friends; does God give you the right to say anything you want about the President? We must remember the exhortation of Peter that Christians are not to use “*liberty as a cloak for vice*” (**1 Pet 2:16**). Instead of wrapping ourselves in the Constitution and using it as a cloak for vice in not honoring the king, we should wrap ourselves in the Cross of Christ

and use it as a light in this dark world.

The words of David are particularly appropriate for this subject. His prayer to God was, *“Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Do not incline my heart to any evil thing”* (**Psa 141:3-4**). Let us guard our mouths and hearts so that we do not practice the wicked works of men in dishonoring the king. I recognize that this is a hard teaching for us to follow. It runs counter to our society and political culture, but are we not called to be a *“peculiar people”* (**1 Pet 2:9, KJV**)? Let us be peculiar in the way we honor, not only the office of the President, but the President himself, no matter who it is. May the great God of Heaven bless us as we seek to live *“quiet and peaceful lives”* in service to him (**1 Tim 2:1-2**).

## *“No Greater Joy”*

Troy Nicholson

John wrote, *“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth”* (**3 John 4**). He demonstrated this was true by making it the focus of what he wrote, by focusing on the truth and his children walking in it. John wrote this of his spiritual children, but should it not also be true of anyone in relation to their physical children?

Should parents have any greater joy than to know their children walk in the truth? Surely any God-fearing parents would say that this is true. After all, God specifically commands fathers to bring up their children *“in the training and instruction of the Lord”* (**Eph 6:4**), and what better evidence that such training and instruction is “taking hold”?

So how would parents demonstrate that they have no greater joy for their children? Would it not be by having no greater focus, no greater emphasis in their children’s lives? When what is “popular” for children to do (dancing, immodest dress, etc.) violates the truth, what stand will parents take if their greatest joy is knowing their children walk in the truth? When conflicts arise between academic, athletic, or other activities and being where the truth is presented, what decision will be made about where their children will be? Where will the focus or emphasis be placed?

Parents can say what their greatest joy is, but the truth is revealed through the decisions they make and the actions they take in relation to their children. What joy are you revealing?

# News and Notes

## Members:

- \* Mary Burnett moved back in with her daughter and son-in-law, Margerie and Jim McDougal. Her new address and phone number are 106 Circle Dr (Hendersonville), 822-0374.
- \* Connie Cobern is having problems with her gout in both feet.
- \* Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.
- \* Troy Nicholson is having surgery on one of his fingers Tuesday.
- \* Fran Pickens continues to have ongoing pain.
- \* Cotton Reed is suffering from back pain but doing some better after a visit to the chiropractor.
- \* Nancy Reed's appointment with the specialist revealed that her problem is not her ear but her thyroid being overmedicated. Her medication was adjusted accordingly.

## Friends and Family:

- \* Rita Scott, the niece of Betty Hyde, has inoperable pancreatic cancer.

Absent: Ken and Rhonda Hull (AL), Melissa Moore (SC).

New Reports: Chad Lynn (WV).



*“Light arises in the darkness for the upright;  
he is gracious and compassionate and  
righteous.” — Psalm 112:4*