

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

MAY 4, 2014

“SELECTIVE HEARING”

by Jim Stauffer

I have been accused of this a time or two by my wife as I suspect many others have as well. Sometimes if I am reading the paper or a book, my attention is not redirected to her when she speaks. That generally leads to a comment later on. “Well, I told you but you just don’t listen to me.” On those occasions she is exactly right. I am listening to other thoughts.

There are reasons for selective hearing. One can be, as in my case, that primary attention is elsewhere. Book, newspaper, ballgame on TV. It could also be the message is one we do not want to hear and that could be for a multitude of reasons.

Spiritually, the most dangerous reason for selective hearing is we are more in tune with ideas expounded by men we respect than we are of the actual teachings of God through the scriptures.

Jesus quotes from Isaiah in describing the unwillingness of His countrymen to hear His message. **Matt. 13:13** *Therefore speak I to them in parables; because seeing they see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.* ¹⁴ *And unto them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall in no wise understand; And seeing ye shall see, and shall in no wise perceive: 15 For this people’s heart is waxed gross, And their ears are dull of hearing, And their eyes they have closed; Lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And should turn again, And I should heal them.*

This same problem exists with people today who are quick to turn to the teachings of Jesus when they comport with their preconceived notions of spirituality.

When this is done, it often results in one taking a passage out of context and distorting the intent of the teacher, whether it be Christ or His apostles.

One often heard is that since Jesus said to ‘turn the other cheek’ in **Mat. 5:39**, it is wrong for a government to practice capital punishment. This, of course, confuses the responsibility of an individual disciple of Christ in his response to evil at the hands of another, with the role of government in the administration of justice according to the law. (**see Rom. 13:1-7**) It is an abuse of the teaching of scripture designed to appease a position already held by one.

Contradictions such as this occur frequently. Many love the “golden rule” of **Mat. 7:12**, but then ignore the plain teaching of verses **21-23** of the same chapter that make it clear one must adhere to God’s will exclusively in order to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Still others tell us **John 3:16** means all one has to do is believe Jesus is the Son of God to have everlasting life with no responsibility to obey attached. By doing this they ignore the clear teaching of Jesus in **Mark 16:16** that requires obedience in baptism in order to be saved. The Hebrew writer supports the concept of belief plus obedience when he states Jesus is “*the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him.*” (**Heb. 5:8,9**)

We have all been chastised for the “judging” Jesus condemned in **Mat. 7:1-5**. But it is clear that is judging the hearts or motives of others rather than determining the truth of biblical teaching on a subject. Paul praised the Bereans for, “*examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so.*” (**Acts 17:11**) He further instructed the Thessalonians to, “*prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*” (**1 Th. 5:21**) This demands all men discriminate between the teaching of men and the word of God. John further commands us to “*prove the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*” (**1 Joh. 4:1**) He later tells us those false prophets have gone beyond God’s word and no longer abide in the doctrine of Christ. As a result he admonishes us not to give them greeting or grant them hospitality, that we may avoid being partakers in their evil deeds. (**2 John 9-11**) Now this clearly demands judgment or discrimination of truth from error on our part.

When we allow ourselves to consider all of God’s word, rather than simply selecting the part we like, we can understand what is meant by such passages as **Mat. 7:1-5**. Of course I cannot read the heart or the motive of another and in most cases should not try. But I can, in light of what the Bible says determine if he is teaching the things revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, and it is my duty to do so. If and when I determine such teaching to be false, I am obligated to say so.

Another outgrowth of this plea not to judge is the proud statement encouraging people to choose the

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church of your choice. Serve God in the way you choose. We are all following different paths to the same place. Jesus said, **John 14:6** *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.* While many construe this to be just a generic statement calling on mankind to love the Lord, Paul says the way of the Lord is specific. **Eph. 4:1** *I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, 2 with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.*

No wonder the Lord said of mankind, **Matt. 7:13** *Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. 14 For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it.*

To my brethren and all men everywhere, let me suggest we tune our ears to the Lord and hear all He has to say as God told Peter, **Matt. 17:5** *While he was yet speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

Scientific Versus What Really Happened

by Terry Benton

People need to know the difference between "scientific" and "what really happened". Today the word "scientific" is used to mean what can be proven by natural means. Science relies on the constancy of natural laws. But, what they don't often acknowledge is that "natural laws" have not always been constant. Science and the scientific method are limited and they work entirely within a box defined as "natural". Because of prior commitment to explain all things naturally, they are often just wrong about things of the past and how to properly evaluate it.

The following is true:

- 1) It may not be scientific that Noah and his family and animals were sealed in the Ark, but it is what happened.
- 2) It may not be scientific that Moses could stretch out a rod and open the Red Sea, but it is what happened.
- 3) It may not be scientific that water can be turned instantly into wine, but it is what Jesus actually did.
- 4) It may not be scientific that a man could be made to walk instantly who was lame for 40 yrs, but it is what Jesus made to happen.
- 5) It may not be scientific that a man can be made in mature form from the dust and not through natural parents, but it is what really happened.

6) It may not be scientific that a woman can be made from a man's rib, but it is what happened.

7) It may not be scientific that a man could rise from the dead, but that is what happened.

So, let not people deceive you into thinking that "scientific" is the same as "factual", or that "scientific" is even better than "religious". "Religious" does not mean fairytale and make-believe. Although there can always be false religious beliefs. Naturalism is a false religious belief. Religion means what one believes, which can often be based in the strongest factual evidence, or can be based upon no evidence. The word "religious" does not mean "non-factual", but ones' choice of religious belief may be nothing more than superstition based on little to nothing or it can be based upon solid rock facts (**Matt.16:18**).

"Scientific" can and often does mean "any naturalistic explanation we can come up with, whether it is true or not". When one complains that creation is not scientific but religious, there is an element of truth to that. But, creation is factual whether it is "scientifically" validated or not. However, general macro-evolution is not actually factual and non-religious. There are religious elements to the naturalistic religious beliefs that inhere within the general theory. All-naturalism is not anything but belief or philosophy. Science cannot prove that all-naturalism is all there is. So, their very premise is not itself "scientific".

All it means, when they say Creation or the story of man's origin is not "scientific" is that they have not figured a way for it to be "natural" or according to the common way things are naturally done. Obviously our created world is most unnatural, and there are no observations of such a life-filled place commonly springing naturally into existence. The creation is supernatural, and the Lord Jesus believed the Genesis account of it, and in fact was the Creator Himself. (**John 1:1-4**). What is factual is what He said (**Acts 1:3; John 20:30,31**). What is commonly taught as "scientific" in regard to origins in school text-books is simply a false "naturalistic" explanation that is given because men got duped into thinking that "naturalistic" is "factual". No, naturalistic is simply philosophical, and a huge mistake in some cases, because God has indeed done many mighty works that cannot be classified as naturalistic or scientific. Do not be deceived by the philosophy of men (**Col.2:8f**). Science explanations may be one thing, and what really happened may be entirely something else, like what God said He did.

PRIVACY

by Colly Caldwell

"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret" (**Eph. 5:11,12**)

One of the more twisted concepts to reach "political correctness" in our current social environment is the idea that one's personal life is inviolable (immune from

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scrutiny or public censure.) As with most "politically correct" notions, this one is applied in a terribly subjective and inconsistent manner and is often interjected when one wishes to act against traditional moral and ethical standards. Jesus said, "This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God" (**Jno. 3:19-21**).

A while back, an article appeared in the local newspaper concerning a judge in Provo, Utah charged with bigamy. He is a "Latter Day Saint" (Mormon) who first married in 1965. He has subsequently married two of his wife's sisters, one in 1975 and another in 1985. While the judge was fighting to maintain his position on the bench, his attorneys argued that what he does in the privacy of his home and personal relationships does not keep him from being an impartial, fair judge. They said that, even though he is breaking the laws of his state that he swore to uphold, his privacy should be respected.

The applications being made in our country to individual right of privacy are truly amazing. It is acceptable in our society to deliberately abort an unborn child. This murder is sanctioned on the ground that the mother has the right of personal privacy and that allows her to choose to take another human life, to kill her baby. And gay rights activists argue that their right to privacy should be enough for the state to support their homosexual and lesbian marriages. While we all cherish our constitutional right to confidential personal, private information and activity, the framers of our constitution did not intend to give citizens the right to break the law, redefine values, and engage in every sort of perversion under the cloak of some generic right to privacy.

Beyond the evil of these deeds, however, is the fact that they are not "private." Those advocating abortion are marching in the streets. Those who want to take homosexual mates are "out of the closet" and into our homes via the air-waves. And this judge who feels free to break the laws of his own state sits in judgment on criminals in behalf of everyone else.

Be all that as it may, God will judge all our "private" deeds, even those allowed by our courts (**Rom. 1:18-32**). Moses warned Israel to do God's Will and "if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out" (**Num. 32:23**). He further said, "You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance" (**Psa. 90:8**). Paul said, "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life*" (**Gal. 6:7,8**).

Some of the great stories of the Bible are aimed at dispelling notions of sinning with impunity and escaping judgment because evil could be hidden from God. Achan hid spoils from Jericho but God publicly exposed him (**Jos. 7:10-26**). David took Bathsheba and Nathan

came to say, "*Thou art the man*" (**2 Sam. 12:7**). Therefore, David prayed, "*Cleanse me from secret faults*" (**Psa. 19:12**).

Solomon said, "*He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy*" (**Prov. 28:13**). Reflecting on his own guilt and subsequent forgiveness, David said, "*When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity, I have not hidden. I said 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin*" (**Psa. 32:3-5**).

Privacy is precious. But rather than providing the hidden cave for immorality and ungodliness, the privacy we cherish is a shelter for our modesty. It is a refuge for godly propriety a haven for life and comfort, a retreat in which peace and joy can be found. It is a home providing communion with our families and friends. It is a sanctuary of prayer to God.

Sins Are Washed Away at Baptism

Patrick Donahue

Acts 22:16 reads "... Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

The sentence structure of **Acts 22:16** is similar to the following examples where the word "and" connects and shows dependence (the second upon the first):

everyday example - Cut my yard, and receive your five dollars pay

James 4:7 Resist the devil, and he will flee from you

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you

Luke 10:28 ... this do, and thou shalt live

Matthew 13:15b lest ... they ... should be converted, and I should heal them

So **Acts 22:16** is saying the washing away of Saul's sins was dependent upon his water baptism. As a matter of fact, the verse shows the following three things happened at the same time:

1. "be baptized"
2. "wash away thy sins"
3. "calling on the name of the Lord" (which all admit is necessary to salvation)

Acts 22:16 therefore proves Paul's sins were not forgiven at the point of his faith on the road to Damascus. Instead he was forgiven at the time of his baptism.

Psalms 119:97 *Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.*

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;

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a 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:

Psa. 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 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 the 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.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

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NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

J.R. DANIEL, LILLIE KEECH,
IRENE HURD AND PAT
CLOTHIER ARE ALL
RECUPERATING AT HOME
FROM SURGERIES AND
TREATMENTS.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY
AND WEDNESDAY IS
CURRENTLY IN ZECHARIAH AS
WE TAKE THE MINOR
PROPHETS IN ORDER.



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins

Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10