

The Lakeview Lamp

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

July 26

2009

The One Needful Thing

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Does your life have a focus? Do you have one goal that far outweighs all your other pursuits? Do you know who you are, what you are living for, and where you are going?

Many people spend their lives unfocused, distracted, and confused about what they should do next. Many try to live for their jobs, wealth, and pleasure only to end up unfulfilled, unsatisfied, and ungratified. Some live for family and friends; yet family troubles always come, friends let them down, and life never seems to come together.

How do I prioritize my life? Is family first, or is it my career? How can I be a good father, employee, and husband? If I “fall down on the job,” I cannot provide for my children as I must (**1 Timothy 5:8**). When I try to spend enough time with my children, I start neglecting my wife. There are hundreds of jobs and duties, and they are all important. How can I do them all?

Jesus tried to calm down Martha one day. She was all caught up in preparing a big meal for the Lord and did not think she was getting enough help. She was trying to fix a great supper, and Mary was just sitting there. Mary was listening to the Messiah when she could be setting the table! “*Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her*” (**Luke 10:41-42**).

Only one thing is needed. There is one thing a person can live for that puts all other jobs and roles into focus. There is one necessary thing that must be placed far above all the important things in life.

A man must serve God. The apostle Paul told the people of Athens that this is the one reason man was put on this earth – to seek after his Creator: “*And [God] has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us...*” (**Acts 17:26-27**).

All proper earthly pursuits fail in some fashion. The new wears off, the paint gets scratched, mistakes abound, and the work is never *ever* finished.

But my service to God renews me daily. Who am I? I am a child of the King! What am I living for? Pleasing my Maker! Where am I going? I am heavenward bound!

And these things work to make me better at all other worthy concerns. As I strive to be a good Christian I become a better husband. Why? Because I treat my wife the way I want to be treated (**Matthew 7:12**). As I seek to please God I become a better parent because I know that I am responsible for the Lord's heritage (**Ephesians 6:4**). As I live for Jesus I become a better employee because I labor for my boss as though I were laboring for Christ (**Ephesians 6:5**). And I attract friends because I am a loving person (**1 Corinthians 13**).

I avoid many troubles of life. I am not burdened with substance abuse – alcohol or other drugs – because I am commanded to be self-controlled and sober (**Galatians 5:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:8**). I am not troubled by the ruling authorities because I obey them as God's appointed ministers (**Romans 13:1-6**). I am not burdened with guilt because I have repented before God and He has taken all my sins away (**1 John 1:9**)!

I am happy because I labor for an attainable goal – my salvation! I can obtain salvation because "*God so loved the world*" that He sent His Son as a sacrifice for sin (**John 3:16**). The Creator welcomes all to come and receive this blessing (**Revelation 22:17**) through true faith in Jesus (**Ephesians 2:8**) and obedience to His holy commands (**Matthew 7:21**).

Mistakes? Yes, they occur. But I can confess them, repent of them, and receive full pardon (**1 John 2:1; Acts 8:22**)! When I serve God, my mistakes are not fatal. Through Jesus Christ I can overcome them and go on to be a better person.

Do not labor in confusion and longing by a mix of earthly ambitions that cannot be prioritized. Focus your mind on that one needful thing, that good part which cannot be taken away. Make God your Master and pleasing Him your one true calling. When you dedicate your life on the one thing you were created to do, pleasing God, all else will come into focus. And what is most important, you will spend eternity with your Maker!

News and Notes

- * A rough draft for an updated directory is on the credenza. Please make any needed changes (in a color besides black).
- * Since the bulletin was printed early this week, please listen to announcements for the latest news and notes.

Absent: The Nicholson family (Oklahoma, thru Sat).

New Reports: None known.



“The LORD is God, and He has given us light.” – Psalm 118:27a