

# THE LEXIA EDIFIER

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

**AUGUST 18, 2013**

## **WE SHALL REAP WHAT WE SOW** **Jim Stauffer**

It is always wise to be introspective. We should always be on guard against the temptation for complacency. Paul told the Ephesians to "walk circumspectly." (**Eph. 5:15**) This literally means to walk with your vision checking around you on every side. It means to anticipate and prevent evil. It is as the American Standard says, walking carefully as a wise man.

There is much instruction from God's word that should give us the spiritual wisdom to stay on track. When we came up from the waters of baptism it was, "so we also might walk in newness of life." (**Rom. 6:4**) In **Eph. 4:22-24** this is described as 'putting off the old man and putting on the new.' Paul tells the Romans this is, 'minding the spirit rather than the flesh.' (**Rom. 8:5**)

What then is to be said for those who consistently forsake the assembling of themselves with their brethren? The Hebrew writer makes a strong point about the role of faithful attendance to the assembly of the church. **Heb. 10:23** *let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for*

*he is faithful that promised: 24 and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh.*

Ask yourself the question then; what are these brethren thinking when they are somewhere else when brethren are singing praises to God, offering thanks and supplication before Him, observing the memorial to His death in the Lord's Supper, giving of their means and hearing His word taught?

Do they not realize they are mocking God? **Gal. 6:7** *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life.* Do they not realize they will reap what they sow? And do they not understand the difference in sowing to the flesh and sowing to the spirit?

Or have they not read what James

says? **James 1:22** *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves. 23 For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: 24 for he beholdeth himself, and goeth away, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But he that looketh into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and so continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing.*

One is drawn to the conclusion their faith is not strong enough to overcome the world.

**1 John 5:4** *For whatsoever is begotten of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith.*

Rather they have come to love the world.

**1 Joh 2:15** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Their lives then have become as the Apostle Peter warned. **2 Pet. 2:20** *For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. 21 For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 It has happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog turning to his own vomit again, and the sow that had washed to wallowing in the mire.*

## What Would Jesus Not Do!

### Jesus Would Not Become Entangled in the affairs of this world **2 Tim. 2:4**

The Bible says that Jesus was tempted but never did sin (**Matt. 4:1; Heb. 4:15**). This truth means - among other things - that we have in Jesus a perfect example of what a godly life is. Involved in this is the fact that

Jesus refused to be influenced by or entangled in the affairs of this world. His desires and motives moved in the opposite direction.

The affirmation is not that Jesus didn't live in the world. He walked on the earth, became acquainted with people; He ate, drank and took shelter. He was not a wealthy man, but did not condemn all possession and use of money. He becomes our example and proof that you can live in this world and do those things that characterize life "under the sun," but without becoming obsessed with money, enamored of social relationships and entangled in the affairs of this world. If Jesus were here today, He would not become entangled in the affairs of this world.

Paul wrote to Timothy: *"No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier," (2 Tim. 2:4)*. Paul wanted Timothy and all of us to understand the single-minded devotion and discipline required to be a good soldier in the Lord's army.

Josephus, the Jewish historian of that time, described the Roman soldier: "Each soldier every day throws all his energy into his drill, as though he were in action. Hence that perfect ease with which they sustain the shock of battle: no confusion breaks their customary formation, no panic paralyzes, no fatigue exhausts them. All their camp duties are performed with the same discipline, the same regard for security: the procuring of wood, food supplies, and water, as required - each party has its allotted task; nothing is done without word of command. The same precision is maintained on the battlefield; nothing is done unadvisedly or left to chance. This perfect discipline makes the army an ornament of peace-time and in war welds the whole into a single body; so compact are their ranks, so alert their movements, so quick their ears for orders, their eyes for signals, their hands to act upon them. None are slower than they in succumbing to suffering." {War3. 72-108}.

Likewise, Roman troops were a model of discipline and such ideas were in Paul's mind when he chose the image of the soldier to describe the servant of Christ. "Just as the duties of soldiering required freedom from entanglements of the world, so too does

Christian service. And right here we come face to face with the dialectic or dilemma of Christian existence: to be in the world but not of the world," {p.#172, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, by Philip H. Towner, IVP series.} Who do we look to for such a model of self-discipline? Jesus, the captain of our salvation. He would not become entangled in the affairs of this world. Thus His followers must be constantly vigilant for such influences, and prayerful for the strength to imitate Him in this respect.

*"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God," (Rom. 12:2).*

**By Warren E. Berkley**

## **TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE**

*"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit' -- yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." (Jas. 4:13,14).*

Last month a dozen citizens of Aurora, Colorado woke up to a typical Thursday, or so they thought. They went about their daily routines; work, kids to the park, grocery shopping, etc., and then they decided to go to the movies, at midnight, on that day. They did what most of us in America do on a daily basis. Their day was characterized by what they didn't do, nothing too risky, nothing too dangerous, just typical summertime American activities. What they didn't know, and could not fathom was that this would be the last day they would experience on this earth. They were brutally murdered by an evil man, playing the part of a particular actor in the movie, as they watched it.

Events like these remind us that no matter how much control we think we have over our lives the unexpected is lurking in the darkness. Regardless of how much we have our lives planned and mapped out, no matter how sure we are that we know where we'll be and what we'll be doing tomorrow, the hard lesson is that life is fragile and frail. There are

uncountable ways we could find ourselves at death's door. This world is full of evil, disease, trouble, tragedy, uncertainties, and like James tells us, life is like a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

There is a temptation to look at horrifying events like this is and think: "Oh, that will never happen to me. I'll be smarter than that. I'll do a better job of planning and protecting myself than they did." No we won't! How can we? The truth is, no one ever expects it to be them; no one ever expects their lives to completely change so suddenly and senselessly. The stark reality is that tomorrow it could be us.

We must constantly look at our own lives to insure that we are ready for death today because tomorrow might not ever come. Are you ready? Is your life right with God today? Don't delay! Don't let the tragedies of today take away your promise of an eternity in Heaven.

"Today is the day of salvation, tomorrow may be too late..." Remember what the question of a song we often sing asks: "Are you ready, are you ready, are you ready for that day to come?"

**By Aaron C. Andrews**

Jesus and Paul were not contentious, yet they contended earnestly for the truth. They were the greatest fighters of all time. They were moved by two loves. They loved man so much that they fought with determination anything and everything that would hurt man. They loved the truth so much that they fought everything that was in the way of its progress. And they stirred people as none others ever did.

It has been said that it is useless to quote the Bible to one who disbelieves it. But Jesus quoted it to the devil. There is power in an appropriate passage of Scripture that even a disbeliever cannot evade.

**Robertson L. Whiteside**

There'll be no downgrades in heaven  
Where all will be blest there with plenty  
Who heeded the words of the Master  
By investing in Matthew 6:20

**Grant Clothier**

**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, Terry Czirr, Candiss Cason, and Grant Clothier** as he recuperates at home. **Mary Czirr** will have surgery 8/28/13 to remove her cyst.

**Please plan to stop by our booth at Old Settler's Day in Olathe, September 5,6,7, 2013**

**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