

The Lakeview Lamp

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

Aug 2

2009

Teach a Class!

Troy Nicholson

I couldn't teach when I was young,
For my time was short – I had to have fun.

I couldn't teach when I was “just wed,”
For then I had a husband to be fed.

I couldn't teach after the babies were born,
For then I worked through night and morn.

I couldn't teach as my children were growing,
For then I had my washing, mending, and sewing.

I couldn't teach after my children were grown,
For then I had to sit and wait for them to be home.

I couldn't teach after my children were married,
There were grandchildren, and my tasks were varied.

Oh yes, I had been asked many times along the way.
If I would teach God's Word one hour – one day.

But I never had time to prepare, I felt,
And I had no experience – no heart could I melt.

So I trudged along, so busy and gay,
And in my heart, I said, I'll teach some day!

But someday is gone and the future is here,
And the precious souls that I could have taught aren't near.

Author Unknown

“*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Pet 3:18). Do you want to know one of the best ways to fulfill this command? Teach a class! Properly preparing to teach a class will help you grow.

With nearly every class change Ken has to hunt and beg for teachers. Why not find him first? Tell him you are ready to make the time to help others and yourself grow in God's service. Tell him you are ready to teach a class!

Is It Always Right to Bear a Cross?

Troy Nicholson

A Miami homeowners' association recently decided to "bend its rules" to allow a family to keep a large cross atop its house. The family put up the cross three years ago while their daughter was battling ear-bone cancer.

What is the problem with the cross? At 14.5 inches, the cross is 2.5 inches larger than the Pembroke Falls neighborhood association guidelines allow (meaning that the family could simply cut 2.5 inches off the cross and be compliant). The reporter called the board "sticklers" for originally saying that the cross had to come down, and the girl with the cancer called the bylaw "stupid."

Webster defines a stickler as "a person who insists on the strict observance of something specified." Does that not sound like what a board chosen to enforce rules and bylaws *should* be? Considering that a homeowner board is chosen to make sure that neighbors abide by the rules, is it stupid when someone enforces a law that is clearly made known to those to whom it applies?

The girl said that it "just seems like God's watching over us" with the cross on their house. Her parents said, "We just want them to realize it's very personable to us...the board members need to realize how important it is to us...we feel like it's our freedom to have our religious emblem up there." Should a homeowner association board make their decisions based on how a family feels about a matter or what the rules say about a matter?

After the family received a letter from the association demanding "immediate action" to remove the cross, "a quick scan of the neighborhood found several other banned items on the walls and lawns of other neighborhood homes." Does other people violating the rules make it right for this family to violate the rules?

Yes, a homeowners' association board can take steps to change a rule in its bylaws, but the main concern of this article is something greater that cannot be changed. Too many people take the same approach to the Bible and worshipping God.

Are we just being stupid sticklers when we demand "book, chapter, and verse" preaching, worshipping, and living? No, we are showing the proper respect for God and what He has told us.

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:

- * Virginia Bryant has knee replacement surgery scheduled for next Monday, August 10th.
- * Cotton Read continues to have breathing problems.

Friends and Family:

- * Peggy Ridings, **Sandra Boyd's mother, is in the rehab section of Sumner Regional Medical Center, room 316.** She is not doing very well.

Absent: None known.

New Reports: Gary Hunt (NY).

Can we afford to make decisions based on what seems right to us, what we consider to be important, and how we feel? *“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Prov 14:12; 16:25).* Our focus instead ought to be on what God tells us is right, what He says is important, and how He feels.

When we look around us in the religious world, we see a lot of people “breaking the rules” – or at least going beyond the rules – that God has set for us, often in the name of serving and worshipping Him. We must realize that “bearing a cross” is only pleasing to God when it is the cross He has told us to bear and it is being borne in the way He has told us to do it.



*“You are my God, and I will praise You;
You are my God, I will exalt You.”*

Psalm 118:28