

The Lakeview Lamp

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

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2009

Being Ready

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After months of warnings it finally happened Friday. Analog TV ended, and everything turned digital. Were you ready? If so, then your viewing pleasures continued uninterrupted. If not, then you were left staring at a static screen.

Much effort was made to help you be ready for Friday. Countless announcements were made on TV and other places that stated what would happen. You were told the exact day it would happen (The date was even changed once to give you more time to get ready.). You were also told exactly what to do to be ready. In fact, you could choose from several different options to be ready.

The different options for being ready for Friday came at a cost (which you may have already paid or been paying). You could subscribe to cable or satellite that includes your local stations. You could also buy a digital TV set. Another option was buying a digital converter box that allows you to receive the digital signal on your old analog TV. The government even helped with this option by providing \$40 coupons to apply toward the cost of one. All you had to do was request a coupon, which would have been mailed to you, and then take it with you when you purchased a converter box.

In spite of all the effort to help people be ready for the conversion, it was expected that around 1.7 million people were not ready. Why would people not have been ready? One reason could have been disbelief that – their analog service would really come to an end. Others may have believed it but simply procrastinated too long to take the needed action to be ready. Whatever the reason, the result was the same: no TV service.

What does all of this have to do with spiritual matters? Friday’s transition from analog to digital was not the only thing for which you need to be ready. Someday we will all make the transition from earthly to eternal. Are you ready?

God has made it clear in His word that this day is coming and that you need to be ready for it. Peter – along with others – warned that “*the*

day of the Lord will come” (2 Peter 3:10a). He wrote what will happen when it does come: “the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up” (:10b). Also, he wrote what you need to do to be ready: “Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,...Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless” (:11, 14). God’s word explains in more detail in other passages what this involves.

One thing Peter – and all the other inspired writers – did not tell you is exactly when the day is coming. In fact, he said it would come *“like a thief” (:10)*, when you would not specifically expect it. If you were told the same thing about the transition from analog TV to digital, when would you have gotten ready? Probably as soon as you learned about it. Why? Because you would not want to be caught without your TV viewing pleasure. Which is more important: your entertainment box or your eternal soul? For which event is being ready more important? *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt 16:26).*

Like preparing for the digital transition, there is a cost involved in preparing for the eternal transition. God has done His part to cover the cost. Instead of a coupon, though, He sent the Christ. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).* Just as there was action required on your part to take advantage of the coupon provided by the government, there is action required on your part to take advantage of the Christ provided by God. This passage emphasizes that you must believe in Jesus to have eternal life, and other passages teach what must accompany that belief (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:37-38**; etc.). By acting on your belief you no more earn salvation than you earned a \$40 credit by requesting and using a coupon – you are simply meeting the requirements to receive the free gift.

Yet there will be people just as unprepared for the coming of the Lord as they were for the coming of the digital transition. Why? For some it will be disbelief in His coming – forgetting about the coming of the great flood long ago (**2 Peter 3:3-6**). For others it will be procrastination – knowing what they need to do to be ready yet failing to do it. The end result will be the same: not ready when the Lord comes *“dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who*

News and Notes

Members:

- * Connie Cobern has had problems with her gout lately and was in a wheelchair for a week. Then she got into some poison ivy and chiggers. She plans to be here today.
- * Fran Pickens **is having a difficult time dealing with her daughter's death.** The family buried her ashes last weekend.
- * Cotton Read is having back and kidney problems.
- * Nancy Read is still waiting for a report on some skin spot biopsies.
- * Ame White had a lot of back pain this week but hopes to be here today.

Friends and Family:

- * Andy Plank, **Lyda Plank's son, recently had heart surgery, with six splints** inserted. He is doing better and has returned to work.
- * Michael Read, **Cotton and Nancy's son, has been diagnosed with lung** cancer. He will begin three rounds of chemo this week for three weeks.
- * Jack Reiger is recovering from shingles. He still has an ear ache from it, but overall is doing better and plans to be here today.

Absent: Dave and Linda Bansemer (FL), Earl and Janet Lanning (AR).

New Reports: None known.

do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus” (2 Thess 1:8). Are you presently among that number?

“The day of the Lord will come” (2 Peter 3:10a). Will you be ready? Are you ready now? Remember, you do not know exactly when it will be, so you cannot afford to wait. God has done His part, and now you must do yours. When you are ready for His coming, you will be “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12).



“Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the LORD.” – Psalm 118:19