

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**April 12**

**2009**

## *Phinehas: Decisive for God*

Ken Heaton

The wailing of hearts broken as loved ones perished in the plague crushed the heart of Aaron's grandson. All around him people were dying, and he knew the reason was because of the wicked hearts of the people. The nation of Israel had *"remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor"* (**Numbers 25:1-3**).

God's people were taking part in the worst impurity of sexual immorality. The anger of the Lord was aroused against them. A plague swept through the people, and all who were joined to Baal were ordered to be hung out in the sun that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel.

Twenty-four thousand people were to die as a result of sin. Twenty-four thousand people died in the plague. Twenty-four thousand souls were crying out in the ears of the priest of God as he bowed in mournful shame of the actions of his people. An assembly of people had gathered at the door of the Tabernacle of God to seek intercession for mercy and grace. This was a place of deep prayer and request for the atonement of God. And then, in a moment of unbelieving blasphemy and reckless abandon, Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father's house among the Simeonites *"presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."*

The presumptuous wickedness of Zimri tore through the heart of Phinehas, and his zeal for purity and holiness brought him from his knees to remove a scene of ungodliness before God. His heart was torn from the lives of twenty-four thousand people dying because of sin. The gross display of Zimri's attitude toward God and His people was intolerable. Phinehas arose and took a javelin in hand, *"and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel."*

Phinehas had a heart resolute before his God to stand for truth. It mattered not to him the influence of Zimri or of the woman Cozbi (the daughter of Zur; he was the head of the people of a father's house in Midian). Sin would not be tolerated, and blatant ungodliness would be punished with a resolved purpose. The character of Phinehas was a determined hand to sound the trumpet of righteousness in the face of sin. Phinehas' decisive resolve for his God showed in his open faithfulness with immediate action.

The zeal of Phinehas is an example of how we manifest Christ in our lives. We take the *“sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance”* (**Ephesians 6:17ff**). In a world filled with immorality, the child of God must stand for truth and resolve to uphold God's righteousness. The cross of Christ must be taken up instead of dragged along. We must present the gospel of Christ to a lost world with the determined spirit of purity and holiness.

Our hearts must be resolute before God to stand for truth in our words, our actions, our dress, and every aspect of our lives. We are soldiers of the cross who are willing to stand up for Jesus and be decisive in our lives before God. Phinehas did not come upon that moment of decision in an instant. Rather, his life was one of devotion to God, and his action on that fateful day was an action of his life total.

*“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong”* (**1 Corinthians 16:13**). Here is our call to duty and honor in the Kingdom of God. With prayer and supplication we stand fast in the faith and exemplify bravery in the face of difficulty. We are strong in our resolve to be decisive for God in defeating sin. Likewise, Paul admonished Timothy, *“All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”* (**1 Timothy 3:12**). If we desire to live godly lives, we will have to take a stand as did Phinehas. It takes a decisive heart, one resolute before God, resolved to uphold purity and determined to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. *“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation”* (**1 Peter 2:11-12**).



# News and Notes

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

## Members:

- \* Estelle Hayes is still having a lot of pain in her knees.
- \* Bill White was sick last week but is doing better now.

## Friends and Family:

- \* Estelle Hayes has a cousin in FL who is having physical and especially mental problems.
- \* Carl Adkins, **Brian Neighbour's boss**, died last Monday from cancer at the age of 54. His funeral was yesterday.
- \* **Sandlyn Fultz's** latest scan of her legs showed new bone growth in both legs, including the right leg that was recently operated on. Sarah sends her thanks for all the prayers on their behalf.

Absent: Chris Gertsch (OK), Rhonda Hull (CA).

New Reports: Sandro Corraza (Rome), Chad Lynn (WV).

## *Effective Bible Teaching — May 1-3*

### Series by Ken Weliever

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



*“I shall pay my vows to the Lord, oh may it be in the presence of all His people.”*

**Psalm 116:18**