

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

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:20 am
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:00 pm

What Dictates Your Morality?

by Jim Stauffer

In the first chapter of his second epistle, Peter tells us there are some things we need to add to our faith. The very first thing he mentions is virtue. The dictionary defines this as, “the quality of moral righteousness or excellence, rectitude.”

Therefore, if one is to be virtuous he must adhere to a standard of morality. Our question is what standard of morality have you chosen?

Some, while claiming to have a biblical morality, actually have taken some aspects of their standard from the Bible but have mixed it with what they enjoy of the world’s standard.

While the dictionary defines virtue generically, the Bible considers virtue to be inseparable from the truth revealed in its pages.

The first requirement for one to have virtue is honesty. **Luke 8:15** *And that in the good ground, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bring forth fruit with patience.* Of course an honest heart cannot reject the truth. **John 17:17** *Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth.* If we honestly accept the truth we will develop the love Jesus speaks of. **Matt. 22:37** *And he said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord*

thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second like unto it is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Now we can see the basis for a biblical morality or the virtue of which Peter speaks.

Just prior to saying we should add virtue to our faith, Peter says in verse 3, *seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue;* Now godliness is something we are to add to our faith and virtue according to verse 6 and Peter says all things that pertain to it are provided by *His divine power.* Godliness is defined as, “to be devout, denotes that piety which characterized by a God-Ward attitude, does that which is well pleasing to Him.” Folks, this draws a line in the sand from where our morality has to come.

Now we should understand two guiding principles about virtue or biblical morality. First, it is defined by the truth of God’s word and is represented by conduct that strives to please Him. Second, this places it in clear contradiction

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to the morality of the world . There is no better place to observe this contradiction than on our television or theater screens. The dress, speech and conduct is much more representative of the works of the flesh described by Paul than the virtue defined by Peter. **Gal. 5:19** *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties, 21 envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that they who practise such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* In sharp contrast to those are the fruit of the Spirit, **Gal. 5:22** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.*

The descent into this worldly morality is aided by improper relationships or friendships. **1 Cor. 15:33** *Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.* Once we become blinded by the ploys of Satan, **2 Cor. 4:4** *in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them.,* we become friends of the world instead of God. **James 4:4** *Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God.* This leads us to the hardened hearts, **Eph. 4:18** *being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart;* and ultimately to a lifestyle of complete disgust in the eyes of God. **Rom. 1:24** *Wherefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts unto uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves: 25 for that they exchanged the truth of God for*

a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Now you will possibly say, “preacher, you have run to the extreme.” I would say to you, “How do you think those people of Romans, chapter 1, came to the condition he describes?”

Some Judgment Day Surprises

The Bible teaches that the day of judgment is an appointed day (**Acts 17:31; Heb. 9:27**). It is certain to come (**2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; 1 Tim. 5:24**). We can be sure that one day our sins will find us out (**Num. 32:23**). The judgment will be universal-every accountable person will have to give account for his or her life (**Rev. 20:12; Matt. 25:31-32**). Justice demands that there be a judgment, because the wicked are not always punished here and the righteous are not always rewarded in this life. There are a number of things about the judgment that will surprise a lot of people.

MANY WILL BE SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THE JUDGMENT IS A REALITY. The atheists, infidels, etc. will be surprised, as will those who do not believe that hell really exists. Jesus pictured the judgment in Matthew, chapter 25, and He earlier had said, "...there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known" (**Matt. 10:26**). We are told that "every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" will be brought before us at the day of judgment (**Ecc. 12:14**). David wrote, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (**Psa. 9:17**). Evidently, many in the Lord's church do not really believe that the judgment is a reality, because they are unfaithful to the Lord, and we are told that such will face "a certain looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (**Heb. 10:27**).

THE TIME OF THE JUDGMENT WILL SURPRISE A LOT OF PEOPLE. Through the years there have been many time guessers who have set the very day for the Lord's return. Needless to say, all of these have failed, and they will continue to fail. Our Lord said, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father" (**Mk. 13:32**). The angels

are coming with the Lord when He comes in judgment (**Matt. 25:31**), but they do not know when it will be. Christ will be the Judge (**Jno. 5:22; 27; Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10**) but while He was here on earth He did not know when the time would be. It is possible that the Father revealed this information to Him after He went back to heaven, but the Bible does not tell us that He did.

Concerning those who have set the time for the Lord's coming, reminds me of the false prophets in the time of Jeremiah of whom it is said, "*The prophets prophesy falsely*" (**Jer. 5:31**). Those who have set the time in the past failed, and those who set the time in the future will likewise fail. Of this we can be sure.

The premillennialists teach that the judgment will not take place when the Lord comes, but some 1,000 or 1,007 years later. However, the Bible uses two words that forever contradict this false doctrine. These two words are "when" and "then." Jesus said, "*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory*" (**Matt. 25:31**). This does not leave room for their false theory at all. We are also told that "*at his coming-then cometh the end*" (**1 Cor. 15:23-24**). Words could not be plainer-yet many refuse to accept what inspiration has to say.

THE PURPOSE OF THE JUDGMENT WILL SURPRISE A LOT OF PEOPLE. The day of judgment will not be a day of inquiry, nor will it be a day of trial to determine one's guilt or innocence. The Lord already knows who are His (**2 Tim. 2:19**) and we are told that the unbeliever is "*condemned already*" (**Jno. 3:18**). Our eternal destiny is sealed when we depart this life. The day of judgment will be like a prisoner appearing before the judge to receive his sentence. He has already been tried and found guilty. The day of judgment will be the day of proper rewards, and it will be the end of all controversy.

THE STANDARD USED AT THE DAY OF JUDGMENT WILL COME AS A SURPRISE TO MANY. They will be surprised to find that the standard will not be human creeds, disciplines, catechisms, manuals, etc., nor will it be the religion of their parents, man's wisdom, morality, comparative excellency, honesty, sincerity, nor feelings. We will be judged by the Lord and His Word (**Jno. 12:48**).

Paul said that we will be judged by his gospel (**Rom. 2:16**), meaning, of course, the gospel that he preached. David wrote, "*...for he cometh, to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth*" (**Psa. 96:13**). John saw, as it were, a picture of the judgment, and he wrote, "*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works*" (**Rev. 20:12**).

THE BASIS FOR JUDGMENT WILL COME AS A SURPRISE TO MANY. We will be judged by our works or deeds (**Ecc. 12:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:10**), and also by our words (**Matt. 12:36-37**). This makes what we do and what we say extremely important.

MANY ARE GOING TO BE SURPRISED AS TO WHERE JUDGMENT WILL BEGIN. Peter has told us that judgment "*...must begin at the house of God*" (**1 Pet. 4:17**). The "*house of God*" is the church (**1 Tim. 3:15**). Just because we are a member of the Lord's church does not guarantee us a home in heaven. The sooner we recognize that the better.

Many religious people will be turned away at the day of judgment, surprised (**Matt. 7:21-23**). They were religious-but religiously wrong. The Lord will say to them, "*...I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*" (**Matt. 7:23**).

Remember - the judgment will be final -it will be eternal. There will be no "second chance" as some would have us believe. All opportunities to serve the Lord will be gone forever. NOW is the time to prepare for the judgment by obeying the truth. Those who fail to obey the gospel will be lost eternally (**2 Thess. 1:7-9**). Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Are you willing to repent of sins, confess your faith in Christ and be baptized for the remission of sins? If you will obey the Lord and be faithful unto death, you will receive that crown of life (**Rev. 2:10**). Make preparation for the judgment today - tomorrow may be too late!

By Virgil Hale

“ People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.”

Attribution: My thanks to **bro. Wayne Goff** for his expertise in re-designing this format.

News & Notes

by Jim Stauffer

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

Psalms 1:1-6 *“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; but his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 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. The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the*

righteous. For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish.”

Let us remember the instruction of our Lord by visiting in whatever way we can, **Jan Patrick, Mary Czirr, Terry Czirr** and **Candiss Cason**.

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.”*

Be sure to check out our facebook page: [facebook.com/lenexachurchofchrist/](https://www.facebook.com/lenexachurchofchrist/)

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**).

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

- **HEAR** the gospel, **Romans 10:17**
- **BELIEVE** in Jesus Christ, **Hebrews 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**

