

The Lakeview Lamp

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

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What If We Print This?

author unknown

One function of a church bulletin is to keep us informed of activities in the congregation, and of news worthy of events of individuals in it. But there are lamentable incidents with members of which the bulletin can make no announcements. But what if it did do so? It might read like this:

“Brother and Sister Grumpy leave services every Sunday as we stand to sing, and without waiting for the closing prayer. They enjoy meeting no one, and have all they can endure by this time, so it appears.”

“Brother I. M. Weak couldn’t worship with us Sunday. His wife had a headache, and he felt he should stay with her.”

“Brother and Sister A. M. Slipping were present last Sunday. It has been something like four months since they last attended.”

“Word has reached us that the Jim Karnals attended a night club with a spicy floor show while on vacation in New York.”

“Did you notice Brother Jack Stint slip the quarter in the contribution Sunday? He concealed it so his left hand didn’t know about it, or either his left hand didn’t consider it enough to be worth noting.”

“Sister N. D. Spose was indisposed with her asthma again Sunday. The attacks almost invariably come on Sundays. She was well by Monday and able to go to town.

“Have you noticed that Sister Lord Second never comes to worship Sunday mornings, as she says she can get the Lord’s Supper Sunday nights.”



Preacher’s point – Sometimes it concerns me how we often seem to show more care for those who are *physically* sick than for those who are *spiritually* sick. At nearly every assembling we have those who are absent due to physical sickness, and we do not hesitate to mention them so all can check on them and pray for them. Yet at the same time we have those who are absent due to *spiritual* sickness, but we dare not mention them as in need of follow-up and prayers. Which sickness is really more serious and in need of more attention?

I am not saying we should delight in “airing out dirty laundry.” Yet I know that at least at my house clothes remain dirty until they are brought to the attention of the one involved in laundering them, and we all need to be involved in laundering souls (**Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20**).

The Patience of God

Eddie J. Caskey

Paul, in **Galatians 5:22**, lists “longsuffering” as a fruit of the Spirit. Longsuffering or patience is certainly a virtue that seems to be entirely lost in our modern age. Almost everything in our generation is expected on a very limited time schedule, and impatience abounds when that schedule is not kept. The drive-thru convenience of nearly every commodity in our society has made waiting in lines practically inexcusable. Unfortunately, this same impatience often spreads to our dealings with our fellow man. Christians, however, should be well exercised in practicing patience.

Paul, in addressing the brethren in Ephesus, wrote, “*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love*” (**Ephesians 4:1-2**). Even though “patience” is the word we most commonly use today, “longsuffering” very accurately depicts the words meaning. We are required to “suffer long” with one another, and many times it feels exactly that way! Patience involves controlling and containing our passions, desires, and intentions. This enduring, however, must not be short lived, but rather lasting through diligent study and devotion.

To better understand patience, let us look to the example of our God’s dealing with man. Peter tells us in **2 Peter 3:2-4** that “*...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’*” But then he warns in verse 8-9, “*But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*” God is suffering long with mockers, scoffers, and all sorts of transgressors in hope that they will turn from their wicked ways. He is controlling and containing His righteous passion, desire, and intention for all of our good. He has done so for a long time!

The fact that we are all still here and still have the opportunity to come to the Lord and serve Him attests to His patience and mercy. Indeed the Lord has suffered long with us, and continues to do so. Peter’s point in commending the Lord’s patience is summed up in **2 Peter 3:15**, “*and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation...*” Has His longsuffering been of value to you? Let’s give thanks that even though we have often been impatient, God has been patient with us!

News and Notes

Members:

- * Margie Frizzell is on some new medication.
- * Thelbert Frizzell has a brace on his leg and goes back to the doctor in two weeks.
- * Ame White had cataract surgery Wednesday. She had a setback but is doing better now. She is having the other eye done on the 18th.

Friends and Family:

- * Bruce Diamond, a friend of John Moore, is battling cancer around his throat and other areas.

Absent: None known.

New Reports: Chad Lynn (WV).

Broad Minded or Empty Headed?

Robert Hines

I remember talking once with a person who said they tried to be broad minded about religion. The more I heard them talk the more I came over to the view that they had confused broad (or open) mindedness with empty headedness.

No one thinks every house or policeman or bank or car or restaurant is good, do they? Why do people then think that way about every religion, every church ... "It's OK as long as they are sincere"... It's nonsense. I want to be broad minded enough to listen to any view, but not to accept it unthinkingly! There are few things more profound than the Lord's teaching: "*No man can serve two masters.*" It is one direction or the other, but not both.

We should all be thankful we live where we have freedom of religion. But should our freedom be license to do as we please, or to find out what God wants us to do? We know the answer, don't we?



"Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall observe it to the end." – **Psalm 119:33**