

# 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 Power of a Promise*

Eric Keiper, edited

Have you ever thought about the power of a promise? We might not think of promises as powerful, mainly because of a degree of suspicion enshrouding our society. We have learned to be wary of people's promises. Why? Because words mean little or nothing anymore. We get burned once, or maybe twice, and remain a cynic in our dealings with people. Real commitments are made with careful wording in a written document that is signed, witnessed, and notarized. Promises aren't very powerful in light of these circumstances.

Anymore, people make promises, not for the purpose of committing to a mutual agreement, but for the purpose of getting what they want momentarily. Promises are made to effect a momentary benefit with no intent to eventually comply. Hosea speaks of this kind of lie, when he says, “*But even if we had a king, what could he do for us? They make many promises, take false oaths and make agreements*” (**Hosea 10:3-4**). This sounds no different than today. Surely, many have become apathetic and uninvolved in politics, because it seems to be just a fiasco of lies. Promises mean nothing.

Promises should be different. Promises should generate powerful commitment in both parties who make an agreement. But rather, it seems to produce disappointment. It is very hurtful for another to set their hope in the fulfillment of an agreement only to have it dashed to piece when the lie is known. Solomon wrote, “*Hope deferred makes the heart sick...*” (**Proverbs 13:12**). This doesn't have to happen very many times for one to stop trusting the words of “I promise.”

On the other hand, Solomon continues in the same verse, “*...a longing fulfilled is a tree of life*” (**Proverbs 13:12**). Have you ever evaluated the effect that your promises have on others. Do you make the heart sick? Do you teach people to be bitter or cynical towards promises? Or, do people know that your promises are real. Do your promises generate a zeal in others to be committed to real agreement? Every Christian's promise should be a tree of life among the rotten fruit offered in the world.

Furthermore, let me point you in the direction of promises that will never fail – the real tree of life. There are truly powerful promises. You’ll never be disappointed! When Paul wrote to the Corinthians in his second epistle, he described those who would entirely change their life because of real promises. *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”* (**2 Corinthians 7:1**). Paul presented to them the promise of eternal life if they would leave sin and embrace holiness.

Did you see the zeal that a promise should generate? The promises of God should draw us irresistibly to commitment. Why would the Corinthians change so much for these promises? Because, they are real! They lived, as the scriptures say, *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”* (**Titus 1:2**). There will be no disappointment here, no sick heart, and no bitter cynicism! When one enters into a covenant with God the agreement is secure.

## *A New Day to Follow an Old Way*

Troy Nicholson

As the Israelites prepared to cross the Jordan, the officers told the people concerning the ark of the covenant, *“Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before”* (**Josh 3:4**).

There is now a space between us and the beginning of the church of about 2,000 years. The book of **Acts** contains the early history of the church, especially its growth (**2:41; 4:4**). While Satan has opposed it in many ways through the years, by the grace of God the church still stands today. We must work at doing our part to make sure it continues to stand.

Unlike those in Israel’s days with the ark of the covenant, we want to come as near as we can to the church established nearly 2,000 years ago. By doing so we will know the way by which we must go as faithful followers of God. Just like they did in building the ark, we must strive to *“make all things according to the pattern”* (**Heb 8:5**). Paul taught the same thing *“everywhere in every church”* (**1 Cor 4:17**), and so must we do today.

# News and Notes

## Members:

- \* Mary Burnett continues to need our prayers during her final days.
- \* Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.
- \* Cotton Read continues to have breathing problems. Both he and Nancy have doctor appointments Wednesday.
- \* Bill White is now back to work after his recent surgery.

## Friends and Family:

- \* Sandlyn Fultz had successful reconstructive leg surgery on both legs on the 31st and is already back home. For more details see [www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn)
- \* Bruce Jones, **Karen Moore's father, is having his colonoscopy reversed** Wednesday morning.

Absent: Lyda Plank (OH).

New Reports: Gary Hunt (NY).

Just as the Israelites had not passed the way of Canaan, we have not passed the way of 2009. We do not know what it may hold for us. Yet we press forward with the same confidence they had, because the Lord says, *“I will be with you”* (**Josh 3:7; 2 Cor 13:11**).

*“Hear the words of the LORD”* (**Josh 3:9**) and live for Him.



*“Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth.” –*

**Psalm 115:1**