

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

Oct 25

2009

## *Being on a Winning Team*

Troy Nicholson

Jeff Fisher, head coach of the Tennessee Titans, recently caused an uproar with something he did at a fundraiser. When introducing Tony Dungy, past coach of the Indianapolis Colts, he unveiled a Colts jersey he was wearing and said, "I just wanted to feel like a winner." While he said he did it to be funny, not everyone was laughing – especially since the Titans, at 0-6, have yet to win a game this season.

Doesn't everyone want to feel like a winner? Doesn't everyone like to be on a winning team? Given a choice, I think we all would prefer to be on a winning team.

Spiritually, God gives us such a choice. Jesus invites us all to come to Him (**Matt 11:28-30**), to join His team. By doing so we become winners. The main theme of the book of **Revelation** is that Jesus and His team win (**12:7-11**). All we have to do is obey Him to be a part of His team and we are guaranteed victory. *"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (**1 Cor 15:57**).

What would you think about someone who was on a winning team and then left it to join a team that was sure to lose? That is basically what we as Christians do every time we sin, when we cease to obey Christ. We know that Satan is going to lose (**Rev 12:7-11**), yet we still join him. He opens his bag of tricks (**Eph 6:11**) and presents just the right temptation to lure us away from God's side and to his side. Sure we have a moment of fun, *"enjoy(ing) the passing pleasures of sin"* rather than looking past the present and *"looking to the reward"* in store for those who remain with Christ (**Hebrews 11:25-26**).

The apostle Paul shared great wisdom when he wrote, *"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win"* (**1 Cor 9:24**). To run in a way to win we must *"lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith"* (**Hebrews 12:1-2a**). Only Jesus can lead us to victory, for in the end His team is the only winning team.

# *It Just Takes One*

Troy Nicholson

Randy Charles Lindsey is a convicted felon in trouble with the federal government and facing jail time. What did he do? Murder or rape someone? Rob a bank? Swindle investors out of millions of dollars? No, he sold \$400 worth of dead wild doves, violating federal anti-poaching laws.

A recent article in *The Tennessean* (“Hunter a felon for sales of doves, 10-17-09) said, “Lindsay shot and sold 300 doves over the course of the investigation, agents said. But the number of doves had nothing to do with the federal charges. Selling one dove is against the law.” In other words, he would still be a convicted felon if all he did was sell just one little dove.

Such a strict law may seem severe, but God’s law works the same way. James wrote that “*whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all*” (**James 2:10**). Some people would probably consider showing partiality a rather “minor” sin compared to more “serious” sins like rape or murder, but James said that “*if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors*” (:9). In other words, every sin committed has serious consequences.

The federal charges against Lindsay are serious enough that he will never again be able to hunt or even carry a gun. The spiritual consequences of sin are far more serious. Isaiah told the Israelites, “*But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear*” (**Isa 59:2**). For those who do not repent of any sin, it will then lead to eternal consequences. “*These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power*” (**2 Thes 1:9**). It doesn’t get any more serious than that.

A wildlife agent said that “the vast majority of hunters out there are the most conscientious conservationists...They know the law.” Jesus could not say the same about people in general when it comes to sin. He said, “*Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it*” (**Matt 7:13-14**). Be one of the few to find the way to life by avoiding even one sin that will keep you from it.

# News and Notes

## Members:

- \* Geneva Copelin has not been feeling well lately.
- \* Margie Frizzell is having a lot of pain in her side and thinks she may have cracked a rib.
- \* Thelbert Frizzell had successful knee surgery Tuesday, but his blood pressure keeps going up and down.

## Friends and Family:

- \* Sarah Nicholson, **the Nicholson's sister-in-law / aunt**, gave birth to a baby girl, Natalie Elizabeth, early this morning. She weighed 7 lbs, 3oz.
- \* Michael Read, **Cotton and Nancy's son**, had three chemo treatments on his head last week and does not have anything else planned for now.
- \* Peggy Ridings, **Sandra Boyd's mother**, is in room 583 at Sumner Regional and is not doing very well. She has pneumonia, and the antibiotics are not doing much good.

Absent: Jennifer, Michaela, and Macy Nicholson (AM only), David and Linda Bansemer (PM only).

New Reports: None known.



*“Make me understand the way of Your precepts, so I will meditate on Your wonders.” – Psalm 119:27*