

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

“Thy faith hath made thee whole”

by Jim Stauffer

These words were spoken by Jesus in Matthew 9:22 to the lady whose faith led her to simply touch His garment trusting His power would heal her.

We live in a society where emphasis is placed on individual achievement bringing value to one's life. This lady had confidence in Jesus who described Himself as One who had no place of His own to lay His head. This confidence was because she had either witnessed or heard testimony of His power. It was who He was and not His appearance or reputation among nobility.

The value of knowing Jesus is again illustrated in Acts chapter 3 when Peter and John are confronted by the lame man at the door of the temple as he seeks alms from all who pass by. Peter explains he has no money to give him but offers something else. **Acts 3:4** *And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.”* **5** *And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.* **6** *But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name*

of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” **7** *And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. He received by way of the power of Jesus Christ a gift of far greater value than money could buy.*

And while our physical health is far greater than monetary things, we learn from many examples in the New Testament there is something of even greater value than our physical health. Being made whole by faith in Jesus has an even deeper meaning than this.

Peter and John proceed to preach the gospel of this Jesus the Christ and are subsequently arrested by the captain of the temple for proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus. When interrogated by the High Priest they were afforded an additional opportunity to preach Jesus and did so as follows. **Acts 4:8** *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled*

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 man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

At this point we begin to understand being made whole by faith in Jesus has been elevated to the spiritual realm of health. Yes, Jesus healed the sick while He was on earth, but this clearly is representative of His healing our spiritual sickness, sin, as explained by Paul. **Rom. 3:20** *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 2 Cor. 5:21 Him who knew no sin, he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Obviously then our faith in Christ is the basis of the righteousness or justification necessary for us to be reconciled to God and to be pleasing in His sight. **Heb. 11:6** *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must*

believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Helping People Discover What We Have Discovered

Tucked inside many Sunday newspapers is Parade magazine. A recent issue carried this brief:

Q: I've begun hearing certain words on my soap opera that I didn't think were allowed on daytime TV. Has the FCC changed its regulations?

A: No. According to a spokesperson, "the FCC remains committed to fair and appropriate indecency enforcement consistent with the First Amendment." However, enforcement of rules against indecency is measured by contemporary community standards, which may evolve over time. – June 27, 2010 – Parade, p.#2

It is both interesting and enlightening to see the words "standards" and "evolve" in the same sentence. But if you have been wondering about what you've heard on TV, this may be the answer you expected but don't like. The FCC doesn't apply an absolute moral standard. They monitor society, and eventually approve of what society approves.

In 1996 Robert H. Bork in his book *Slouching Towards Gomorrah* wrote, "What we experience now is . . . an assault that aims at, and largely accomplishes, sweeping changes across the entire cultural landscape. Large chunks of the moral life of the United States, major features of its culture, have disappeared altogether, and more are in the process of extinction. These are being, or have already been, replaced by new modes

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of conduct, ways of thought, and standards of morality that are unwelcome to many of us." Looks like Bork was right.

This is the battle front for people who believe God's Word and are committed to obey Jesus Christ. Our challenge is to communicate to the world God's absolute moral standard, yet to an audience that may be "slouching towards Gomorrah." Our friends, neighbors and co-workers may be suspicious of any claim that God's authority and truth deserves our response and that Jesus is the answer to our spiritual need. Most, like the FCC, are satisfied that morals and standards evolve and are moved along by the force and self-interests of the mainstream.

One way we should confront this is, to be prepared to defend the integrity of the Bible. To do this, first, you'll need to read it yourself and become familiar with the history, the books, the people, the message and the promises of the Bible. Do you have that nailed down? Can we effectively help others discover something we have not yet discovered?

The Bible claims to be the Word of God and diligent readers will discover the internal evidence as they read and study. It is not sufficient, I think, to read books about the Bible instead of reading the Bible. Studies focused on "evidences" can help, but the help is enjoyed only by those who have read the book that is so rich in evidence of its' own integrity.

"The story is told of an American explorer who visits a remote, Pacific island jungle village. Amazingly, he finds a man in the village who speaks English. Even more remarkable is that the man is carrying a

Bible.

'Oh, in America, we have outgrown that Bible,' the explorer says, pointing to the Bible.

'Lucky for you, our tribe hasn't outgrown the book,' responds the native. Then he adds, 'Otherwise we'd be enjoying you for dinner tonight'." (*Seven Things You Better Have Nailed Down, Robert Wolgemuth, p.#56*).

We live in a nation where many believe they have "outgrown the Bible." We cannot show them the way without discovering the book we want them to discover.

By Warren Berkley

Are You a Branch of the Vine, Jesus?

John 15:1 *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

If you are inclined to think denominations are the branches Jesus spoke of, a little reflection will show you how impossible that is. He meant individuals, not denominations. And the diversity among the denominations also shows that they are not branches of the vine. No one ever saw a vine with branches so different as are the denominations. They are not alike, and they bear different kinds of fruit. It is impossible for them to be natural branches of the same vine.

R.L. Whiteside

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.”

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 1:1-6 “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, Terry Czirr, Candiss Cason** and **Pat Blackstock**.

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.”

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**).

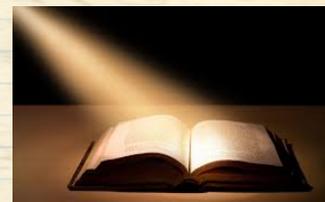
As a result of this justification we have been “delivered out of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (**Colossians 1:13-14**).

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**).

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:
Jim Stauffer

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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**

