

# PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path"  
Psalm 119:104*

March 5, 2017

## Facts and Feelings

by Frank Himmel

I don't watch award shows. In most cases I am unfamiliar with the artists and I haven't seen the movies or shows or heard the songs. Which is rated the best, therefore, makes no difference to me. More importantly, too often these occasions are a display and an honoring of ungodliness in one form or another.



Evidently there was a major gaff at last week's Academy Awards. The presenters announced the best picture Oscar winner. Its cast rushed the stage and started their acceptance speeches. Then amidst the celebration, word came that the wrong movie had been announced. Oops!

Imagine the emotional roller coaster of that cast: the elation of thinking they were winners, which in turn magnified the deflation when another actually took the prize.

There is a practical lesson here. These folks' initial joy, based on an error, would have been no different had they actually won. That illustrates an important fact: feelings are the *product* of what we think is true, they are not *proof* that what we think is true.

### Morals

One's feeling good about his conduct is no assurance that God approves it. It may be the homosexual who convinces himself that "God made me this way." It may be the one who ignores the Bible's instructions about divorce and remarriage because "I know God wants me to be happy." It may be the one who nonchalantly engages in sin thinking "surely God would not condemn me to hell for..." One of the darkest periods in the history of God's people was the time of the judges, when "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

### Service

David thought building a temple for God was a great idea, and Nathan the prophet felt sure God would approve (2 Samuel 7:1-3). He did not! He asked, "Wherever... did I speak a word... saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'" (v. 7).

How often do people today make the same mistake, embarking on some sort of activity in the Lord's name because they feel good about it, despite the fact that there is no authorization for it in God's word?

### Salvation

The Pharisee in Jesus' parable felt saved, yet clearly he was not (Luke 18:9-14). That is where complying with an erroneous plan of salvation will leave you: feeling saved but being lost. Genuine assurance of salvation comes from complying with the Spirit's testimony (Romans 8:17-18), given in Scripture. On what basis do you feel saved? ■

# Consider

by Frank Himmel

The New Testament suggests several things we need to consider (that word first means to notice, then to pay attention to, to reflect on). Among them...

📖 “Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!” (Luke 11:24).

📖 “Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these” (Luke 11:27).

📖 “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble” (1 Corinthians 1:26).

📖 “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession” (Hebrews 3:1).

📖 “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24).

📖 “For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (Hebrews 12:3).

# No Stumbling Over Jesus



by Frank Himmel

“Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me” (Luke 7:23).

Every time you turn around these days, someone says he is offended by something. That typically means no more than he did not like it, it was annoying. The Bible term is much stronger. It originally referred to the trigger in a trap; then it expanded to include any kind of impediment that would cause one to stumble or fall. The NASB originally rendered our text, “And blessed is he who keeps from stumbling over Me.”

People in Jesus’ day stumbled over Him for a variety of reasons: what He claimed about Himself, what He taught, what He did, what He did not do, the company He kept, etc. He was often not what they expected. Little has changed. People still reject Jesus for these same reasons.

The blessed man does not abandon Jesus when the Lord contradicts his preconceived ideas. We must never try to reshape Jesus to fit our mold; instead, we must transform our thinking to conform to Him. ■

## Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Bruce Williams	Greg Winget	Josh Baucom
SONG LEADER	Carlos Garcia	Bruce Williams	John Baucom
OPENING PRAYER	Jason Chandler	Brian Wilson	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Gary Hagler	Gary Hagler	
CUP	Albert Lee Harrison	Albert Lee Harrison	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Rawland Daniel		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Jason Chandler
CLOSING PRAYER	Justin Candella	Adam Gibson	Ian Brown