

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

Dec 6

2009

## *There's More to Jesus than a Manger*

author unknown, edited

Presents. Shopping. Family. Christmas trees. Decorations. Lights. Santa. More shopping.

The Christmas season is upon us. For some this is the best time of the year, full of family and friends and good times. For others Christmas may just mean more on an already crowded schedule. For all of us, however, it can be a time to reflect on some deeper spiritual truths that often go unnoticed. How much thought have you given to Jesus?

During this season we will all hear "Jesus is the reason for the season." Actually, of course, no one knows when Jesus was born. The Bible doesn't say. The Gospel of Luke tells us that shepherds were in the field the night of Jesus' birth (**Luke 2:8**), indicating it probably didn't happen during one of Israel's cold and rainy winters. The celebration of Christmas is something not actually found in the New Testament but something begun more than three hundred years later when a pagan festival was "converted" into a "Christian" holiday. Sadly, through the years all sorts of practices and traditions have been hung on it that are far outside the worship described in the New Testament, and now Christmas seems more about merchandise and retailing than anything else.

Yet it is still a chance to think about Jesus Christ. It is so that He came to this world. In a birth unlike any other, God Himself took on flesh and blood and became a human being. Such a thought is incredible. People did come to that manger and worship long ago (**Luke 2:8-18**).

But what is missing in so much of the Christmastime discussion of Jesus is that Jesus didn't stay a baby! Cute and cuddly baby Jesus didn't stay a cute and cuddly baby. He grew up! He left His home in Nazareth. He taught people. He healed people. He spoke the most important words of all time. He died for the sins of the world. He rose again. The story of Jesus begins in a manger but it certainly doesn't end there.

That all gets missed sometimes. There is so much focus on baby Jesus that there seems little time to talk of adult Jesus. But it is adult Jesus that demands our attention. This is the Jesus who taught us how to live, who challenges us to realize we are sinners, who demands we recognize His Lordship in our lives. Grown up Jesus doesn't provoke the warm "ooh - He's so cute" that baby Jesus certainly does. Instead He revolutionizes our lives as He challenges us to live differently, to be His disciple.

# *How Do Children Learn The Bible?*

Warren E. Berkley

One of the most marvelous passages of Scripture on child-rearing is given in **Deuteronomy 6:3-9**. From this great passage we are made to understand that children can learn God's word in a number of ways.

There is what we might call unconscious teaching. Children observe our lives, our moods, our reactions, our dispositions. They absorb and assimilate these into their own lives and personalities. Someone has said that children read our hearts, not our lips.

There is, in the second place, what we might call informal teaching. This is done by talking about holy things as we sit, walk, lie down, and rise up. The Jews wrote the Scriptures on signs and plaques and put them on their walls and at other conspicuous places. Some even had them embroidered on their clothing. These were all subtle and informal reminders of their need to be God-conscious.

Then, last of all, there were those formal teaching situations where prophets or priests or others, instructed by means of the various services, performed in the tabernacle, temple, and later the synagogues. Certain days had a special meaning. All males were to attend the three annual feasts. All of these activities and situations working together impressed upon the observing mind the need to be controlled and regulated by Jehovah.

Today, many of the same kinds of situations are presented to us. Let us learn to talk about the Bible with our children with the same ease with which we discuss sports activities and other such things. Let us keep the Word of God before them all the time. Let us resolve to never miss a preaching service or Bible class. Let us show them practical ways to put eyes, arms, and legs on God's commandments as we get caught up in helping others. Let us let God truly rule in our hearts and lives. The children are smart – they will catch on.



Preacher's point – The combination of the economic needs of so many with “the season of giving” provides a great learning opportunity for our children. We have so many opportunities to teach them the joy of giving (**Acts 20:35**). Someday they will stand before God and be held accountable for their life of service (**Matt 25:31-46**). What are you doing now to prepare them for that day?

# News and Notes

## Members:

- \* Margie Frizzell has an appointment with a neurosurgeon on the 21st.
- \* Thelbert Frizzell continues to have blood pressure problems. His doctor increased his blood pressure medicine.
- \* Estelle Hayes was weaker than usual last week.
- \* **Fran Pickens' face was doing better last week with her Bell's palsy.**
- \* Cotton Read had a stint inserted last week at Hendersonville Medical Center and then was moved to Centennial Hospital. He took a turn for the worse and is currently in CCU there.
- \* Pat Richards had some breathing problems and learned she has asthma. Her asthma medicine is negatively affecting her diabetes.

## Friends and Family:

- \* None known.

Absent: Ken and Vickie Berry (FL), Nicholson children (Columbia, AM only).

New Reports: Gary Hunt (NY), Chad Lynn (WV), Edward Rangel (Puerto Rico).



*“Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Your ways.” —*

**Psalm 119:37**