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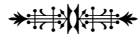
# LAMP

Your Word is a Lamp unto my Feet, and a Light for my Path. Psalm 119:105

March 2011

Volume 4, Issue 3



Westside Church of Christ  Bloomington, Indiana

## DIE YOU SCUMBAG

Consider 2nd Timothy 3:1-5: *<sup>1</sup>But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup>People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup>treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God? <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.*

The apostle Paul writes that *"evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived"* (II Timothy 3:13). People today are no different from when Moses wrote the Pentateuch or Paul his epistles, but the occasion to sin, the *incentive* to do so and thus sin's frequency and intensity seem to be at their highest levels since just before the Flood.

In other words, the environment to commit sin more easily grows ever more amenable, and human nature is taking advantage of it. We have been born into-indeed have unwittingly contributed to *creating*-an environment in which it is exceedingly difficult to remain faithful.

We live in a world in which self-centeredness is being promoted to its greatest extent. Appealing advertis-

ing hammers away at us to gratify ourselves: Why wait, why deny ourselves, why sacrifice, why not go along with everyone else? Constantly we hear, "Indulge yourself because you *deserve* it."

This world always appeals to moral and ethical standards lower than those of the great God and His way of life. In Technicolor with emotion-stirring music, Hollywood "sells" adultery, fornication, and homosexuality as acceptable as long as the couple involved are attractive-thus "deserving" of a "better" relationship.

War, murder, lying, stealing, coveting, and idolatry are acts that most Christians in the world would claim as being wrong, yet most unwittingly commit them to some degree and promote them in our culture.

They justify their sin because everybody else is doing it, and they see no good reason why they should not just go along. If they try to swim against the tide, they think they will be taken advantage of, and, most probably they would be at least persecuted for not going along with the flow.

Not too long ago, a person's word was his bond, and mere handshakes sealed major business agreements. Tales of Abraham Lincoln's honesty over pennies are an almost legendary

part of our nation's history. Historians say that faithfulness was such a hallmark of the Roman Republic that not one divorce occurred in its first seven hundred years! But in the last fifty years this nation has seen a calamitous, family-destroying rise in the divorce rate that threatens the very stability of society. So what.

Faithlessness is playing a major role in this destruction. People are without natural affection and traitors to their marital contract. Child abuse is becoming ever more prevalent. Athletes seem to break contracts almost at will. Manufacturers lie about the quality of their products, and workers fudge in the quality of their work.

Faithlessness is rising to its peak because self-centeredness, the father of irresponsibility, is being promoted to its utmost. It is the spirit of this age, but we have cause to resist it by what God has offered us in His revelation.

God-centeredness in our lives is the answer to faithlessness and irresponsibility. But God-centeredness is not cheap, and few are willing to pay the price: their lives!



Be Right with God or Left to the Devil



Tandi's niece, Ashley Slade, has had some serious complications from surgery and the family is requesting prayers at this time.

John's cousin, Penny Abel, has seen a recurrence of her cancer after once being pronounced cured, and is now facing more radical brain surgery. This is a difficult time for her and her family.

Emily Kluesner is in Korea for the next several months.

Please also remember to pray for Max Horrocks and Christopher Gagnon that they might return to the Lord.

## Perpetual Prayer List

This month's perpetual prayer list contains a couple of new names. Please be sure to add them to your prayer list. These are people whom we need to remember regularly and often, in addition to those listed above who have new issues and concerns. Please bring the following names before God:

- Alex Chambers
- Mia Cook
- Jack Horrocks
- Max Horrocks
- Bette Oney-Self
- Leroy Provines
- Sharron Smith
- Jeff Whittington
- Ashley Wood

Times are tough, and getting tougher. Let's all join together and make sure that our brethren's needs are being met.

Some might be too embarrassed to ask for help. They shouldn't have to ask— we should know what is going on in the lives of those we love the most.

*We serve an awesome God, and He is so good to give us what we ask for so much of the time. Remember that we should praise Him whether he answers our prayers the way we would like or not.*

## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Stefani Horrocks 8th

Becky Provines 13th

*Mark & Tandi 21st*

Ryan Provines 23rd

Wilma Cardwell 24th

Mark Wallace 25th

*Lana & Ralph 25th*

Bergen Lee 29th

Building Cleaning This Month:

**Sandy**

Communion Prep For February:

**Hatti**

WWW.  
**WSIDECOC**  
.ORG

### Verse of the Month:

**Genesis 41:41-43**

<sup>41</sup> So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." <sup>42</sup> Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. <sup>43</sup> He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

# JUST FOR KIDS!

## People whom Jesus Knew

J H E R O D F W N Y A M N W R  
E M O L A S W O E N M A R Y W  
M T L U A P M J N R B M D M K  
B A P D V I L A P J D Q N N T  
A S R R S P T L H O G N K T R  
R U F T B R F C I A M K A S R  
A E H S H S D F L N V V U V S  
B A T G A A U Y I N L S F U S  
B H E J D D X M P A A X R H E  
A C B K C R D I E N F A M F M  
S C A R T W L U N D Z K Y G A  
T A Z N C A N A C A O N L P J  
H Z I M T F Y B L E B C N Z L  
L P L E Q K T K T F E C I G P  
L B E P H A R I S E E S P N N

Created Just for the great kids at the Westside Church of Christ

Andrew

James

Nicodemus

Sadducees

Anna

Joanna

Paul

Salome

Barabbas

Lazarus

Pharisees

Simon

Elizabeth

Martha

Philip

Susanna

Herod

Mary

Pilate

Zacchaeus

## Why Lord?

By Tandi Wallace

←-----→  
All the times I asked  
"Why, Lord?"  
Never fully understanding,  
I struggled to find the good  
In every day,  
Only to ask  
"Why, Lord?"  
So many say  
"We'll never know why,"  
Through the sorrow  
I have felt  
Through the fears  
And the foes that oppose me,  
I ask  
"Why, Lord?"  
Today my heart was opened to you  
Today I understood.  
Now I will know why,  
You took my pain,  
You took my fear,  
You took my darkness,  
To make me see your Greatness.  
This day, I gave my WHOLE life to you.  
So I can, with faith  
No longer have to ask  
"Why, Lord?"

## For Our Guests:

### What to Expect During Today's Worship Service

#### Singing

We sing "a cappella" (without any instruments). This may be new to you, and if you are wondering why we do it this way, feel free to ask any of us. We encourage you to join in, even if you don't know the songs. But don't feel *obligated*; you are welcome to just sit and listen.

#### Lord's Supper

Communion is an important part of our worship *each and every week*. This is a celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. In this simple memorial, we remember the sacrifice He made for our sins.

#### Offering

The work here at Westside is supported by the free will offerings of our members, as directed in scripture. You are not expected to make a donation, just pass the basket to the person sitting next to you.

#### Preaching

The sermon will be 30-35 minutes long, and will be grounded on scripture. Should you have any questions about what is taught here, please ask! We love to talk about our awesome God. After the sermon, an invitation will be given for those who desire to be Baptized. At this time, we will stand and sing a song. Please do not feel uncomfortable; you will not be singled out in any way.

#### Expected of you:

**Nothing!** We are honored that you chose to be with us today. Please take a minute after services to let us say hello to you!

## The Need For Silence

←-----→  
A college professor of English had just recited the famous Mark Twain quote, "Tis better to keep your mouth closed and be thought a fool than to open it and remove all doubt." to her class. The students pondered the words for a few seconds and then one of the students raised her hand and asked the professor, "Would you please define what "remove all doubt" means?"

There is much that could be said about remaining silent, but then I guess saying it would defeat the purpose and point of this article. However, silence is a prerequisite of meditation, and meditation is the vehicle of spiritual enlightenment.

Remaining silent in the public arena can save your life, and meditation in the private arena can greatly improve a dull and ineffectual spirit. It is

interesting just how much the two disciplines have in common.

Both require desire and effort, and both have a positive effect on your life. We each have our unique set of "gifts", and being silent will be no problem for some, while nearly impossible for others.

But meditating on the Word of God is not just an important thing to do, it is a vitally necessary activity and we must pursue it regardless of how difficult it might be for us.

But we must also remember what the Apostle Paul admonishes in Phil 4:9: "*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.*" Then and only then will we enjoy the "peace of God".

Welcome to the Westside Church of Christ!

1301 Enterprise Ln.  
Bloomington, Indiana 47403

Neil Tremblett, Preacher

**812-360-1399**

Sunday Morning Bible Study — 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship — 10:30 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship — 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 P.M.

**You are most welcome— please join us!**