

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Jim Hall

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John C. Robertson

Shining as Lights in the World

In the midst of a Crooked and Perverse Generation
by Nicolas Long

Something that should be of great concern to all Christians is the direction the world is headed. Just by taking a look around us we can see easily that the world is not headed in a direction that is in accordance with Gods word. Slowly our world is turning from God. It wasn't more than forty to fifty years ago that the majority of society held some belief in God. See they believed in God the Father and Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. Talk of Atheism and homosexuality were not heard of and when it was spoken it was considered taboo. But look at the society we live in today. We have political figures that speak of and practice homosexuality. We have Movie stars and Sports icons that believe in no God. In Philippians 2: 12 we are told that we need to work out our own salvation first. See by doing this we heed to the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 7: 1-6 where we are told to remove the plank from our own eye before removing the speck from our brother. Now some twist the teaching to say we are not to correct a brother that is in error. This passage in Mathew is telling us that in order for us to be able to help a brother or sister in error we need to make sure our own salvation is worked out first. But see God told us how to work out that salvation later on in verse 12 of Philippians 2. He told us we are to work it out with fear and trembling. You see, if we don't have a proper fear of the Lord, then we can not truly be ready to be judged by him. Some think and teach that fear is a bad thing. But what if you had no fear of the Lord? Would you be driven

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will asks questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Elizabeth Cribbs' back surgery went very well this last Thursday. She will be going in again next month to have the same surgery done on the other side of her back.

Quincy Adams went to Dallas this past Friday to have his eyes examined. All went well and he is scheduled to have the surgery on July 3, 2008.

Thomas Gresham and Jim Summers' contact info is posted in the foyer. Please keep them in your daily prayers.

Adult Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings we are studying the book of James and Wednesday we are studying The Book of Ruth.

Sunday Evening Singing:

This is the last Sunday of the month and that means singing time for our PM Worship. If you have any songs that you would like sung please get with one of the men this morning.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

to be a strong Christian, without the fear of spending an eternity in hell's fiery torment? In verse 13 of Philipians 2 we see that to succeed at Shining as lights in the world we need to do so by letting God work in us. We need to allow Gods power to work thru us. We need to realize that sometimes we may not understand what God has planed for us. We need not shut God out of our lives. But how much destruction is done in the Lords church due to Murmurings and Disputings. See living in a crooked and perverse generation can weigh on us. We need to maintain a positive attitude and live by the word of God in Philipians 2: 14 where he tells us to do ALL things WITHOUT murmurings and disputings. We need to do all these things we have talked about and also be children of God without fault as we are told in verse 15 of Philipians 2. I am not telling you that the only way to make it to heaven is to be perfect and never sin. What we glean from this passage is that when we do sin we need to make it right with God and strive not to sin. See we are to be striving to be blameless and above reproach. And thru all these things we need to hold fast to the word of life. See we read in Ephesians 6: 10 – 17 that the word of God is our offensive weapon we have in the armor of God. By keeping to the word of God we can accomplish and overcome all things in our life. So the question we need to ask ourselves is, are these political and public figures the people whose belief's influences the world? They shouldn't be. We have seen Philipians 2: 12 – 16 that we are given direction, hope, warning and examples of how we are told to be Shining as Lights to the World. For see if we all shine as lights in the world people cant help but notice, not us, but God working in us and thru us. Only by all Christians shining can we influence the world to change from there crooked and perverse ways.

Nicolas Long will be doing the preaching this morning over Shining as Lights in the World. Next Sunday morning we will begin a series of lessons over "How we got the Bible." These lessons will focus on the different versions of the Bible in addition to tracing the history of various manuscripts.

Shining as Lights In the World

By Holding Fast The Word of Life

I. Introduction

II. Through diligent study

- a. Diligent study requires
- b. Such diligent study is required

III. Through consistent application

- a. There is a danger of being a hearer and not a doer.
- b. The world already has Pharisees
- c. But thru consistent application, we demonstrate the value of the will of God

IV. Through teaching it to others

- a. The natural follow-up to study and application
- b. As the people of God, Proclaiming the "Word of Life" is our primary function in this world
- c. Herein lies the greatest hope of shedding light in this dark world of ours!!!

V. Conclusion

Like many others, I am very concerned about the direction our society appears to be going I do not take issue with the motives and zeal of others, but I question the WAY some people who believe in God are trying to change our society for good. Can we not learn from the failure of the "Civil Rights Movement" to change the hearts of men through legislation or even violence that maybe there is a better way? Not to say that changing legislation through legitimate means is not a worthy goal for Christians But to say that it alone is inadequate. The "better way" is the way God used His people to ultimately change a "**pre-Christian culture**" (known for immorality and injustice) into one that at least on the surface held up Christianity as a religion of preference rather than ridicule How did they do it? Though it took several hundred years, it was done by "**Shining As Lights In The World**", in the manner in which Paul wrote in Ph **2:12-16!** With the help of God, perhaps we can do the same. At the very least, we can assure that we will save ourselves through God's grace!