

The Lakeview Lamp

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

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Demonstrating Our Love

Troy Nicholson

Today is Valentine's Day. It serves as a special day on which we demonstrate our love for others by what we give them. What serves as a proper gift differs among people. For some, saying "Happy Valentine's Day" will suffice. For friends at school, giving them a card with a cartoon character and a silly saying on it may do the job. For that truly special someone in our life, it usually requires a more expensive gift such as flowers (red roses), candy (chocolate), or jewelry (diamonds and gold).

How has God demonstrated His love for us? What has He given us? He has done more than give us flowers that fade, candy that is consumed, or jewelry that can be lost or stolen. Jesus tells us that *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (**John 3:16**). John later stated it this way: *"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him"* (**1 John 4:9-10**). Do you love anyone enough to give your son for him/her? That is how much God loved us. *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"* (**2 Cor 9:15**).

Jesus demonstrated His love for us at the same time. He said, *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends"* (**John 15:13**). Paul later referred to Jesus as He *"who loved me and gave Himself for me"* (**Gal 2:20**). What a friend we have in Jesus!

So how do we demonstrate our love for God? What can we give Him in return for what He has given us? Jesus said, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments"* (**John 14:15**). John said, *"This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments"* (**1 John 5:3**). It is not enough to just occasionally sing, "O how I love Jesus." If we really love God, *"let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth"* (**1 John 3:18**). We must demonstrate our love by giving our lives in service to Him. As Paul did, we must crucify ourselves with Christ and allow Him to live in us (**Gal 2:20**). That is how we demonstrate our love for Him.

Valentine's Day will soon be gone. The flowers will fade, and the candy will be consumed. The gift of God will remain, and may ours in return to Him remain all the days of our lives. Are you keeping His commandments?

Don't Be "Blind Side"d

Troy Nicholson

There is a movie that has been out for a while now entitled *The Blind Side*. My guess is that it gets its name from the football position played by the main character. That is only my guess because I have not seen the movie. It's not that I don't like football, but I am hesitant to pay what theaters charge to watch a movie (that's a different article in itself), and I am also hesitant to watch a movie rated PG-13 (that's this article).

The movie is based on a true story that sounds like it would make a great movie. A wealthy white family takes in a homeless black teenage boy and provides him a good home, helps him with his education, and helps develop him into a great football player who is now playing in the NFL. What is not to love and want to see about a movie like that?

Webster's defines *blind side* as "the side opposite to the direction in which a person is looking." To be *blindsided* is to be attacked "from an unseen or unexpected direction." This can happen spiritually to people when it comes to entertainment like this movie. Sometimes people get so caught up in focusing on the "good" (at least what they like) in something that they fail to see (maybe even choose to ignore) the bad that is also there.

A review of this movie reveals that at the least it contains language not pleasing to God (even some blasphemous of Him) and that should not be accepted by Christians. Any Christians blindsided by watching it and thinking it is a great movie – with little thought about the language in it – would never allow someone to physically enter their home and use the same language, because that would be too straightforward. Yet when Satan places such filth inside something that would otherwise be good, Christians too often accept it.

David said, "*I will set nothing wicked before my eyes*" (**Psalm 101:3**), and I am sure he applied the same standard to his ears. We all need to apply the same standard to all areas of our lives. We are exposed to enough wickedness *unintentionally* without then intentionally setting it before us, as is too often done with our entertainment choices. We must be especially careful not to set the wicked before us simply because it is mingled in with the good we set before us. The good does not make the wicked any less wicked or any more pleasing to God. We must "*abstain from every form of evil*" (**1 Thes 5:22**), no matter how much good may be wrapped around it.

Peter calls for us to "*become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world*" (**2 Peter 1:4**). Part of truly

News and Notes

Members:

- * Ken Berry is in St. Thomas Hospital with a 99% blockage. He was scheduled to have a stent put in Friday, but it could not be done. He will be reevaluated tomorrow and either be treated with medication or have bypass surgery.
- * Sarah Neighbours has been sick at her stomach for several days.

Friends and Family:

- * Warren Coss, **Zachary Neighbour's brother, is off the ventilator and now on dialysis and will soon start rehab.** Zachary is back home from being with him.
- * Mike Read, **Cotton and Nancy's son, is in rehab at Skyline Hospital for his broken hip.**
- * **Cotton and Nancy's daughter** Cindy still has the flu.

Absent: Johnson family (some in St. Louis), Jerry and Cindy Jenkins ().

New Reports: Sandro Corazza (Rome).

escaping the corruption that is in the world involves not allowing ourselves to be blind-sided by it. We must *“be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a lion, seeking someone to devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). Do not let the devil devour you. Do not let him on your blind side.



“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” – **1 Corinthians 13:13**