

The Lakeview Lamp

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

March 1

2009

The Pathway of Pain

author unknown

If my days were untroubled and my heart always light,
would I seek that fair land where there is no night?

If I never grew weary with the weight of my load,
would I search for God's peace at the end of the road?

If I never knew sickness and never felt pain,
would I search for a hand to help and sustain?

If I walked without sorrow and lived without loss,
would my soul seek solace at the foot of the cross?

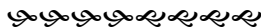
If all I desired was mine day by day,
would I kneel before God and earnestly pray?

If God sent no winter to freeze me with fear,
would I yearn for the warmth of spring every year?

I ask myself these and the answer is plain,
if my life were all pleasure and I never knew pain—

I'd seek God less often and need Him much less,
for God is sought more often in times of distress.

And no one knows God or sees Him as plain
as those who have met Him on the "Pathway of Pain."



Preacher's point – In **Psalm 18:6** David wrote, *"In my distress I called upon the LORD."* We see this happening throughout Scripture, as well as throughout our lives. It is when we feel the greatest need for God that we draw the closest to Him. Moses warned the Israelites against forgetting God when they enjoyed the comforts of the land of promise (**Deut 6:10-12**). They needed no such warning in their times of pain and distress. James said, *"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials"* (**James 1:2-**), and indeed we can when we realize how they bring us closer to our Creator.

The Power of Money Has Replaced the Power of God

(Paul Proctor)

There's certainly a lot of fear, uncertainty, and confusion in our world today, isn't there? Many of us are just downright scared; but few are prepared for what surely lies ahead. Recognizing storm clouds on the horizon really requires no discernment. Anyone with a TV can tell we're in big trouble. Oh, we can sit around and complain about all the bad news being reported and crave a more positive spin on it all—but really that would just be living in denial, wouldn't it? And, I don't believe that's the answer.

It seems to me that the vast majority of us find our solace these days in all the amusements our world has to offer as a means to evade and alleviate those fears and concerns—distractions and diversions, if you will—those who don't just surrender themselves over to drink or drugs to manage the stress of it all.

Sadly, those amusements have become a staple in the Christian life, too, as evidenced by all of the coffee shops, recreation centers, celebrity concerts, and high-tech venues required now just to gather crowds and hold their attention at church. What does this say about the power of God to draw all men unto himself?

It says to me that today's church no longer believes that Jesus is enough—that the living word of God can't really compete in a sensory-driven world and that the Holy Spirit needs our help. It's not even enough to “tickle our ears” anymore. Now, we need our eyes tickled, our noses tickled, our taste buds tickled, and our funny bones tickled just to keep them coming back for more!

Is this what Jesus hung on a cross for—to see that his church could one day have the best entertainment and facilities that money can buy? Could this be what the Apostle Paul was referring to when he wrote to Timothy about those who had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof?

Has the love of money so perverted the minds of Christians today that they can't evangelize without it? Who needs the power of God when you've got the power of money? Maybe this is why the economy is crashing to the ground—to remind us, yet again, that man cannot live by bread and circus alone—that he needs the power of God in Jesus Christ to put his fears to rest, find forgiveness and peace within him, and have eternal life in a kingdom not of this world.

Preparation for what's coming begins on one's knees in humility, confession, and prayer.



Preacher's point—I don't know the freelance writer from Franklin who penned this article in *The Tennessean* (2-24-09, 9A), but I do know that we need to listen to what he wrote. It is bad enough when we as individuals get caught up in the amusements of this world, and it is even worse when we incorporate them into the Lord's church. The power is still in His gospel (**Romans 1:16**).

News and Notes

* There will be a painting day for the resource room on March 14. See Candy Jenkins for details.

Members:

- * Virginia Bryant's knee replacement surgery will be Tuesday morning at Sumner Regional Hospital.
- * Nancy Read pulled a muscle in her hip.
- * Ame White is having problems with her knee.

Friends and Family:

- * Sandlyn Fultz is scheduled for more leg surgery this Thursday. For more information see www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn.
- * Jenny Peddle is having a procedure done Thursday at St. Thomas Hospital to check the brain coil inserted when she had her stroke.

Absent: Ken and Rhonda Hull (PM thru Fri), Sarah Neighbours (PM).

New Reports: Alessandro Corazza (Rome).

Effective Bible Teaching — March 5-8

Series by Ken Weliever

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	1	Teaching Today Touches Tomorrow
	8:00 p.m.	2	The Bible: A Teacher Training Manual
Friday	7:00 p.m.	3	Some Principles of Learning
	8:00 p.m.	4	Creative Teaching Techniques
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	5	Visuals are Vital (1)
	10:00 a.m.	6	Visuals are Vital (2)
	1:00 p.m.	7	Teaching Various Ages
	2:00 p.m.	8	Planning the Bible Class Program



“The LORD preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.”

Psalm 116:6