

The Lakeview Lamp

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

Nov 22

2009

Getting The Job Done

Robert F. Turner

A fellow preacher showed me the church building in a community of middle income people – the meeting place for 60-80 brethren. Paint was peeling from the trim, the lawn was filled with weeds and needed mowing, shrubbery needed trimming, and trash was blowing about the parking lot. He asked, “If you were preaching here, how would you go about getting the brethren to clean up this place?”

I told him I would begin by bringing my mower there and cutting the grass. Then, at our next meeting, I would ask if any of the members had an edger, and if so, would they meet me here on Saturday and edge the walk while I clean up the parking lot. I’d thank that person publicly on Sunday and ask if someone would volunteer to trim the shrubbery. All this should get their attention!!

Then I would ask the elders, or the next business meeting, if there was any objection to scraping off the old paint, and putting on new. I’d have prices for paint on hand – and if they said the “church” couldn’t afford it, I’d offer to do it myself, with whatever help anyone would give.

But my friend played devil’s advocate. “What if no one offered to help, or even told you that if it took a neat clean building to get people to come to worship they would be coming for the wrong reason.” I would counter that people who looked for a show place weren’t coming to that little place, and that the clean-up was not to attract new comers but was the fruit of self-respect on the part of those who regularly worshipped there.

I might suggest a Bible reading of **Proverbs 24:30-34**: *“I went by the field of the sluggard, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, The face thereof was covered with nettles, and the stone wall thereof was broken down...”*

In this day of emphasis upon material things this article seems almost archaic. But this was not written to promote clean neat buildings alone. I hoped you would notice that if something needs doing you begin by doing it yourself. Elders and preachers will not increase personal work, contribution, or other desirable traits by “fussing” at the congregation. We should have scriptural authority for our plea, but even this will fail in the absence of example. Most brethren know what is right but are not motivated to do as well as they know to do. For the bottom line, it is this mutual edification, encouragement, prompting, and correcting that gives meaning to congregational fellowship.

Judges with Evil Thoughts

Bryan Nash

Have you ever jumped to a conclusion, only to discover your finding was incorrect? On a memorable episode of the *Andy Griffith Show*, “Opie’s Charity,” Andy discovers Opie has only donated three cents to the school’s charity drive. Andy is furious and believes that his cheapskate son is going to be a bad reflection on his standing in the community. Opie insists that he cannot spare any more money because he is saving it for his girlfriend. Assuming that Opie wants to buy his girlfriend a silly gift, Andy pressures his son to stop being selfish and donate more to the charity drive. Andy later learns, however, that Opie is saving up to buy the girl the warm coat her parents cannot afford and says, “How do I manage to get this foot all the way in my mouth?” When you judge the motives of others you usually end up recanting what you previously said. You should not judge the motives of those in the congregation, nor should you judge the motives of those in the community. If you can maintain pure motives in these two areas, you can come to see others in a new light.

Have a positive outlook regarding your brethren. Perhaps someone does not dress as well as you do. That does not mean they have less respect for the Lord. James writes in **James 2:2-4**, “*For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ while you say to the poor man, ‘You stand over there,’ or, ‘Sit down at my feet,’ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?*” You should not have negative thoughts about others during the assembly. If someone has trouble staying awake it does not necessarily mean they find worshipping the Lord to be boring. We should be thankful that exhausted mothers, tired grandparents, and worn out workers have a longing to assemble.

Have a positive outlook regarding your community. Satan wants you to believe that everyone who has not named the name of Jesus is calloused to Christianity. Some people are not receptive and will not listen to what you present. However, you have likely done the same. Has there ever been an occasion when you did not properly consider the thoughts of others? Every group has people who do not fit the generalization. Every mechanic does not have dirty fingernails, and every personal trainer is not healthy. Furthermore, every atheist is not cold-hearted, and everyone in a denomination is not closed minded. Even the Pharisees had good qualities. In **Luke 7:36** and **11:37**, Christ is asked to dine with a Pharisee. Many people believe that a Pharisee who would ask Jesus to eat with him must be

News and Notes

Members:

- * There is a card from Bonnie Brown posted in the foyer.
- * Margie Frizzell is suffering from diverticulitis in addition to back pain.
- * Thelbert Frizzell continues to recover from his knee surgery. He will have to keep on his brace for three more weeks.
- * Janet Lanning had successful cataract surgery last Tuesday.
- * Cotton Read had a heart attack last Monday. He is still in CCU at Hendersonville Medical Center.

Friends and Family:

- * Andy Hayes, a soccer coach friend of the Nicholson's, has been moved to Vanderbilt and may have a heart transplant or artificial heart inserted.

Absent: Nicholson children (AL).

New Reports: None known.

up to something, but perhaps these Pharisees just wanted to become better acquainted with a great teacher. Good morals and intentions do not result in salvation, but a positive attitude toward the lost will result in more souls being saved.

It will be terrifying to stand before the Lord having been overly critical of others. In **Matthew 7:1-2** Christ declares, *“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”* The Lord expects us to give Him our best; but He also expects us to follow His example, be patient, and desire that all will be saved. If today you were judged by the standard you hold others to, what would be the outcome?



“Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.” –

Psalm 119:35