

The Lower Lights

By Kevin Cauley

"Let the Lower Lights Be Burning" written by Philip P. Bliss, 1871.

*Brightly beams our Fathers' mercy
From His lighthouse evermore,
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.*

*Dark the night of sin has settled,
Loud the angry billows roar;
Eager eyes are watching, longing,
For the lights along the shore.*

*Trim your feeble lamp, my brother!
Some poor sailor, tempest tossed,
Trying now to make the harbor,
In the darkness may be lost.*

*Let the lower lights be burning,
Send the gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save.*



The lyrics of the song are instructive to us today. God's great grace, love, and mercy is the greater light which shines for all to see into the distant and far ocean of sin. He draws the lost from the great darkness that is around them and leads them toward the safety of harbor. Those souls, however, as they near shore need additional guidance to finally make it safely in. These "harbor lights" are what allows them to dock and set foot on shore. God is the greater light, but Christians are the lesser harbor lights, who use the light which God gives them, through teaching and influence, to illuminate others to the safe shore.

There are many things we can do for others around us. We can love them by extending help and aid to those approaching the shore (Matthew 22:39). We can provide the right example for those around us to encourage them to extend their lights to those in need of rescue (1 Corinthians 11:1). We can keep our lights pure and holy so that they will shine bright and not grow dim (James 1:27).

We have a choice before us. We can either let our light shine, or we can hide it. If we hide our light, then it does no one any good at all, including ourselves. However, if we let our light shine, then we have a great opportunity to glorify God. What are you doing to let your light shine? Find something, anything, that you can do to let your light shine and then **SHINE!** (Matthew 5:13-16).

- *The Biblical Messenger* - 9th & Main Street Church of Christ, San Angelo, TX

Prayer gives you a calm-plex.

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To Russell Martin and family at the sudden passing of his niece, Shelly Herron. God bless and comfort the family.

LADIES PLANNING SESSION: Tonight following the worship period. This is to plan for the next ladies work day to make care baskets. All ladies are welcome to participate in this effort.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies to help with this good work.

FRIDAY NIGHT SING: Sept. 12th, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at McKinleyville. Refreshments served after the singing.

SURGERY: Jim Beagle's back surgery has been postponed until Tuesday, Sept. 16th at Allegheny Hospital, Pittsburgh. Keep Jim in your prayers.

PANTRY: Instant potatoes. Help those in need; restock the pantry.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Anna D. Snell (Jeremy's grandmother). She has shown some improvement from her stroke.

THOSE WITH PHYSICAL PROBLEMS: At Home: Mabel Sprout, Virginia Rickerd, Harry Nice, Michelle Hanlon, Dan Williams, Blondenia Orr, Jenny Rhodes, Bette Gentry. Remember and encourage others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. They are listed on the bulletin board.

MEETINGS & LECTURES:

East Liverpool	Sept. 7-10	Terry Varner
Langeloth	Sept. 7-11	Mike Phillips
Sand Hill	Sept. 14-19	Jeremy Main
McKinleyville	Sept. 21-25	Different Speakers
CHESTER	Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Steve Higginbotham
New Philadelphia	Oct. 5- 8	Frank Higginbotham
Weirton Heights	Oct. 12-16	Ed Mellott
WVSOP (Moundsville)	Oct. 26-30	Different Speakers

The Gordian Knot

A famous wagon once stood in the city of Gordium in Asia Minor. Its yoke and pole were tied with an intricate knot. It was said that whoever untied the knot would be ruler of Asia. Alexander the Great came, severed the knot with one stroke of his sword, and the Gordian knot became proverbial. We were bound by sin - no one could solve its tangle until Christ from His cross set us free with one stroke! "...that ye may abound in hope ..." - Romans 15:13.

Things As They Really Are

My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house is not dirty; the cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely, and so does my lawn.
I think I might never put my glasses back on.

Sometimes it is easier to see things as we'd like to see them ... rather than as they really are!

