

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

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

November 24, 2013

thelenexaedifier.com

lenexachurchofchrist.org

PRODUCED BY:
THE LENEXA CHURCH OF CHRIST
7845 Cottonwood Drive
Lenexa, Kansas 66216

TELEPHONE
913-764-9170

EDITOR:
Jim Stauffer

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

The Security of our Salvation

by *Jim Stauffer*

Man was created to be an eternal being. **(Gen. 2:7)** Paul speaks in detail of the transformation that will occur in our bodies from the mortality on earth to the preparation of immortality that will enter into heaven. **(1 Cor. 15:20-24,51-54)**

We will live eternally in the presence of God or separated from Him to be eternally punished. **(Mat. 25:31-46)** This place of punishment, a lake of fire, is called hell by God. **(Mat. 10:28; Rev. 20:15)**

Our sin is what separates us from God and in the absence of forgiveness relegates us to this eternal abode. **(Isa. 59:1,2; Rom. 6:23)**

Jesus, then has come as the solution to this problem as our redeemer **(Col. 1:14)**, as the sacrifice for our sins **(Eph. 5:2)**, that we might "not perish but have eternal life." **(John 3:16)**

This path of redemption is a free gift from God, but one that must be accepted by the recipient. **(Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 6:23)** We must surrender to His will in order to be forgiven of our sins. We cannot remove our prior sins by living a "good life" from this point onward. We must consent to the regenerative process of the new birth and put on Christ in baptism. **(Titus 3:5; Joh. 3:3-5; Gal. 3:26,27)** There is only one person through whom such change can take place. There is only one person we can follow to

eternal life. **(Joh. 14:6)** Following that person requires complete trust. We must truly believe in Him above all else to become children of God. **(John 1:12)**

Once this faith is acted upon, we achieve peace, that is harmony between us and God. **(Rom. 5:1)** This is truly the peace that Paul says "passeth understanding". **(Phil. 4:4-7)**

What great news that man shall live eternally and that God has provided a way to avoid the condemnation our sin brought on us! Our confidence is in the hope provided by a God who cannot lie and thus guarantees us His promise of salvation is true. **(Heb. 6:17-20)**

Now, let us review that promise and how it translates into the security we desire for our souls. Jesus came to save from eternal punishment all those who believe in Him. **(John 3:16)** We understand believing in Him requires action on our part to accept this salvation. We must obey Him **(Heb. 5:8,9)** by putting Him on in baptism **(Gal. 3:26,27)** which results from our faith in Him. **(Mk. 16:15,16)** Therefore, when Peter tells us we are "guarded through faith unto a salvation", he is not saying we cannot fall back into sin and reject God. He is saying our faith in Jesus must be maintained and live out in our lives as long as we live. **(Rev. 2:10)** In other words

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

our salvation is secure as long as our faith is in Christ. This is what leads Paul to say, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day." **(2 Tim. 1:12)**

ESSENTIALS TO SPIRITUAL PROGRESS

Jesus wants to change your life! God wants nothing but your success! God provides us with the tools to change our character. We have unlimited potential because of the spiritual blessings we received when we were adopted by God in obedience to the gospel. Everyone of us can become imitators of God, **(Eph. 5:1)**. But yet, we are all aware of a sad truth: some never complete the process of discipleship. Some outwardly appear that they have obeyed, but they have not really been converted to Christ. This is why we must learn what is involved in turning to Christ. What is essential to our spiritual progress?

We Must Make A "Clean Break" With The World: -- So many new Christians crash and burn because of divided affections. Too many people try to serve God while holding on to their former lifestyle. Progress always consists in taking one or another of two alternatives; abandoning the attempt to combine them. (Albert Schweitzer). Christianity is an either/or commitment! Why is this so important? Consider that non-Christians often hold to different value systems and have different goals and hopes in this life. Christians stand apart from this because they realize what is truly important in life. In speaking of the need to make a clean break with the world, Paul called on Christians to "come out and be separate" **(2 Cor. 6:17)**. Yes, this can be difficult, but eternity in heaven is worth every ounce of effort we can muster!

For example, there are lines that the Christian must not cross. Think of how our behavior should change once we begin growing up in Christ. Read the following passages and see if you can find identifying marks of proper Christian conduct: **(Ti. 2:3; Jas. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:12; 3:2)**. Clear and

distinct lines have been drawn as far as who we associate with **(1 Cor. 15:33)**. Christians need to evaluate the places they go **(1 Pet. 4:3,4)**, what they say, think, and how they deal with people. Our lives must be marked by sheer determination to avoid all sin and error! Why? There is no middle ground. Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other" **(Matt. 6:24)**. There should be no room left in our heart, soul, or mind to love the world.

This Involves Courage: -- Ask, "am I willing to take a real risk based on my trust in what God can do?" In **Lk. 14:26-33**, Jesus taught us that there is a cost with Christianity that **MUST** be counted, and if we are to be successful, then we must be totally committed to Jesus Christ. And yes, there may be some major changes we have to make in serving God. It may involve the loss of so-called friends, rejection by co-workers, etc. And that is where brothers and sisters in Christ come in. Those who have been in Christ for a long time must not forget that new Christians are making major changes in their lives and will need their support, encouragement, and most importantly, their friendship. We need to be here for each other! The courage to change comes out of character. What kind of person am I? Do I have any "root" in myself? Do I have what it takes to deal with difficulty? Courage that comes from character is a matter of choice on our part.

We Must Become Committed To The Conversion Process: Salvation requires more than a "whim" or a "passing moment" Commitment involves a conscious decision to act! When we obeyed the gospel, we went on record, confessing our loyalty to Jesus Christ and our desire to live for Him. Have we made a promise to ourselves to do what we have decided? You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one (James Anthony Froude). Just the possession of a desire to get to heaven is not enough. We must act on our desire.

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

We must make a little progress each day in finishing what we have started. Paul wrote, "But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability" (**2 Cor. 8:11**). God calls us to move in faith, not with a wavering, wishy-washy spirit. This principle is seen in **Jas. 1:6-8**; But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." God has no room for double-mindedness! "Draw near to God and He will draw to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded," (**Jas. 4:8**). We cannot indefinitely "think about" what we are going to do -- we must make commitment to actually do it!

Are you willing to acknowledge your faith? Will you confess your faith? (**Rom. 10:9,10**). Will you confess the truth? (**Eph. 4:15**). If you will, you are an imitator of Jesus. The person who does not continually confess his faith is not likely to keep it. We must bear witness to the truth in every situation and verbalize our commitment to live for Christ. Are you maintaining your confession? "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (**Heb. 10:23**). God calls on us to make a commitment to truth. Doing so will ensure spiritual progress. Are you making spiritual progress?

By Matthew H. Allen

STARTING WITH ME!

A member of a certain church told me that the son of an elder there is guilty of an obvious moral wrong. My informant said that because of money, family ties, church politics, etc. nothing would ever be done about it. It was a sordid picture indeed. Ideally, the father should seek to correct his son; or failing this, ask a friend (of family) to

work, with the situation. And father, friend and the whole church should be more concerned with saving the boy's soul than with preserving their individual and collective pride. In **1 Cor. 1:5**; the writer spends one verse on the incestuous man, and the rest of the chapter on the pride-filled church that would do nothing about it.

So-- I suggested to my concerned informer, that he go to the boy. Acknowledge the weakness of the church; that **nothing** would likely be done under the prevailing circumstances (and the boy knows this as well or better than anyone else) but plead with the boy on the basis of **his obligation to God**. This is unchanged, regardless of what others may or may not do. Show the boy that **you** are concerned, and that **you** will pray and work with him to make things right with God.

My listener was amazed, shocked at my suggestion. ME get involved in a thing like that?? You must be out of your mind!!! The family might turn on me. Beside that, I am in business and can't afford to take such chances of losing customers.

He would have said more, but I interrupted. Tell me again----what is wrong with that church of which you are a member??

Why, they won't do anything about the sins of the members. They are so wrapped up in their money---their little cliques and family ties---that they would let the church go to hell before they would move a hand. Why they-- and he stopped short in his embarrassment. They---Yeahhh!

Well son, whoever, wherever you are, your sin is no less because **they** are weak. Will **you** be a MAN about it?

Robert F. Turner

Philippine Relief

Speaking of starting with me. Let each of us do some soul searching about our ability to assist with the needs of the brethren in the Philippines.

Feel free to contact:

Harry Osborne - harryrosborne@live.com
405-381-9055

Ron Halbrook - ronhalbrook@gmail.com

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.”

Remember the sick by visiting in whatever way we can, **Jan Patrick, Alma Baumgartner, Terry Czirr, Candiss Cason** and **Pat Blackstock**. **Frances Blackstock** has suffered a stroke. Is currently in **Lawrence Memorial Hospital**.

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

THIS BULLETIN PRODUCED BY:
The Lenexa Church of Christ
7845 Cottonwood Drive
Lenexa, Kansas 66216
913-764-9170



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**

