

The Lakeview Lamp

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

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Bearing What We Need to Hear

Gary Henry

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now” (John 16:12).

Learning what we need to know is a gradual process. At the present time, none of us can say that we’ve received all of the truth that the Lord has to impart. That is why serious study of the Scriptures should be a part of our daily activity. Each day, we need to be adding a little to our storehouse of knowledge.

But coming to a full understanding of God’s will involves more than study. Many things that we come across in our study will not “sink in” because we’re not yet ready to hear them. Perhaps we’ve not experienced the things in life that would allow us to see the real significance of what the Lord is saying. Perhaps we don’t have the desire for obedience that would let us recognize the truth of particular passages. Or perhaps our study habits are not mature enough for us to penetrate the meaning of certain texts. There may be many reasons, but the bottom line is that we don’t always “hear” what God’s word is saying to us.

To His apostles, Jesus said, “*I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*” These things would be made available to them later on, when they were more ready to receive them. This illustrates the fact that God is patient with those who are trying to learn. If we honestly want to do His will, He will see that we have the time and opportunity to learn. He will not ask us to understand more than we’re able to receive at the present time.

But therein lies the problem. Often, it is not our lack of ability but our lack of willingness to hear. As the Jewish proverb puts it, “The truth is not always what we want to hear.” And even when the problem is a lack of ability, that lack of ability may be the result of neglect on our part. If we’ve not made growth in obedience a priority, it should come as no surprise that our understanding is immature and undeveloped. And if this is the case, we need to repent. We need to set ourselves the goal of greater obedience.

Lord, give me the strength to bear the full impact of the truth as it applies to me. Help me, for the sake of Your glory, to be willing to hear whatever I need to hear. Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.

Striving for Unity

Robert F. Turner

The Lord's Prayer (**John 17**) is widely quoted – in part – to emphasize the need for unity among God's people. I challenge you to study the chapter carefully, looking for the means of attaining and maintaining that unity.

There are three parts to be considered: Christ's prayer for Himself, for the Apostles, and for those who "*believe on me through their word.*" In Christ's prayer for Himself (**vss 1-5**) he says he came to earth to give eternal life, and he identifies this with "knowing" the Father and Son. His work on earth glorified the Father, and as this is finished (in the crucifixion) he asks to be returned to His original glory with the Father.

As the Father was glorified in the Son, so Christ is glorified in His Apostles (**v 10**). Also, in the second part of His prayer Christ says He has manifested God's name (**v 6**) and given them the Father's Word (**vs 6,8,14**) to the end they may "know" God (receiving, believing, and keeping that word – **vs 6,8**; see **1 Jn 2:3-5**). Being so "kept" the Apostles are "*one, even as we are*" (**vs 11**). They are set apart, sanctified, through truth (**vs 17-19**).

Finally, Christ prays for all whom the Apostles teach. The "*glory which thou hast given unto me I have given unto them; that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be perfected into one...*" (**vs 22-23**). These too have "known" God (**v 25**), as a result of having received the declared truth.

Is it asking too much to expect a discerning reader to notice certain recurring thoughts? First, there is divine GLORY, in which the Father and Son are ONE. Then there is DECLARATION of that Glory (via manifestation and teaching of God's word); and a SHARING in that Glory, as the taught come to KNOW God. It is in this way that those other than deity, come to be ONE with deity.

The oneness of believers for which Jesus prayed was the common quality to be found among all who partake of the divine image. Unity exists because they are one. The divine plan is not some organizational or creedal mold that forces heterogeneous people into the same society; it changes the people, in very essence as respects their spiritual life, so that they are now homogeneous, and therefore ONE. "*I in them, and thou in me, that they may be perfected into one.*" The ideal (and it is indeed an ideal) is God-like people; having the mind of Christ (**Phil 2:5**),

News and Notes

* Updated directories are on the table in the foyer.

Members:

- * Sara Brown **had surgery Thursday and is at her daughter's house** recovering. She goes back to the doctor Wednesday.
- * Virginia Bryant continues to improve from her surgery.
- * Cotton Read was doing better this past week.
- * Nancy Read got sick after having several shots this past week.
- * The Smith family has officially moved their membership to Millersville.

Friends and Family:

- * Burton Brown, **Bonnie's brother, had more tests this past week that found** cancer in his brain and brain stem. Hospice has been brought in.
- * Eddie Dixon, **Bonnie's stepbrother's son, died last week in OH.**

Absent: Robert and Candy Jenkins (AM only).

New Reports: None known.

in word and deed doing all in His name (**Col 3:17**), transformed from glory to glory into His image (**2 Cor 3:18**), and all this to the glory of God (**1 Pet 4:11**).

The ideal nature of this unity is no different from being holy as God is Holy (**1 Pet 1:16**), pure as he is pure (**1 Jn 3:3**), etc. It is not attained in the absolute sense; but its principles are accepted, it is our constant goal, the mark toward which we press. If we fail to recognize the ideal aspect of this unity, we may consider the level of our attainment as the standard, and begin to measure others by ourselves.



“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.” – Psalm 119:9