

# The Lantern

Highway Church of Christ 704 West Jackson Street, Sullivan, IL 61951



## Times of Worship

Bible Classes—9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship—10:20 a.m.  
Evening Worship—6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study—7:00 p.m.

## Elders

Lyle Baumgartner  
Wayne Miller  
Ron Thomas

## Preacher

Ron Thomas

**WELCOME** to today's Bible class and/or worship assembly. It is our hope that you will have been blessed in joining with us in praise of our Lord. We especially appreciate any that may be **VISITORS**. We hope you will return at every opportunity.

## **Ron's blog**

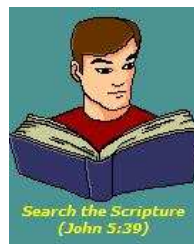
[ronthomas.preachersfiles.com](http://ronthomas.preachersfiles.com)

## THE KEYS TO SALVATION

<b>HEAR</b> the gospel	Rom.10:17
<b>BELIEVE</b> the gospel	John 3:16
<b>REPENT</b> of your sins	Luke 13:3
<b>CONFESS</b> Christ	Mt. 10:32
Be <b>BAPTIZED</b>	Mark 16:16 Acts 2:38
Live <b>FAITHFULLY</b>	Rev. 2:10

November 8, 2009

## Bible Reading Schedule



● Sunday	John 12-13
● Monday	John 14-16
● Tuesday	John 17-18
● Wednesday	John 19-21
● Thursday	Acts 1-3
● Friday	Acts 4-6
● Saturday	Acts 7-8

## News & Notes

- Next Sunday at 1:00 the Crowley's Ridge College Choralaires will be at Lakeside church of Christ with a presentation starting at 1:00. All are invited to attend.
- Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat February 17-20. Info on BB

## Accomplishments

We can accomplish almost anything within our ability if we but think that we can! Every great accomplishment in this world was first carefully thought out.

Think—but to a purpose. Think constructively. Think as you read. Think as you listen. Think as you travel and your eyes reveal new situations. Think as you work daily at your desk, or in the field, or while strolling. Think to rise and improve your place in life. There can be no advancement or success without serious thought. **George Adams**

Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others

## Trying to Define Terms Without God

Some say that there is no God. This is not a new fad or philosophy. More than three-thousand years ago David wrote, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good" (Psalm 14:1). It should be noted that the passage does not say, "*Because there is no evidence available, some people fail to believe in God.*" The fool of the passage knows the evidence. He may even have examined that evidence and realized that all reasoning and logic show such evidence to be true. Surely, like the Psalmist, he could see and say, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard" (Psalm 19:1-3). The fool, however, is like those described in the first chapter of the book of Romans. Here we are told: *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man; and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.* (Romans 1:18-25)

He, the fool, simply doesn't want to acknowledge God, even though the evidence all around him speaks of that existence. The fool refuses because of his sinful and prideful heart. He neither wants to acknowledge nor submit of Him. Even while denying God, the fool will boldly use such terms as honor, truth, integrity, goodness, and morality. Yet, without the existence of God whom the fool despises, he cannot give a reasonable definition of any of these terms. For example, who is to determine that the killing of a human is worse than killing a roach? Without God, who can say that the atrocities of Hitler and Stalin were indeed atrocities? Neither of these leaders violated the law of their land. In fact, they were that law! Without God, who can authoritatively declare that the Oklahoma City bombing was any more wrong than when an exterminator destroys a colony of termites? When one takes God out of the picture, he becomes a law to himself, and who is to say that his "law" is superior to the "law" of someone else?

Every definition that one attempts to give for any moral, ethical, or spiritual issue is nothing but his own

subjective thinking when he leaves out God. In fact, without God, one cannot even know if a thing is moral, ethical, or spiritual. Truly, "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God!" **Ernest S. Underwood**

## THE VOID BETWEEN INTENT AND PERFORMANCE

- "We sing 'Sweet Hour of Prayer' - - and content ourselves with a few minutes of prayer each day, if even that much.
- We sing 'Onward Christian Soldiers' - - and wait to be pushed into the Lord's service.
- We sing 'O for a Thousand Tongues' - - without rightly using the tongue we have.
- We sing 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds' - - and let the least little offense sever it.
- We sing 'Serve the Lord with Gladness' - - and gripe about all we have to do.
- We sing 'I Love to Tell the Story' - - and never mention it all year to our friends and associates.
- We sing 'Cast Thy Burden on the Lord' - - and worry ourselves into nervous breakdowns.
- We sing 'The Whole Wide World for Jesus' - - and never invite our next-door neighbors to church.
- We sing 'Throw Out the Life Line' - - and content ourselves with throwing out a fishing line on Sunday.

## Sentence Sermons

- Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the snake, and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on.
- Speak well of your enemies. After all, you made them. God is Perfect...Only man makes Mistakes

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. **Psalm 32:7**

Out of the attacks of evil come the victories of God and the victory chants of God's people. Let's find our strength and protection in our holy God! Let's make God our hiding place, our source of security, and our hope in times of trouble.