

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”

JULY 6, 2014

GLORIOUS SERVITUDE

Jim Stauffer

The person who shies away from speaking the truth to his friends or for that matter, his enemies, is either lying about what he believes or is too cowardly to speak it. We understand this as hypocrisy. Every expression of the role of a disciple of Christ describes a bold approach to bringing the truth of His gospel to a world in darkness.

Jesus said in **Mat. 5:16**, *Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.* By this phrase He defined the role of one who would be blessed by God. As He spoke, He warned not to hide your light under a bushel, but to let it shine so all could benefit from the light. This, admittedly, in a world of unbelievers, calls for courage. This role is not one for personal glory but rather to bring glory to God.

Before His crucifixion Jesus took the time to make clear the role His disciples would play in the dissemination of the gospel to the world. He washed the feet of His disciples to teach them to serve. In that lesson, He warned them service would not exalt them personally. **John 13:16** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, a servant is not greater than his lord; neither one that is sent greater than he that sent him.* The lesson was, they would always be servants in the Kingdom and as servants they would be treated the same as the King had been. That treatment would not necessarily be good, He told them in **Matt. 10:24,25**, *A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his lord. 25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his teacher, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household!*

Being a servant is not always a pleasant role in the short term. The servant is always treated secondarily to the Master. **Luke 17:10** *Even so ye also, when ye shall have done all the things that are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which it was our duty to do.* The reference here to unprofitable is an indication of our worthiness to be servants in the Kingdom in the first place. We have been translated from the power of darkness, ruled by the prince of this world (Satan) into the Kingdom of the Son of His love. **(Col. 1:13)** A proper appreciation of the kindness of the King in this case will enable us to serve as we should.

As servants then we must understand how we serve. In Acts chapter 20 when Paul was visiting the elders of Ephesus in Miletus, he reminds them of his boldness in preaching while in their community. He says he *did not shrink from declaring anything profitable* and includes teaching both *the Jews and Greeks repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.* The net result of course was the conversion of many souls, but for him personally as the servant of the Lord, he said, *I am pure from the blood of all men.* A reading of this text tells us this is a very important outcome for the servant of the Lord.

This is reminiscent of the message God gave Ezekiel when he assigned him the role of “watchman.” **Ezek. 33:8** *When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die, and thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way; that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thy hand. 9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it, and he turn not from his way; he shall die in his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

When Paul later instructs Timothy in his preaching, he tells him, *“But be thou sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill thy ministry.”* **(2 Tim. 4:5)** That work he says earlier is to *“preach the word, be urgent in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching.”* **(2 Tim. 4:2)**

Clearly the role of the servant of the Lord is to be a herald of the gospel of Christ. **Acts 8:4** *They therefore that were scattered abroad, went about preaching the word.* The importance of the message is emphasized here when brethren who were fleeing for safety from persecution, taught others the very message they were being persecuted for.

So, is the life of the servant all bad with no reward? Certainly not! One who has been *“translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of his love.”*, has benefits. **1 John 3:1** *Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this cause the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.* While being servants in the kingdom, we also are the children of the King. What could be better?

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Our path is one to glory. Paul puts the suffering of the servant and the glory to be received in perspective.

Rom. 8:16 *The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: 17 and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified with him. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward.*

There is good reason then for the servant of God to be bold and courageous in telling the "good news". He is a child of the King and will be rewarded handsomely for his service if he is a faithful servant.

Paul spoke of the "*crown of righteousness*" that awaited him for such faithful service and said the same awaits all those "*that have loved his appearing.*" (**2 Tim. 4:8**)

We must give an account to Christ in the day "*in which he will judge the world in righteousness*" when each will "*receive the things done in the body according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*"

The child of God must remember it is a good thing to stand proudly behind the message of the Father in heaven.

FALSE STANDARDS OF AUTHORITY

The only standard of authority for the church of Christ is the words of Christ and the apostles as revealed in the New Testament. However, from time to time, we hear various "false standards" advanced as authority for certain acts. Sectarians have been using these "standards" all along. It is not difficult to find brethren aping them. Acting on the basis of any one of these "standards" would be unlawful. Notice now a brief discussion of some false standards:

Does Good--Must Be Right

We often hear people say of some religious practice: "It does good, or it is good, therefore it must be right (lawful, scriptural). This is the theory that the end justifies the means. We cannot do "evil" (unscriptural things) that good may result. (**Rom. 3:3-8.**) To be scriptural or lawful a thing must be good, but not all morally good things are right for the church to do. Mechanical music is right in the home; but not in the church. Ham is good at the breakfast table, but not on the Lord's Table. Too, some things may be right for an individual or a secular institution to do and not lawful for the church to perform. The P.T.A. or some civic club might have an auction or a box supper, but it would not be right (scriptural) for the church to engage in such practices. One man argued with me that the Nazarene church must be right (lawful), because of the good it was doing and the growth it was making. He was using this false "standard." Because some human institution does a "good work" does not mean that it is right for the church to do this thing. Schools, P.T.A.'s, and other human institutions have human authority for their practices. We must have Divine authority for our practices in the church.

Great, Wise Men Favor This

Denominational people often quote some "great" religious leader to prove their point. When, for example, shown from the Bible that baptism is immersion, they quote Barnes, and Clarke, or some other scholar to "prove" that these great men taught differently and then they will say, "Do you think you are smarter than these men?" They are using a false "standard." Our faith must not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (**1 Cor. 2:5.**) There has been only one Who didn't make mistakes--Jesus Christ. Even Peter, an apostle, practiced error at one time. (**Gal. 2:11ff.**) We should never have so much confidence in one man or group of men, but that we can remain faithful to God even though they go astray.

Brethren are often found using this "standard" by saying: **The Practice of Brethren**

"Faithful brethren" have practiced this for many years. The statements of the "pioneers," of even some more recent persons, or the activities of some congregation are often cited as authority. One can "prove" the Missionary Society "right" by such pioneers as Campbell, Lard, and McGarvey. Practices of churches today can be "proved" right and wrong by the writings of preachers now alive. Some practices can be "proved" right and wrong in the writings of the same man.

Men change

Our faith should not stand in them. Some things may be wrong, but if practiced consistently for a long period of time become traditions. The Book of God warns against this. (**Matt. 15:1-14; Col. 2:8.**) Suppose a man or a congregation has practiced something for as many years as they can remember. Does that make the practice right? No-- emphatically! The authority of God is the only thing that makes a religious practice right. Have you noticed that when brethren use this false "standard" they are begging the question? When one says that "faithful" brethren have practiced a certain thing, that is assuming the thing to be proved. Were the brethren "faithful" in practicing the particular thing? Again: Our faith must not stand in the wisdom of men-- not even our brethren.

Rather Do Wrong Than Nothing

When those of us who are content to do God's work in God's way speak out against some practice of our brethren we often hear this false "standard": "I had rather do wrong than do nothing at all." Inactivity is not right, to be sure. One who makes this statement is guilty of fallacious reasoning. He is assuming that the only choices are wrong or nothing. This is not true. We have the choice of (1) doing nothing and being wrong, (2) doing wrong, or (3) doing right. Of course we should do the latter.

Denominations Are Doing It

Sometimes when contemplating the doing of something, brethren will say: "The denominations are doing this and we need to do it," or "We must make a good impression on the people of our community." God's people have always been warned about pride, and trying to please men rather than God. If in pleasing God, it pleases men--good, but we are not to please men at the expense of displeasing God. (**1 Thess. 2:4; Gal. 1:10.**) The Old

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

Testament was written for our learning. We can learn from Israel the danger of wanting to be like the "nations about us." To have a building, radio program, orphanage, hospital, or an advertising program because the denominations have something similar (and usually much better, so far as the mechanics of the thing is concerned) is to act by false authority.

Conclusion

Let those of us who have named the name of Christ be content to do God's will not on the authority of any of these "standards." They, in and of themselves, are not sufficient reason for us to do anything. Let us do God's will because GOD WANTS IT THAT WAY.

By Ferrell Jenkins in Truth Magazine; May, 1962; Vol. VI, No. 8, pp. 17-18

MY NAME

When I was born my parents named me. It is a name I wear with pride. It is a name that I protect. It is a name that honors my father here on earth. However, there is another name by which I am named, that means more to me than the name my father here on earth gave. The name that means even more to me is the name Christian. (Lee Greenwood sings the song "I am proud to be an American." It is truly a blessing for all that are named by this name. Lee goes on to say he "would defend the right to be called an American."). We too, should be willing to defend the name Christian.

Think for a moment about how special it is to be a child of God, a Christian. Peter tells us we are a special people, a holy people, and a royal people (**1 Pet. 2:9**). The way we wear the name of our Lord says everything about Him, does it not? As much as each of us are proud of our family name and seek to protect it from disrepute, we should be even more aware of honoring our Father in heaven.

First, it means we try to be like Him. We want to glorify Him so that others will see Him in us. Our very character and disposition is to be His. As the song states, you and I may be the only Bible people may read. So, we want to reveal Him to them by being as much like Him as possible.

Second, we don't want to disappoint Him. One day we shall be as He is (**1 Jno. 3:1,2**). We shall stand before Him and give answer for how we have borne the name Christian, child of God. Our fear should not be that of hell, but having a holy disappointment. He gave Himself for us, bled and died for us, paid the great price for us, and suffered for us. Jesus said, "*I do all things always that please My Father.*" We too, want to please Him. That is our one great desire.

Third, we are not accidents. We were planned by the eternal purpose of God (**Rom. 8:29**). God's plan was to have a people that would be His in a special way, a people who would willingly submit to His rule of law, a people who would love Him because He first loved them. Remember the pride you felt at the birth of your first child? The child that would bear your name among men

and before your Lord. Remember the joy you had at the birth of your very own child. So, it is, that the angels of heaven rejoice when we become children of God in a special way bearing the name of His only begotten Son, Christian.

The purpose of the Father is achieved in you when you take up His name and His cross and follow Him daily. We wear a name that is above every other name. We wear a name of honor. We wear the name of the Creator of this world and all that is found within it. We wear a name whereby we find salvation from the sins of the world. We wear the name of the Great Redeemer. We must never forget who we are -- and whose we are.

By Rickie Jenkins in Biblical Insights, Vol. 8, No. 11, Nov. 2008.

Just A Christian

You can be just a Christian, nothing more, nothing less. It is not difficult at all. It is much simpler than becoming something besides just a Christian.

To become just a Christian one must go back beyond protestantism. Protestantism is not New Testament Christianity. One who wishes to be just a Christian cannot settle for Protestantism.

To become just a Christian one must go back beyond Catholicism, you must go all the way back to Christ, to the inspired apostles, and to the New Testament. What were the three thousand who turned to Christ on Pentecost but Christians? What were the obedient Samaritans, the baptized eunuch? What was Paul but just a Christian? And what were Cornelius and his household, Lydia, the jailer and their household, but just Christians.

If you are serious in becoming just a Christian, then you have only to read your New Testament and do exactly what those just mentioned did to become just a Christian. And you will also be just a Christian. If you hear the gospel (the Good News of Jesus Christ) believe the gospel, if you repent of sins (stop sinning), confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and be buried with the Lord in baptism, you too can be just a Christian like they were, it is just that simple. (**Rom.10:17; 6:3; John 8:24; 3:3; Matt.10:32,33; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:47**)

By George Jackson

There'll be no hurricanes in heaven
The winds will blow gently all day
For He who calms troubled waters
Will care for us during our stay
Grant Clothier

Matt. 8:27 *And the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?*

Psa. 65:6 *Who by his strength setteth fast the mountains, Being girded about with might; 7 Who stilleth the roaring of the seas, The roaring of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples.*

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

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

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NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

J.R. DANIEL REMAINS AT HOME. LILLIE KEECH IS RECUPERATING AT HER DAUGHTER'S HOME. PAT CLOTHIER RECEIVED SOME EXCELLENT NEWS, THE CANCER IS GONE. PRAISE GOD FOR HIS MANIFOLD BLESSINGS.

WE ARE NOW STUDYING THE CHURCH (GIVING ANSWERS) ON SUNDAY AND THE PROPHET JEREMIAH ON WEDNESDAYS.



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