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Salvation Comes By the Word

(Cont. from pg. 1) themselves for retirement. How can anyone be expected to take time for spiritual concerns when we still are struggling just to sustain a “normal” life. As they then enter their retirement years, it seems they will be unable to retire and need to continue to work, or if they have been successful they will now want to spend these years in leisure, traveling, etc. And of course, not very far away are their

final years and now they are in such poor health they are unable to do much for the Lord.

We see from this scenario that we must always remember that the

Word is near us and we must seize it at the first opportunity and allow all these problems to be handled by a gracious and loving Lord who has promised from the very creation of mankind to care for us if we are faithful to Him. (Mt. 6:33, Deut. 28:1-6) We further need to be willing to seek the counsel of the older brethren and give counsel to the younger brethren as we help each other along life’s road.



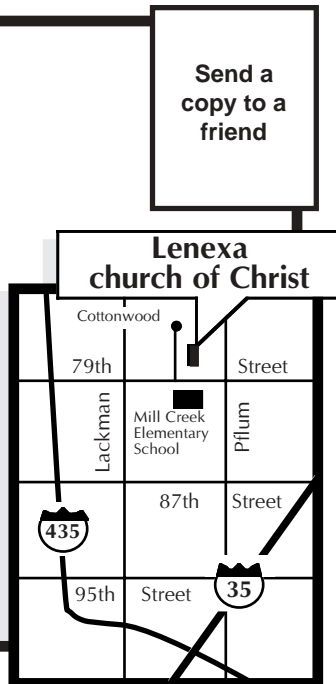
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- Elders:**
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MEETING TIMES
 Sunday – Bible Classes 9:30 AM
 Worship Services 10:20 AM & 6:00
 Wednesday – Bible Classes 7:00 PM



The Lenexa EDIFIER

...Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. – Romans 14:19

Volume VII

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Salvation Comes By the Word: Romans 10:1-10

by Jim Stauffer

Paul teaches the Romans this lesson very clearly in chapter 10. He quotes Moses from the book of Deuteronomy in verses 6-8 when he tells them the word is near them in their mouths and hearts. It is simply left to them to ‘confess Jesus as Lord’.

This passage sets forth the simplicity of the gospel as well as its availability. On this occasion Paul is speaking of and to his Jewish brethren and is concerned about their failure to recognize the salvation in Christ rather than practicing the righteousness of the Law of Moses. The only reason they did not accept Christ was because of their own preconceived notions and prejudices. The teaching was presented to them and the word was readily available should they seek it.

Unfortunately, they are not the last generation to make the acceptance of the gospel of Christ more difficult than it should be. Many people including our own generation have found varied excuses for not doing His Will. Many resist the gospel because they do not

have time. Young people in school are very busy pursuing an education as well as keeping up with all the extracurricular and social activities encouraged by the school. As a result they just cannot fit it into their schedule and decide it must wait until a later time. The young married couple often struggles to make time for the Lord. After all, he is pursuing a career and we all know how much effort and time that can require. The wife is busy with little children and babies and can hardly take a breath as she cares for them, the house and tries her best to be vibrant and energetic as she greets the husband coming home from work. Her day continues as she prepares the evening meal and then readies the children for bed. One can easily understand how these people have little time to themselves, let alone the Lord. As time passes on and middle age approaches there are job concerns as companies downsize. There are health concerns. As they look to the future, they realize they will have to find some success somewhere to prepare - (Cont. on pg. 4)

Optimism in the Face of Adversity

By Kyle Pope

The Holy Spirit can paint word pictures more beautiful and stirring than any master artist could ever produce. In II Corinthians 4:8,9 Paul through the direction of the Holy Spirit paints such a picture demonstrating the overwhelming optimism that can characterize the Christian life. Consider what is written:

“We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed” (vs. 8). – The word translated “hard pressed” is *Thlibo* (θλιβω) meaning – “To press (as grapes), press hard upon, properly... a compressed way, i.e. narrow, straightened, contracted, metaphorically to trouble, afflict, distress” (Thayer, p. 291).



The picture here is that of being squeezed (much like a bunch of grapes) by trials and persecutions. Yet even so, in Christ Paul was not “crushed”. The word for “crushed” is *Stenochoreo* (στενοχωρέω) meaning – “To crowd together into a narrow

place, straiten; passively to be in straits, to be cramped up, to be cramped from action, to be cramped in feeling” (Moulton, p. 375). In spite of many pressures the Christian is not restrained by such pressures.

“We are perplexed, but not in despair” (vs. 8) – The wording here is subject to a few different interpretations. Paul may refer to his state of mind or his material status. The word translated “perplexed” is *Aporeo* (ἀπορέω) meaning — “To be without resources, to be in straits, to be left wanting, to be embarrassed, to be in doubt, not to know which way to turn... Middle to be at a loss with one’s self, be in doubt; not to know how to decide or what to do, to be perplexed” (Thayer, p. 66). The word translated “despair” is *Exaporeo* (ἐξαπορέω) meaning – “To be at a loss. To be wholly without resource, to despair utterly” (Zodiatas, p. 600). “Be in great difficulty,



place, straiten; passively to be in straits, to be cramped up, to be cramped from action, to be cramped in feeling” (Moulton, p. 375). In spite of many pressures the Christian is not restrained by such pressures.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear** the word of God (Rom. 10:14-17; 1:16,17; John 17:17).
- Believe** in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Acts 16:30,31; Romans 10:9,10; Ephesians 2:8,9; 1 John 5:1; Galatians 3:26)
- Repent** of past sins and turn to God (Luke 13:5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 26:20; II Timothy 2:19).

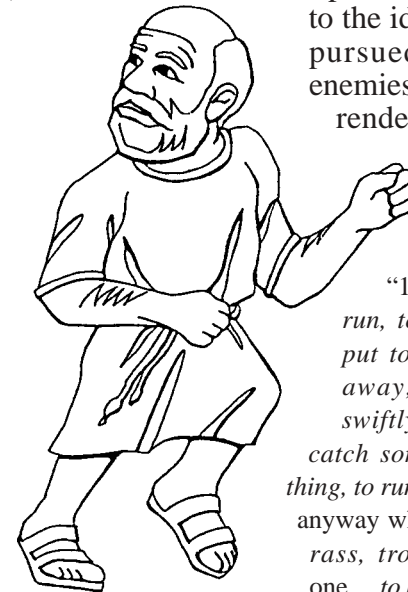
Confess Jesus before men (Matthew 10:32,33; Romans 10:9,10; 1 John 4:15; Hebrews 10:23).

Be Baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:1-6; Galatians 3:26,27; 1 Peter 3:21).

Abide in the word of God (John 8:31; 15:6,7; 1 Cor. 15:1,2; Rev. 2:10; 1 John 1:9,10; Heb. 10:24,25; John 4:24).

doubt, embarrassment... despair of living” (BAG, p. 273). If we take it to refer to Paul’s material status Paul suggests that he is virtually without resource, and yet he is not utterly without resource. In Christ we can learn a contentment with the basic needs of life (see I Timothy 6:8).

“Persecuted, but not forsaken” (vs. 9) – In Greek the word for persecution is tied to the idea of being pursued by one’s enemies. The word rendered “persecuted” is *D i o k o* (διώκω) meaning –



“1. To make to run, to run or flee, put to flight, drive away; 2. To run swiftly in order to catch some person or thing, to run after... 3. In anyway whatever to harass, trouble, molest one... to be maltreated, suffer persecution on account of something... 4. Without the idea of hostility, to run after, follow after some one; 5. Metaphorically... to pursue i.e. seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavor to acquire” (Thayer, p. 153). Just as Paul had once pursued the church trying to destroy it, he now finds himself “pursued”. Yet in Christ, he could have the confidence that the Lord had not left him to himself to face such trials alone. The word for “forsaken” is *Egkatalaipo* (ἐγκαταλείπω) meaning – “To leave in a place or situation, to leave behind; to forsake, abandon; to leave as a remnant

from destruction” (Moulton, p. 113). The picture here is that Paul is pursued by the enemy but not left behind by the Lord!

“Struck down, but not destroyed” (vs. 9) – Paul (in the writing of these words) had already faced 39 lashes five times, beatings with rods three times and stoning once (II Corinthians 11:24,25). Yet none of that had (or could) effect his soul! The word for “struck down” is *Kataballo* (καταβάλλω) meaning – “To throw, cast. To cast down, used transitively for example from heaven, In the sense of to prostrate... In the middle to lay down a foundation” (Zodiatas, p. 826). One can picture the blessed apostle thrown prostrate before his enemies in persecution. Yet even so his relationship to the Lord and hope of salvation endured. Jesus taught – “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28 NKJV). The word for “destroyed” is *Apollumi* (ἀπόλλυμι) – “1. Actively – a. ruin, destroy... b. lose; 2. middle. – a. be destroyed, ruined. Of persons perish, die... Of Things b e lost, pass away, be ruined, b. be lost” (BAG, p. 95). Nothing man can do can “destroy” the soul if we ourselves stay true to the Lord.

