

The Lakeview Lamp

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

July 19

2009

No Substitute

Richard Halverson, edited

“Blood is the magic gift of life...There is no substitute.” Thus a local Red Cross chapter announced its drive for more blood donors. The accuracy of that statement is precisely the point of us meeting here today.

“*The life of the flesh is in the blood*” (Lev 17:11). Millennia before medical science discovered the life-giving, life-carrying nature of blood, Moses the prophet spoke of it in the Bible.

Nearly 500 times the Bible refers to blood, because blood is at the center of the message which the Bible carries.

It was the blood on the doorposts of the homes of Israel that spared them death one black day in Egypt, and Passover was celebrated annually afterwards in commemoration of that escape from death by blood. “*When I see the blood, I will pass over*” (Exo 12:13).

Blood sacrifice was made twice daily by the priests of Israel for the sins of the people. On that great day, the Day of Atonement, everything centered around that moment when the high priest, bearing the blood of the sacrifice, entered through the veil into the Holy of Holies, where only he could enter once a year.

And as the record of the Old Testament unfolds, it becomes progressively clearer that One is to rise out of Israel – a Messiah, whose blood is to be shed in a fulfillment which all the bloody past of Israel’s sacrifices prefigured. He was to be the “suffering servant” who was to “bear our sins in his own body on the tree” – by whose “*stripes we are healed*.”

Jesus Christ died on the cross for man’s sins – for *your* sins! That’s what today is all about!



“*Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ*” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Well, It Finally Happened

Randy Medlin

I won't name the congregation lest we embarrass someone unduly, but it finally happened. The gospel meeting was going on throughout the week. The preacher also happened to be the coach for the Pee Wee Football league. Friday night was the last night of the meeting, but Friday night was also tournament night for the preacher's football team. Guess where he was? That's right. Guess what the congregation immediately did? That's right, too. Fired on the spot. We won't have a preacher whose spiritual priorities are misarranged as to attend a football game over a gospel meeting.

I can understand their displeasure. What I can't understand is why those same brethren can't apply the same spiritual standard to themselves. A gospel meeting is going on at the local congregation:

Brother A misses on Monday night because it is bowling night.

Brother and Sister B are not there on Tuesday night because there is a movie on TV they have really wanted to see.

Sister C can't make it on Wednesday night because she worked hard all day and was just too tired.

The D family was working in the yard, taking advantage of Daylight Saving Time, and when they looked down at their watch – what do you know, it was 7:15. No way they could get ready and go.

Brother E considers it his Christian "duty" to go at least one night, and so Thursday's the night.

Oh, and don't forget brother and sister F. They had company come in Thursday afternoon. "We haven't seen them in four months, so we just can't go."

But come Friday night and the preacher's not there! We've got to get a man who "seeks first the kingdom." Rightly so. The man was in error, but most of the preachers I know are looking for members who also "seek first the kingdom." Are you one?



"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt 6:33).

News and Notes

* A rough draft for an updated directory is on the credenza. Please make any needed changes (in a color besides black).

Members:

* Chris Gertsch is flying to Alaska Tuesday to help move his brother back to TN. He and his dad will be driving a moving truck back to TN.

Friends and Family:

* Sandlyn Fultz received mostly good results from tests last week but still has issues needing prayer. www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn

Absent: None known.

New Reports: Alessandro Corazza (Rome), Ed Rangel (Puerto Rico).

Gospel Meeting with Bob Waldron

July 19-24

Sunday

10 am..... Why I Don't Want to Attend Sunday Evening Worship

2:30 pm Singing

3:30 pm Temptation of Christ

Monday - Friday at 7:30 pm

Monday..... Arriving at New Testament Christianity

Tuesday..... Our Vital Connection with Christ

Wednesday ... Hebrews 1:1-3

Thursday Re-digging the Wells of Abraham

Friday..... Role of the Old Testament



“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; we have blessed you from the house of the LORD.” – Psalm 118:26