

# THE LEXIA EDIFIER

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

**APRIL 28, 2013**

## **NEW TESTAMENT ONLY?**

**Jim Stauffer**

We live in a day and age where in our country there are literally thousands of religions men pursue. Some of these religions make no pretense of a biblical foundation. Many, however, consider themselves to be “Christian” religions.

Now it must be granted that a Christian religion must have its foundation in Christ, the One it claims to follow. Yet many of those who claim a connection to Christianity practice things they can only support by turning to the Old Testament Scriptures for authority.

The Old Testament makes very clear the laws handed down to Moses were specifically for the Israelites as they gathered in the wilderness at Mt. Sinai to receive the law of God. **(Ex. 19)** Jeremiah, then spoke of a day when a new covenant would be made with the people of God. This is the prophecy referred to by the author of the book of Hebrews. **Heb. 8:6** *But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on*

*better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.*

Paul further indicates the Law of Moses was ended with the crucifixion of Christ. **Eph. 2:14** *For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.*

Because the old covenant was replaced by the new, we see Paul correcting Christians when they bound portions of it as a service to God and Christ. The book of Galatians is devoted to correcting just such a problem. **Gal. 1:6** *I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even*

*if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.*

Notice the strong denunciation of those who would attempt to bind any part of the old law upon Christians. He says they would be anathema or accursed. He further indicates those who become, "entangled again in a yoke of bondage", have fallen from grace. **Gal. 5:4** *You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.*

Finally, he exposes the ulterior motive of those who were attempting to bind portions of the old law such as circumcision. **Gal. 6:12** *It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.*

What was their reason? To please friends and relatives who still rejected Christ as the Messiah. This, he says, prevented them from suffering the persecution Paul says will come to "all that live godly in Christ Jesus." (**2 Tim. 3:12**)

Let me suggest you look closely for the motive people have for turning to the old covenant, the one Jesus nailed to the cross. You will find an effort to please someone other than God. And when a man gives into such a perversion of the gospel of Christ, Paul says, "let him be accursed." Let us instead commit ourselves "in well doing unto a faithful Creator." (**1 Pet. 4:19**)

## Conflicts in Calvinism

*Jim Stauffer*

"By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men thus predestinated and fore-ordained are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number is so certain and definite that it can not be either increased or

diminished. Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith or good works or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions or causes moving him thereunto." Confession of Faith, chap. 3, sees. 3, 4, 5.

We remind you of the statement of the creed in our bulletin April 14, stating, "God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass."

If God has unchangeably ordained whatsoever comes to pass while at the same time fixing the number of the elect and the lost so definitely it cannot be increased or diminished we will not be able to find in the pages of Scripture those elect who were changed to reprobates as this would diminish the number of elect and increase the number of the lost.

The problem is we do find just such people and numbers in the Holy Word of God. That the children of Israel were the chosen of God seems to be agreed upon by all. **Ex. 3:7** Then the Lord said, *I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, See also verse 10, Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.*

Yet when these people disobeyed God, He chose to punish them as Paul relates to the Corinthians. Paul uses this example to teach the saints in Corinth to avoid the same behavior that brings the fall of man from the grace of God. **1Cor. 10:5** *Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." 8 We must not indulge in sexual*

*immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.*

The Apostolic writers are replete with warnings to the elect not to fall away. Paul speaks of himself when he says, **1Cor. 9:26** *So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.* Would Paul's rejection have diminished the number of the elect?

Paul tells Timothy of Hymenaeus and Philetus; men who overthrew the faith of some with false teaching. (**2 Tim. 2:17,18**) It is certain that the number of the elect and the reprobate were diminished and increased by such action.

The Hebrew writer tells of those who, *"were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit"* as falling away. (**Heb. 6:4-6**) This certainly would have diminished the elect. The same writer speaks of those who were sanctified by the blood of the covenant choosing to sin willfully. He says their punishment will be worse than those who disobeyed the law of Moses, because they have done despite unto the Spirit of Grace. (**Heb. 10:26-29**) Again, the number of the elect has been diminished.

Paul also told the Galatians they were perverting the gospel of Christ when they returned to the law of Moses for authority for religious practices. **Gal. 5:4** *You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.* These people were in danger of falling from the grace of God and in so doing reducing the number of the elect.

There are so many passages in Scripture that warn us of the potential for unfaithfulness. Friends and brethren, there is very simply a common sense rule needing application here regarding the word of God.

### ***Stuff About Things***

***Robert F. Turner***

A fellow rarely ever thinks that those who

adversely criticize him are real bright. They probably mean well, but just don't know as much about it as he does--or something like that.

Knowing this bit of human nature, I even take my own reactions to criticism with a bit of salt. If I feel wronged I give myself time to cool; if hurt, time to heal; if puzzled, time to think it over. But one little gem keeps popping up that just leaves me with a cold blank feeling. I'm willing to study, cry, or blow my top -- if someone will clue me in.

"The trouble with you is that you keep trying to teach others what YOU BELIEVE the Bible teaches!!"

Yeahhhh!! That's right, but what can I do about it? Doesn't everybody do the same?? Actually, what else can anyone do??

But my critic tells me that others just "teach the Bible" and say it doesn't make any difference how we believe it. Now does this mean it doesn't make any difference whether we believe the Bible or not? If we "teach the Bible" doesn't this mean we teach what the Bible says? And if we teach what it says -- and this will be WHAT WE BELIEVE IT SAYS -- should we not insist that people believe and act accordingly? So my critic makes one more effort to get through my thick skull. (He tries hard to teach me what HE believes...) "There are many different ways to heaven," he says; "and one is as good as the others." (He proves it by drawing a picture of a buggy wheel and showing that all spokes lead to the hub).

Well, I must ask my friend another question. (We agree that I'm stubborn) "Do you believe the Bible teaches that the way to heaven is like spokes in a buggy wheel?"

If he says "No" then he's trying to get to heaven on a buggy wheel instead of divine truth. If he says "Yes" then we have established this issue; He believes the Bible teaches a buggy-wheel way of salvation and I believe the Bible teaches ONE way, truth and life. (**Jn.14:6 Eph.4:4-f**)

And he is trying to teach me what HE believes the Bible teaches, and I am trying to teach him what I believe the Bible teaches... and we are back where we started. What about that???

**Eph. 2:19** So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, **20** being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; **21** in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

**1 Pet. 2:9** But ye are an elect race, royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Psalms 1: 1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scoffers; **2** But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. **3** And he shall be like a tree planted by streams of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. **4** The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. **5** Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. **6** For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish.

**News and Notes:** Let us remember the instruction of our Lord by visiting in whatever way we can, **Mary Czirr, Terry Czirr, Candiss Cason, Wendy Taylor and Jan Patrick. Grant Clothier** will undergo surgery, April 30. Please remember **Irene Hurd** in prayer as her sister passed away this past week.

**Matt. 25:40** *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.*

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We recommend to you the following websites:

***facebook.comlenexachurchofchrist/  
thelenexaedifier.com  
lenexachurchofchrist.org***

Our Meeting times are:

Sunday Bible Classes: 9:30 AM  
Worship Services 10:20 AM&5:00 PM  
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:00 PM

The Church at Lenexa is a congregation of brethren who have been "justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (**Romans 3:24**)

As a result of this justification we have been "delivered out of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (**Colossians 1:13,14**)

We therefore respect the inspired word of God that will completely furnish us unto every good work by speaking only as the oracles of God. (**2 Timothy 3:16,17; 1 Peter 4:11**)

**What must one do to be saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Christ - Heb. 11:6

**Repent** of sin - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be baptized** for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38