

THE LEXIA EDIFIER

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

MAY 26, 2013

MOORE OK. "IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY!"

Jim Stauffer

It saddens and even depresses us to hear the news reports that make us aware of their great suffering. We feel great sympathy for those who became casualties in this storm. They have suffered financially, physically and emotionally with losses of property, health and even life. We have prayed for them and will continue to as relief efforts are under way and will be for some time.

I am no expert on the preventive measures relative to tornadoes. The reports have indicated the area of Moore was as prepared as anyone could have expected. There will be lessons learned and even better preparation will be made before the next one to come along. This will brighten and even secure life, health and property for the future of the survivors.

Those who died, unfortunately have no earthly future. They will spend eternity somewhere as a result of what preparation they made spiritually. We hope and pray they had made preparations for their spiritual life as well as for the physical. The reason we

prepare now for our eternal destiny is because death to our bodies can come so suddenly. One of those interviewed following the storm made this very comment. "It all happened so suddenly!" At that point there was no time to prepare for the storm itself, and there was no time to prepare for the judgment to come to those who died in the storm. All of those preparations both physical and spiritual needed to be made before the storm.

Death can come so suddenly we must have our spiritual house in order each and every day to be prepared at the moment it comes to us. There is no guarantee the preparation we make for the storms that can destroy our earthly homes and life will be successful. However, Jesus promises us our spiritual house will withstand all threats if we follow His word. **(Matt.7:24-27)**

While discussion such as this serves no purpose to those who have died in this storm, it should serve as a wake up call to all of us who have yet to face the uncertainty of

death. As the prophet Amos said, "prepare to meet thy God." (**Amos 4:12**)

In His ministry on earth, Jesus related a story of a rich man so concerned with physical life on earth he spent all his effort to secure it. He made such elaborate preparation he was all set to enjoy a long leisurely life of retirement. Having neglected his spiritual preparation he was dismayed to learn his life would end that very night. Everything he had stored up for his own enjoyment would be left to another and he would face God in judgment unprepared. (**Lk 12:13-21**)

The Bible says we will live on earth 70 years or maybe by reason of strength 80 years. (**Psa. 90:10**) Even if we are fortunate to outlive those numbers, it pales in comparison to eternity.

These facts make it obvious which life should be our priority. Eternity is the life for which the wise man will prepare.

Conflicts in Calvinism

Jim Stauffer

The doctrine of irresistible or efficacious grace is set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith in these words: "*All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call by His Word and Spirit, out of the state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them an heart of flesh; renewing their will, and by His almighty power, determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ: yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace.*"

Five Points of Calvinism pg. 54; Steele, Quinn and Thomas

This is the doctrine that says in essence, God sends His Spirit into the hearts of those elect, that number he has chosen from before the foundation of the world, a number so set it cannot be increased or decreased, to without fail call each and every one of those to accept the gospel call.

They conclude this change of heart brings faith and repentance in the elect. And

they believe this occurs by the power of the Spirit of God and man is powerless to reject the Spirit. As a result of this action they say a man comes freely to God. You can see why we refer to conflicts in Calvinism.

In our previous articles on this subject we have set forth ample Scriptures that indicate just the opposite of this. The gospel of Christ is presented by God's word as the power of God unto salvation based upon the belief of any and every man. (**Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:15,16; Rom. 10:11-13**) There are many more, but these will suffice to show God's message is very persuasive, but acceptance or rejection of it lay solely in the heart of each individual according to his free will. There are those who will choose (yes they are capable of choosing good over evil) to follow Christ, but the majority will not. (**Matt. 7:13,14**)

Here is the Calvinist's explanation of the gospel being preached to all. "*The gospel invitation extends a call to salvation to every one who hears its message. It invites all men without distinction to drink freely of the water of life and live. It promises salvation to all who repent and believe. But this outward general call extended to the elect and the nonelect alike, will not bring sinners to Christ.*" (ibid pg 52)

Of course, they claim the gospel will not bring sinners to Christ because the sinner is totally depraved and cannot choose good over evil. Then why is the gospel preached to all in this outward call? It is obvious it is because men can obey from their hearts. **Rom. 6:16** *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed.*

But they follow up their explanation of the saving power of the gospel by referring to a special inward call in addition to the outward call. This is the call that is irresistible and only comes to the elect. The Spirit of God takes control of the heart of that person and never fails to turn them to God.

Now the Bible only mentions one way

the gospel is extended. That is through preaching and teaching. Every instance of conversion recorded in the Scriptures reveals a person teaching another the gospel of Christ. There are instances where it was preached and obeyed and others where it was rejected. In none of these cases is there any statement that God irresistibly presented His message through the Spirit removing the free will of the person involved.

When large detailed books need to be written to explain what God's word means, we are made to wonder why Paul said we could understand the mystery of the gospel as he wrote it to the Ephesians. (**Eph. 3:3-5**) When you have to read Calvin's *The Institutes of Christian Theology* or study the writings of Augustine to understand God's message, this should be a warning to you. We should all be able to study the word of God and learn what we need to do to be saved. He has revealed His mind through the Holy Spirit for that very purpose. (**1 Cor. 2:10-13**)

It will serve us well to remember when Jesus asked His disciples, "*Who do men say that the Son of man is?*", it was revealed that those men were wrong. Peter had learned from the Father in heaven that Jesus was the Christ. We have the mind of the Father in heaven revealed to us in the form of the Bible. Let us rely on this rather than the concoctions of men.

Telling Others They Are Wrong **J.F. Dancer**

Do you think it is right to tell another person they are wrong in their religious beliefs? Before we answer that let us consider another question - do you think it is right to tell another person they are wrong about anything?

Suppose they are driving on the wrong side of the road (you are riding with them in the car). Should you mention to them that they are wrong? Suppose you are in the kitchen and notice the cook about to put poison into the food instead of salt, should you just ignore it?

Now, in both of these cases most (if not all) of us would say we ought to go ahead and tell them a mistake has been made. Why? Because not to tell them would be to allow them to do something that would put both your life and their's in some danger.

But when we come to religion we want to view things differently. We don't want to tell anyone they are wrong and we don't want anyone to suggest that we might be. Why the change in attitude? Is not our soul as important as our life? Are we not as interested in believing and practicing the right thing in religion as we are in driving and in cooking? Does not our religion have a greater effect upon us and our destiny than driving and cooking? I believe it does.

Paul told Timothy to "reprove, rebuke, exhort" (**2 Tim. 4:2**). To reprove and to rebuke means to tell folks they are wrong. It means to point out wherein people err. And Paul was talking about matters of a religious nature. This was to be done with patience and with teaching of the Bible, but it was to be done! If Timothy was to be a good servant of the Lord there would be times when he would have to say to someone, "YOU ARE WRONG".

Would they like it? Probably many of them would not. But it had to be done anyhow. Why? For the same reason you would tell the driver they were on the wrong side of the road. It is dangerous to continue going the wrong way - in religion as well as on the highway. This is why people should be of the disposition to consider what another has to say in spiritual matters. We ought not refuse to listen when someone disagrees with us. We ought to listen.

There is only one way to heaven (**Jno. 14:6**). There is only one power of God unto salvation (**Rom. 1:16**). There is only one faith (**Eph. 4:5**). Do you want to please God?

Memorial Day

This is the day they called Decoration Day when I was a child. A day devoted to the memory of those who have made grave sacrifices, even unto death to preserve the freedom we have in this country.

It is a noble thing to fight for the freedom to live our lives as we as a nation choose. It is appropriate to remember those who paid the ultimate price for that freedom.

But please do not forget the greatest freedom of all. The freedom from the bondage of sin. And this freedom was purchased by death also, the death of Christ, our Savior. Remember Him each week at His memorial.

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, **Jan Patrick, Mary Czirr, Terry Czirr, Candiss Cason, Irene Hurd, Byron and Wendy Taylor.**

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