

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**Nov 23**

**2008**

## *Our Focus on Christ*

Troy Nicholson

As Christians, not only do we wear the name of Christ, but also our focus should be on Christ. This is true with everything we do, and especially in our worship. Consider some of the ways our focus is on Christ in worship.

The most obvious way probably involves our observance of the Lord's supper. When we observe the Lord's supper we remember Christ and proclaim His death (**1 Cor 11:23-26**). When we do so we share in the body and blood of Christ (**1 Cor 10:16**).

We also sing to Christ when we make melody with our hearts to Him (**Eph 5:19**). You can only do this when you *"let the word of Christ richly dwell within you"* (**Col 3:16**). What dwells within us affects what comes out of us.

Giving thanks is not something to be reserved for only this holiday week. We are to be *"always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (**Eph 5:20**), and we do this when we pray to God through Christ (**1 Tim 2:5**).

We *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (**2 Pet 3:18a**) when we open His word together and study it in our various Bible classes. We grow even more in our knowledge as we preach Christ like Philip did to the eunuch (**Acts 8:35**).

Even in our giving our focus is still on Christ. We give to have fellowship in the gospel of Christ (**Phil 1:5; 4:15**). We also focus on Christ in our giving by doing so to share in the support of needy saints in Christ (**2 Cor 8:4-5**).

Christ is not merely our focus when we observe the Lord's supper. Instead, He remains the focus of all we do in worship. Neither is He to be our focus only on the first day of the week, but on every day of the week. Paul could do all things through Christ (**Philippians 4:13**) because his focus was always on Christ, and the same is true for us. Always keep your focus on Christ, and you can always do all things through Him.

# *Hell Is Good News, Too!*

Tommy Peeler

In **Luke 3:18** the Bible tells of John's preaching in these words, "*With many other exhortations therefore preached he good tidings unto the people*" (ASV). John was preaching good news to the people. What had John been saying? He hadn't been telling them that everything was okay and all of them were going to heaven. As a matter of fact, John told the audience that many of them would go to hell (:17). He spoke of the people as a "*generation of vipers*" (:17), and told them to repent and to bring forth good fruits, or else they would be destroyed (:8-9). This was the good news that John preached.

How could preaching like this be termed preaching "good tidings"?

**No person will obey the Savior unless he first recognizes his sinful condition and impending judgment.**

When we examine the preachers of the Bible we find that they strongly rebuked the sinfulness of the people they addressed. On the day of Pentecost around 30 AD. some 3000 people obeyed the gospel of Christ. These people were not convicted of their sins by a simple "I'm okay, you're okay" sermon. They were convicted by Peter's pointed message, telling them they had crucified the Christ (**Acts 2:23,36**). The sermon of Peter was typical of preaching recorded in the gospel (good news). This was good news because it showed man his standing in God's eyes, and led man to make his life right with God.

**The fact that the wicked will be punished is good news.**

If there was no punishment of the wicked, there would be no justice. Those who have turned their backs on God and trodden under foot the law of Christ will be punished by God – that is good news! In **2 Thessalonians 1:5-10**, Paul told Christians at Thessalonica that their persecutors would be punished when Christ came. Paul used this to encourage, not discourage, his readers. It must have been good news to the brethren to know the wicked would receive judgment from God. The book of Revelation praises God for His judgment on His enemies (ex. **Rev. 19:1-5**).

Remember the next time you hear a preacher dealing with the evils of sin, the need for repentance, and the judgment of the wicked in hell that he is preaching good news.

# News and Notes

## Members:

- \* Mary Burnett is sleeping most of the day and awake most of the night. She has gotten to where she cannot hear.
- \* Connie Cobern is doing some better with the gout in her feet.
- \* Geneva Copelin is doing better and plans to be here today.
- \* Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.
- \* Margie Frizzell had successful cataract surgery last week on her right eye, following the recent successful surgery on her left eye.
- \* Fran Pickens is having breathing problems.
- \* Cotton and Nancy Read both have bad colds.

## Friends and Family:

- \* Sandlyn Fultz received good test results last week and is on her way to NC for further evaluation. See [www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn)

Absent: David Bansemer (Broadmoor, AM only).

New Reports: None known.



*“The righteous will be remembered forever. He will not fear evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD..”*

**Psalm 112:6b-7**