

## Laws of the Lighthouse

by Max Lucado

The first of the year is known for three things: black-eyed peas, bowl games, and lists. Some don't eat black-eyed peas. Others hate football. But everybody likes lists.

The Bible certainly has its share of lists. Moses brought one down from the mountain.

There are lists of the gifts of the Spirit. Lists of good fruit and bad. Lists of salutations and greetings. Even the disciples' boat got into the action as it listed in the stormy Sea of Galilee. (If you smiled at that, then I've got a list of puns you'd enjoy.)

But the greatest day of lists is still New Year's Day. And the number one list is the list I call the Laws of the Lighthouse.

The Laws of the Lighthouse contain more than good ideas, personal preferences, and honest opinions. They are God-given, time-tested truths that define the way you should navigate your life. Observe them and enjoy secure passage. Ignore them and crash against the ragged rocks of reality.

Smart move. The wise captain shifts the direction of his craft according to the signal of the lighthouse. A wise person does the same.

Herewith, then, are the lights I look for and the signals I heed:

- Love God more than you fear hell.
- Once a week, let a child take you on a walk.
- Make major decisions in a cemetery.
- When no one is watching, live as if someone is.
- Succeed at home first.
- Don't spend tomorrow's money today.
- Pray twice as much as you fret.
- Listen twice as much as you speak.
- Only harbor a grudge when God does.
- Never outgrow your love of sunsets.
- Treat people like angels; you will meet some and help make some.
- 'Tis wiser to err on the side of generosity than on the side of scrutiny.
- God has forgiven you; you'd be wise to do the same.
- When you can't trace God's hand, trust his heart.
- Toot your own horn and the notes will be flat.
- Don't feel guilty for God's goodness.
- The book of life is lived in chapters, so know your page number.
- Never let the important be the victim of the trivial.
- Live your liturgy.

To sum it all up: Approach life like a voyage on a schooner. Enjoy the view. Explore the vessel. Make friends with the captain. Fish a little. And then get off when you get home.

From: *In the Eye of the Storm*



**John E. Haydn**  
1924 - 2008

God called home to eternal rest two brothers one day apart, John on November 30th, 2008 and Theodore on November 29th, 2008.

John was the eldest and was an active member in the Calvary Baptist Church in LaGrange, Ohio. He served as Trustee, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Director etc. and later at First Baptist Church in LaGrange. He was married to Betty Orban Haydn and they had one son, Michael and a daughter, Jo Beth.



**Theodore Haydn**  
1927 - 2008

Theodore was a member of the first United Methodist Church in Norwalk, Ohio. He was in banking business and served his community well on many civic projects; director of Easter Seal for 35 years, and a member of the Masonic Lodge as a 32nd degree Mason. He was married to Louise Balogh Haydn. His twin brother, William, is still living but with some health problems.

Their parents, Elizabeth & John Haydn, (Hajdu) Sr. and their three sons were very active in our Hungarian Baptist Church in Elyria and Lorain, Ohio as well as in our Hungarian Baptist Convention. Elizabeth was the adopted daughter of the late Reverend and Mrs.

Joseph Botka. They spent their winter months in Florida and helped make life comfortable for the dear elderly folks at the Bethesda Baptist Retirement Home. Elizabeth was a Certified Nurses' Assistant and John with his exceptional mechanical "know how" could repair anything.

John and Theodore were in active duty with the U.S. Army during World War II stationed in Europe. God protected them and they returned home safely.

Both John and Theodore were reared by strong Christian parents. They were business men who could apply their Christian principles and witness to everyone they met.

God blessed their lives and they will be remembered for their faithfulness to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" Rev. 14:13

*Ethel Petre Kish*

## Letter from Ruth Wright

(Excerpt)

God gave us His very best when He sent Jesus to this earth. I try to focus on this everyday.

ESL is experiencing a larger enrollment than in previous years. We have many international participants with high numbers from Iran and South America. The ESL teachers are dedicated to sharing their faith in the Lord and trusting God to work in their hearts. This semester's holidays provided the perfect time for us to share the Gospel during our snack break. We don't know what took place in hearts, but we do know that the attention level was high. Someone commented that during the Gospel presentation, the listeners were so attentive that one could hear a pin drop. In addition, one of my supporting churches visited the ESL program and blessed us with more than 40 NIV Spanish/English bibles as a gift.

The pinched nerve that I experienced this summer which had me resting for 8 weeks is fine now. I am careful not to lift anything too heavy or put any stress on my neck or shoulder. Thank you for praying for me and seeing me through this time.

At this Christmas season, I want to thank you for loving me, praying for me, and sharing in this ministry through letters and gifts so that I might be able to continue to do the work the Lord has called me to do.

*Ruth Wright*

Ask the Editor for Ruth's address!

## AND WHAT IS HE SAYING?

You say: "I'm not able"  
God says: *I am able*  
(II Corinthians 9:8)

You say: "It's not worth it"  
God says: *It will be worth it*  
(Roman 8:28)