

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

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## God's Works: Seen and Unseen

Gary Henry, wordpoints.com

“Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” – Mark 2:9-11

Most of us tend to hold our trust in reserve until we’ve checked things out for ourselves. When told about something that’s hard to believe, we disbelieve it until we have seen it “with our own eyes.” We’ve been taught not to be naive or gullible, and we know that a certain amount of skepticism is healthy.

Yet this tendency, if carried too far, can get us into trouble. While it’s good to do our own thinking and double-check before we put our trust in something, it’s not good to close our minds with a rigid I-won’t-believe-it-until-I-see-it-myself attitude. In regard to God, many of the most important things that we need to believe lie in the realm of spiritual reality. It is not possible (at least not yet) for us to personally verify the truth of these things with our own senses, and it’s a foolish person indeed whose spiritual knowledge is limited to what he himself has seen.

When God asks us to accept unseen realities, however, He does not ask us to do so without any reason or support. If there is something in the spiritual realm that we need to accept His word for, He never asks for that acceptance without having offered a sufficient guarantee in the physical realm that His word is dependable. Jesus, for example, asked His hearers to believe that He could forgive the sins of the paralyzed man in [Mark 2:1-12](#), a spiritual claim that they certainly could not verify with their own senses. Yet He backed up that claim by physically healing the man. In effect, He was saying, “Believe that I can do the impossible in the spiritual realm, which you can’t see, based on My having done the impossible in the physical realm, which you *can* see.”

Everything that God has ever done in the physical world, from the first moment of creation until now, shouts to us powerfully concerning the kind of God that He is: almighty, wise, good, and, above all, *trustworthy*. If in the Scriptures He asks us to take His word for certain things, it’s only after He has *proven* Himself to be perfectly truthful – time and time and time again.

All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

# "Why Am I Still Here?"

Mike Davis

By choice, "senior citizens" are among my dearest friends. As these precious souls journey farther and farther into the sunset of their lives, one question seems more common among them than all other concerns. That question is, "Why am I still here?" They ask because they feel useless in an active society. Their physical abilities to live, and move, and have their being as they did during their youthful times gave way to the aging process (**Ecc. 12:1-7**). Unlike Moses, they find their eyes dimmed and their physical force abated (**Deut. 3:7**). But dear reader, I emphatically deny these souls are *useless*! Let's muse together on a few good reasons for these precious souls being here with us as we prove their usefulness!

**EXPERIENCE!** No, I'm not talking about places, times, things, and people: I'm talking about life itself! These lives have experienced hardships as well as pleasures and thereby learned the value of even minute things. From monetary values to the more important "moral values" to the greatest of all values – the soul – these souls learned what they pray we never have to experience. The lessons they learned from just these experiences are a good reason for them to stay and teach us! After all, the scriptures give great honor to the aged for this very reason! (**Prov. 16:31**)

**FRIENDSHIP!** These precious souls give more friendship than they receive! They realize the preciousness of **Prov. 18:24**, and the virtues gained from heeding its trueness. Lifelong friendships always start from kindness, and combine with it the shared qualities of love and joy. The happiness these souls give others from such friendship is a treasured reason for their continuance with us!

**EXAMPLE!** The demeanor of these precious souls is immense in value! Humility, gratitude, compassion, uncompromising loyalty to the way of righteousness – these are souls who truly know how to love life and see good days (**1 Pet. 3:10-12**), for they have accomplished this great task! Their examples in such godliness is worthy of our attention (**Titus 2:1-5**). Frankly, we need these examples in today's world!

I muse often on the preciousness of these souls! They are among the greatest treasures we have in this world. Sadly, as we age, they age – sometimes faster than we desire. If the Lord wills however, some day we'll be the "seniors," and prayerfully some younger ones will help us understand and appreciate why we're "still here." Until then, let's be grateful and learn from those we have! They are truly valuable souls with which to muse of righteous things!

# News and Notes

- \* The teaching seminar with Ken Weliever has been rescheduled for May 1-3. Mark you calendars and plan to be here.

## Members:

- \* Virginia Bryant's knee replacement surgery last Monday went well. She is now home.

## Friends and Family:

- \* **Connie's Cobern's new granddaughter will be in the hospital another week.**
- \* Jenny Peddle came through her procedure fine last week but is not feeling well now.
- \* Dan Hayes, **Estelle Hayes' grandson, has kidney problems and is in CCU.** They are trying to get him on dialysis.
- \* Here is a note from Sarah Fultz: **"THANK YOUs to so many of you from Tennessee who decided to help out with an effort to make Sandlyn's life more pleasant with computer access downstairs! It will be SOOOOO helpful when it comes to schoolwork, entertainment and playing Webkinz! We are grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness!!"**

Absent: Claudia Guest (New Jersey).

New Reports: Ed Rangel (Puerto Rico).



*"You have rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I shall walk before the LORD in the land of the living."* – **Psalm 116:8-9**