

The Lakeview Lamp

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

Jan 11

2009

Words of Concern

Ken Green

A few weeks ago (4-23-00 – TN) I was given a hand written letter by a couple of our young people. It voices a concern that I certainly share and I'm sure that many others do also. I have decided that the best way to share that concern is to let you read what they wrote. So with a minimum of editing here it is:

Dear Ken,

Tonight in our Wednesday night class we all had a nice discussion. It really hit home to me, and a few of the young people have been discussing this at some of our Bible studies. We have really noticed a decrease in our Sunday night and Wednesday night crowds as compared to Sunday mornings.

My Dad made a point. He said he could remember leaving church scared to death! I guess what we are asking is: could you possibly have a Sunday morning sermon on “Forsake Not The Assembling”? We think a lot of people need to have some fire in their souls and need to learn the fear of God. We think we need to be reminded that there is a Satan. And there is a Hell! And, yes, that is scary – but it's supposed to be – and we as the future church are very worried at where it is going.

We need to be reminded that the church of Christ is not just some other denomination. These are some things that we are struggling with. We are at a time in our lives where we see another role that we will be taking in the church. We see many positive things that we can build on, and we are very excited about these. But we also see present problems, big and small, and future problems that may grow from these small problems. We think church attendance is a great place to start.

We just felt that we needed to ask you this favor to work up a few lessons dealing with this issue. We appreciate all that you do as a gospel preacher. We love you very much.

//signed

Comments: I shall certainly fulfill the favor and will soon present some lessons on this subject. But it just may be that the knowledge that our young folks are deeply concerned about this problem will help more than any sermons that could be preached. It should. Jesus said something pretty scary about this: *“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matt. 19:6).*

You say, “I haven’t caused anyone to sin.” Are you sure of that? What kind of an example do you set for the young people, those young in the faith, and others?

We all realize that it is a busy society that we are part of. There are some who work nights. Some travel in their work. Some have evening classes. Some have very legitimate reasons why they cannot be present at this or that service.

Others have reasons that would fall short of legitimacy in the view of others of us. But one thing for sure. When we miss times of worship and study in the word of God, we miss something extremely valuable. We absent ourselves from that which is provided for our spiritual growth. We miss an opportunity to encourage and build up others. There is no greater way to do this than to just simply be there.

We’ve just had a wonderful series of meetings. I’ve been studying the Bible for over 35 years, and I learned some helpful things in these Bible lessons. Those who were here encouraged me in my Christian walk. You encouraged these young people and others by your presence and your interest.

Empty seats do not encourage. Empty seats do not edify. Empty seats do not exhort us to love and to good works. Empty seats say: “There are other things more important; other things more urgent; other things more pleasant.” Was your seat an empty one? Will it be empty tonight? Wednesday night?

Read and reflect again on the above letter of concern.



“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

News and Notes

* A list for the 2009 last Sunday night singings **at members' homes, along** with the Lord supper preparation duties, is posted in the back. Please help us fill the lists soon.

Members:

- * Saundra Boyd was sick last week.
- * Mary Burnett continues to get weaker and sleep more.
- * Geneva Copeland went to the emergency room yesterday with nausea but is back home now.
- * Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.
- * Estelle Hayes has been diagnosed with osteoarthritis and is suffering from much pain in her hip and knee.
- * Terri Johnson has been sick for a while.
- * Karen Moore was sick last week.
- * Nancy Read lost total sight in one eye last week but is expected to regain it soon.
- * Joyce Werner is still suffering from a cold.

Friends and Family:

- * Bruce Jones, **Karen Moore's father, successfully came through his** colonoscopy reversal last week.
- * Joe "Mack" Lynch, **Robert Jenkins's uncle, had a tumor affecting his eye** that was an ocular melanoma. He had surgery to remove it Friday. After he heals from the surgery he will be fitted for a prosthetic eye and have a body scan for other cancer sites.

Absent: Bonnie Brown (AM only).

New Reports: Chad Lynn (WV), Bob Nichols (Japan).



“Why should the nations say, ‘Where, now, is their God?’ But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.” – Psalm 115:2-3