

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**Oct 11**

**2009**

## *Pain*

Mike Benson

My nine-year-old daughter, Jennifer, was looking forward to our family's mini-vacation. But when our vacation arrived, she became ill; and a long anticipated day at Sea World was replaced by an all-night series of CAT scans, X-rays, and blood work at the local hospital. As morning approached, the doctors told my exhausted little girl that she needed to have one more test – a spinal tap. The procedure would be painful, they said. The doctor then asked me if I planned to stay in the room. I nodded my head, knowing I couldn't leave Jennifer alone during the ordeal.

The doctors gently asked Jennifer to remove her clothing. She looked at me with childlike modesty as if to ask if that were all right. Then they had her curl up into a tiny ball. I buried my face in hers and hugged her.

Jennifer cried as the needle was inserted. As the searing pain increased, she sobbed, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy." The tone of her voice told me she was hurting and that she wanted me to do something to make it stop. My tears mingled with hers. My heart was breaking. I felt nauseous. But because I loved her, I allowed her to go through the most agonizing experience of her life.

There, briefly, in the middle of that spinal tap, my thoughts went back to Calvary's cross. What unspeakable pain the Son and the Father endured for our sakes.

*"And when they came unto the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him. . . "* (**Luke 23:33**).



*"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. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him"* (**John 3:16**).

# *Is There Anger in Your Bosom?*

John M. Duvall

Anger is extremely dangerous for the child of God. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the church in Ephesus wrote, “*Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil*” (**Ephesians 4:26-27**, ESV). The apostle Paul did not instruct Christians not to become angry. He told Christians not to allow their anger to create an opportunity for the devil. All Christians must consider Paul’s warning with the utmost gravity. Let us take a little time to consider several passages which make clear the reasoning behind Paul’s warnings.

Solomon understood the dangers of uncontrolled anger. Solomon knew that a quick temper can cause a person to act in a foolish way. Solomon wrote, “*a quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of wicked intentions is hated*” (**Proverbs 14:29**). Although controlling one’s anger is much more profitable and wise, there are times when some people are unwilling to put forth the necessary effort. At those times of inattentiveness to the control of one’s anger, foolishness will abound within that person’s actions.

Another danger inherent to uncontrolled anger is causing others to become equally angry. Solomon wrote, “*A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger*” (**Proverbs 15:1**). Later in the chapter, Solomon would again write, “*A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention*” (**Proverbs 15:18**). Quite often, when people are engulfed in anger, they fail to realize how their angered actions will affect other people. It is very possible that a person’s angered words or actions will prompt an equal response from other people. Just as Solomon wrote, harsh words will stir up anger, and a man full of wrath will stir up strife. It is important for every child of God to heed Solomon’s instructions, being slow to anger and always giving a soft answer.

Anger and wrath also serve as snares (or traps) to a Christians’ soul. Again, we turn to the wisdom of Solomon. Solomon wrote, “*Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul*” (**Proverbs 22:24-25**). There is a two-fold problem with being friends with one who does not control his anger: 1) You can succumb to the influence of this angry person. Consider children who are greatly influenced by their parents. Children will see the emotional outbursts of their angered parents and grow up thinking that it is acceptable to respond in such a fashion. 2) There is also the danger of the angry friend turning loose his wrath on you. Like a ticking time bomb, you may not know when you will be the next victim of your friend’s verbal or even physical assaults.

# News and Notes

## Members:

\* John Moore is still having problems with a pinched nerve.

## Friends and Family:

\* Burton Brown, Bonnie's brother, died last week. His funeral was Thursday.

\* Michael Read, Cotton and Nancy's son, is in ICU with pneumonia.

Absent: David Bansemer, the Holt family.

New Reports: Ron Chaffin (South Africa), Bob Nichols (Japan).

There are several more passages in the book of **Proverbs** which address the dangers of anger. However, let us turn our attention back to Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. In **Ephesians 4:31-32**, we read, "*Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*" Paul instructed the brethren to put away from their lives those angered emotions and responses. He told the saints to put away from their lives all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking. The saints were to fill the void with actions of kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness. In his letter to the church in Colossae, Paul wrote in similar words, "*But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth...even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do*" (**Colossians 3:8, 12-13**).

Christians will never be able to avoid every situation that would prompt anger. However, Christians can and must remain in control of how they react when angry. Christians must never act quickly when facing anger. Christians must weigh every action or word to make certain that they do not sin against the heavenly Father as well as sin against another person. Remember, the words of Solomon when he wrote, "*Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry. For anger rests in the bosom of fools*" (**Ecclesiastes 7:9**).



*"I will meditate on Your precepts and regard Your ways. I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word."*

**Psalm 119:15-16**