

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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

JULY 14, 2013

IMPARTIAL JUDGMENT

Jim Stauffer

Watching tidbits of the George Zimmerman trial, one soon learns the fickle nature of judgment handed down by mankind.

Everyone seems to be an expert on what happened between him and the victim, Mr. Martin. Even though no one observed the altercation between them. There seems to be little if any objective testimony. It seems everyone who testifies gives an indication of their opinion in the matter.

I remember Joe Friday from the old TV show Dragnet saying, "Nothing but the facts, Ma'am." In today's courtrooms it seems the facts are just things to be manipulated as each side sees fit.

It brings to remembrance the words of Jesus as He warned of unfair judgment of others. **Matt. 7:1** *Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured unto you.* This is not to suggest our courts should not provide the service intended. It only reminds us of the common failure of all men when it comes to justice.

We often fail because we are unable to objectively analyze the facts and ignore the improper influence of those around us such as friends, family and even the media.

There is a different judgment coming in the lives of all men. **Heb. 9:27** *And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh judgment.* At this judgment we will have to give an account of ourselves. **2 Cor. 5:10** *For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

The facts concerning this judgment are easy to understand. *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)*

But rather than simply judge us guilty of our sin, God has extended His grace. Jesus, the Son of God shed His own blood to provide forgiveness of those sins. **Matt. 26:28** *for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins.*

Now it becomes our responsibility to obey the gospel in order to receive that

forgiveness. **Mark 16:15** *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.*

If we will but comply with the conditions He has given we can avoid the condemnation that is the justice for our sins. We can become justified by faith in the blood of Christ. (**Rom. 3:24-26**) When we obey Him in faith He becomes the author of our salvation. **Heb. 5:8** *though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation;*

This is the clear path to follow to receive the acquittal God has offered us. But make no mistake, the day of judgment is the day everyone learns who has and who has not accepted His offer. **2 Th. 1:7** *and to you that are afflicted rest with us, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, 8 rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: 9 who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might.*

Attending Bible Classes: What Does It Say About The Christian?

There is one fact that is undeniable about the life of every Christian – he is saying something to those around him by every action of his life. Without any vocal sounds he speaks volumes by his conduct. In this way many a Godly wife has won her husband to the Lord (**1 Pet. 3:1,2**). In this way the shining light of a good life has caused onlookers to glorify God (**Matt. 5:16**). And even after a righteous person has departed from this life, "he being dead yet speaketh" (**Heb. 11:4**).

So it is with reference to our attitudes and actions in the work and worship of the Lord in His church. When a person who loves to attend the Bible classes in the local congregation does so faithfully, that Christian is saying something loud and clear. Think about it for a moment. What is he saying?

(1) He is saying to any who observe him, "I love

the word of God to the extent that I will take the time to attend classes where my knowledge of it can increase."

(2) He is saying to others, "I realize my need of stronger faith as I strive to please the Lord. I know that it cannot be strengthened without the word of God (**Rom.10:17**). Being present for Bible study helps me build on the right foundation."

(3) He is saying by his regular attendance, "I appreciate good and faithful Christians who spend hours studying so that they may teach me. I know that it takes much real dedication on their part to do this good work. I certainly want to be there to hold up their hands and to benefit from the study they have put into each lesson. If they devote so much effort in preparing lessons, I surely want to be present in the classes to listen to their instruction."

(4) He is saying, "I find great value and help from spending time with brothers and sisters in Christ in searching God's word together. I have all too little time as it is with my spiritual family in the local church. This extra hour or so means much to me in building stronger ties with them. I know that we all share a deep concern for our souls. And quite often I am helped by the comments of others in the class."

(5) He is saying, by his consistent presence in the classes, "I appreciate what the elders of the congregation are doing for my benefit as they plan and arrange classes for the edification of the church. I am cooperating with them to accomplish their objective – MY increased knowledge of the truth."

In nearly every place attendance at Bible study needs some improvement. That improvement will come from Christians who have opened their eyes to the grave importance of doing all they can to insure their soul's salvation in the world to come. That improvement will be accomplished-by good men and women who have their hearts set on things above more than on things of the earth (**Col. 3:1,2**). Let me appeal to ALL members to make a careful appraisal of your commitment to the Lord, His word and His kingdom. Let all of us make SURE that we all "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." (**Matt. 6:33**).

Without doubt, when this is done

carefully and prayerfully, the attendance question will be properly answered, and all other questions as well.

- by Barney Keith

Stop Sign Theology

The nature of people can be examined from many different ways. When a person speaks he may suggest where he is from in geography. The way a person dresses may say a lot about their character. Personalities tell a lot about a person. Attitudes exemplify the character of a person. Interacting with a stop sign will also say a lot about a person.

The red octagon sign at intersections is designed for a specific purpose: it tells the driver to stop before proceeding through the intersection. A stop sign is to help the flow of traffic and to keep order in the passage of motor vehicles from one point to another. Accidents often happen at these intersections when the big red sign is either ignored or unseen. When the sign reads STOP, it really means to come to a standstill or cease moving. The way some people treat stop signs says a lot about how people think about law. This is especially true at multiple stop sign areas.

There is the "I do not care" person who approaches the stop sign and never slows down but continues through the intersection without pausing. They feel empowered to ignore safety and law and rush through the crossroads. Why do they drive in this manner? Law does not mean much to them. As long as a law enforcement officer is not present, they will do as they wish to do. There are many people like that when it comes to God's word. They view God's word as a burden and hindrance and they totally ignore its teachings. Paul described these people in **Romans 1:21**, *"Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."*

Then there are those who are the "I slowed down" stop-sign-runner who will pause for a second before continuing through the intersection. They have done a little better than the blatant breaker of law because they have a little conscience about the fact they do not plan

to stop. (Of course they could be slowing down to look for law enforcement and seeing none continue through.) They are law-breakers also because they fail to stop. Sometimes people handle the world of God like that. They read it enough to make them feel better but do not regard a full commitment as necessary. *"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all"* (**James 2:10**).

The person who respects the law and seeks to follow the traffic patterns for safety stops at each intersection marked with a red 8-sided sign. Here is the attitude of a person who regardless of what he may think of the law respects the charge to follow the rules. This person will show an example of faithfulness in their obedience to the whole counsel of God. *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome"* (**1 John 5:3**). What he believes is established upon the old adage: "Speak where the Bible speaks; silent where the Bible is silent"

Attitudes toward the word of God will determine how a person will obey the law of God. People may look at the Bible as simply a book of burdensome laws they are unwilling to subject themselves to. Others look at the Bible with a casual approach that as long as some of what they believe is in the Bible they seem satisfied. The faithful steward will be the one who accepts the truth of the Bible for what it is and willingly subjects themselves to every stop sign, every yield sign, every speed limit sign - "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears" (**1 Samuel 3:9**). What do you do at stop signs?

Kent Heaton

Reflections on the Near Future

There'll be no sodomite unions in heaven

For all such perversions are wrong

And "no marriage or given in marriage"

Will occur in that sanctified throng

There'll be no cell phones in heaven

No twitters or tweets will invade

The joys of our blessed reunion

And no long distance calls can be made

Grant Clothier

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;

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: Remember these in prayer. **Jan Patrick, Mary Czirr, Terry Czirr and Candiss Cason.** **Grant Clothier** continues his therapy and recovery from surgery at Overland Park Nursing and Rehab Center, 6501 W. 75th St. Overland Park, Kansas. **Joe Hurd** will travel this weekend to Mayo Clinic for his annual follow up observation.

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