

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



John 8:32 And  
ye shall know  
the truth and  
the truth shall  
make you free.

**September**  
**14**  
**2014**

## **WANT TO HEAR THE GOSPEL?**

*Jim Stauffer*

The Ethiopian did when he was traveling home from Jerusalem. **Acts 8:30** *And Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some one shall guide me? And he besought Philip to come up and sit with him. ....*

*35 And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, preached unto him Jesus.*

A great opportunity will be afforded those within traveling distance of the church at Lenexa the week of September 21. Greg Gwin, a gospel preacher from Columbia, Tn., will speak to us on the subjects listed below.

If you have not met Greg, he is, for most of us, the ideal speaker. A man who knows the material he will cover and yet can communicate in terms those of us who do not yet understand, can comprehend. He has mastered the art of teaching. Many speak eloquently and even powerfully, but fail to teach because no one learns. You will learn if you take the time to come hear what bro. Gwin has to say.

**LENEXA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**7845 COTTONWOOD DR**  
**LENEXA, KANSAS 66216**  
**SEPTEMBER 21-24**

*Lessons on what the evidence says*

**Sunday 9:30 AM: How We Got the New Testament**

**Sunday 10:20 AM: Evidence Says There is a God**

**Sunday 5:00 PM: Evidence Says God Created Heavens and Earth**

**Monday 7:00 PM: Evidence says That the Bible is the Inspired Word of God**

**Tuesday 7:00 PM: Evidence Says Jesus Arose From the Grave**

**Wednesday 7:00 PM: Evidence Says the Bible is True, and I Believe it, but if I Didn't.....**

This meeting represents one small portion of the effort of the Lenexa church of Christ to evangelize, that is, preach the gospel to the community of Lenexa.

We try to be citizens of the community in a way that

does not make our neighbors uncomfortable, while at the same time carrying a very controversial message. The message we will offer you at every opportunity we have, whether at your front door, or in our building will be presented in a very civil and considerate way, but is guaranteed to upset you just as it has every man who first considered its meaning.

Some interesting aspects of the gospel are that it caused the majority of the Jews in Jerusalem at the time to cry out for Jesus of Nazareth to be crucified. That cry came out in spite of ample evidence He was the Messiah of the Old Testament Scriptures, the message from God they claimed to believe and trust. This was because the message of Christ was for us to submit ourselves to Him, commit our lives to Him, which demands a radical change in our priorities. **Matt. 16:24** *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?* You see, the message of Jesus is surrender our will to His. Paul describes how this works in reality. **Gal. 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.*

When we view the message of Jesus and the testimony of the Apostle as to how it affected his life, we begin to understand the worthlessness of gaining anything from the world. **1 John 2:15** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.* The message of Jesus is one that issues a challenge to us to change our outlook on life. We will not be going to heaven if we cling to this world and the influence it currently has over the lives of most people.

*continued on page 2*

The seriousness of this message is set forth by the Lord, Himself, when He issued the following statement: **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.*

It may be difficult for us to accept, but the concept promulgated throughout the world, especially among religions of human origin, is that pleasing ourselves and being good citizens will lead to heaven for all. This simply is not true.

It does not matter how fine a citizen I am if I have not been reconciled to God by the blood of Jesus Christ. **2 Cor. 5:14** *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and he died for all, that they that live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who for their sakes died and rose again.*

It does not even matter if I have been reconciled to God by the blood of Christ if I do not commit myself to faithful service until death. **Rev. 2:10** *Fear not the things which thou art about to suffer: behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.*

So yes, the message of the gospel is a message that brings a difficult decision to all who hear it. Do you want to enjoy the glories of heaven as Paul describes them? **Rom. 8:18** *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. Or will you allow yourself to enjoy this world, walk by the flesh and not the Spirit and then reap the condemnation that awaits those. 2 Th. 1:8 rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: 9 who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be marvelled at in all them that believed (because our testimony unto you was believed) in that day.*

While we recognize the difficulties involved in the choice, it is yours to make and eternity should play the major role in it.

## **DEAD OR ALIVE**

**By Gilbert Alexander**

Death is a state of separation. PHYSICAL DEATH is separation of body and spirit (**Jas. 2:26**). The spirit lives on, and so God could say of long deceased Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, *"I am their God"* (**Exo. 3:6**). Moses and Elijah, long dead physically, talked with Jesus in His transfiguration (**Matt. 17:3**). How then can anyone who believes the Bible say that physical death is the cessation of all life, as some religious people claim? Even so, SPIRITUAL DEATH is separation from God (**Isa. 59:1,2**). Paul said: *"I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died"* (**Rom. 7:9**). Sin produced death in Paul at that earlier time in his life (**Rom. 7:13**). Deliverance from that death was through Christ (**Rom. 7:24,25**). This

deliverance was accomplished through reconciliation to God so that Paul was no longer separated from God (**2 Cor. 5:18,19**). So it is with us today.

We are all dead and alive. We are either dead in sin or alive unto God. If we are living in sin with its dominion over us, then we are dead. If through Christ we put to death the sinful life, then we are alive unto God (**Rom. 6:11**). This newness of life is gained in Christ through our obedience to God by faith when we are baptized into the death of Christ (**Rom. 6:3-6**). Since we are all dead and alive in one of the two situations, we should recognize that spiritual death does not render us unconscious or incapable of action. Here we can see one of the errors of Calvinism. If, when we have died to sin, we are still continually tempted by it, then why, when we are dead in sin, can we not hear and heed the appeal of the gospel to repent and be converted without a miraculous operation of the Spirit to enable us? Peter told people who had been convinced by the preached message concerning Christ: *"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (**Acts 2:38**). They had not, at that point, received either the Holy Spirit as a gift or salvation as the gift of the Spirit, for Peter said: *"ye shall receive"* it, conditioned upon their repentance and baptism. They were dead in trespasses, yet they were told to do something about it. This indicates that they were capable of doing something about their condition, else the commandment was vain.

Now, consider the lives of the saints. Paul told people who had died to sin when they obeyed the gospel to *"put to death"* their members which were on the earth: *"fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry"* (**Col. 3:5**). This he said to people who had put off *"the old man with his deeds"* and had *"put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him"* (**Col. 3:9,10**). These were people who had been dead but had been made alive together with Him through their faith and obedience to Christ (**Col. 2:9-15**). To the Ephesians, Paul included ALL as having once been dead in trespasses and sins, but he asserted that God had made them alive together with Christ through faith in Him (**Eph. 2:1-22**). Christians are Christians because they *"have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires"* yet they must constantly guard themselves against the temptations of sin (**Gal. 5:18-6:5**). We must *"let not sin reign"* in our lives (**Rom. 6:12**).

Now, the practical questions are these: Are we alive to sin and thus dead, separated from God; or are we alive to God and dead to sin? God has made us capable of choosing and has provided the way of escape from death in sin through Jesus Christ, if we will believe in Him and obey Him (**Heb. 5:8,9**). What do we choose?

**Rev. 3:1** *And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars: I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and thou art dead.*



## WHEN SAINTS AREN'T COMMITTED

My wife and I were elated to buy our first house last year, something we were not sure we could do in the Silicon Valley. The most fun was planning all the projects we would start on once we moved in -- we wanted to add a fence to the front yard, refinish the hardwood floors, repaint the exterior grey trim a more vibrant color, and about twenty other things. So far, we have replaced two broken windows and changed a couple of light switches. Well, we had good intentions and a strong eagerness.

The whole experience has driven home a lesson I already knew: success requires more than good intentions. The core ingredient must be conviction. I have had many experiences similar to home-buying in congregations throughout the country. We knew we had work to do, so we did different things to stimulate production. I cannot tell you how many programs we have tried in various congregations in the past ten years -- programs such as door-knocking, visiting programs, mail-outs, evangelistic web pages and telephone efforts. So many of them fizzled. It was so discouraging, and honestly it got to the point where I hated programs. Realistically, it was not the program that was to blame. The problem had more to do with conviction. Without that missing ingredient, any congregation will experience failure and discouragement.

I am encouraged to read the *"work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope"* that belonged to the Thessalonian Christians. They accepted the gospel in the midst of persecution, jealousy, mobs and uproars (**Acts 17**). Paul gave thanks for them and said, *"our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction..."* (**1 Thes. 1:5, NASB**).

There is so much packed into the meaning of the word "conviction." To illustrate, see the Ephesian church in (**Rev. 2:1-7**). That congregation could not tolerate false teaching. They shared God's hatred of the deeds of the Nicolaitans. Yet in spite of their stand for the truth, they lacked full conviction. There is more to conviction than being intolerant toward evil men. The Lord told them they had fallen, they had left their first love. Also, consider the church in Thyatira (**Rev. 2:18-29**). The saints of Thyatira practiced good deeds. Yet in spite of their good deeds, they lacked full conviction. They were tolerant toward immorality. Conviction is more than doing good deeds. The best description for conviction that I know is found in the story of Phinehas (**Num. 25:1-9**). Can you put yourself into the life of Phinehas as the Israelite men are being seduced by the Moabite women? The righteous of Israel have gathered in a meeting to discuss what to do about the men joining themselves to these women and to the idol Baal. During the meeting, your eyes follow another man as he audaciously escorts a Moabite woman to his tent. Does your anger burn? Do you grab your spear as Phinehas did and follow them into the tent? Could you carry the responsibility of ending their lives by piercing them with that spear? It makes me afraid just thinking about it. From beginning to end, Phinehas provides a living example of conviction.

Conviction is what we do about what we believe -- it is motivating confidence. Conviction is more than just a firm belief. It requires something from us. Peter and John one time said, *"We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard"* (**Acts 4:20**). It was not because somebody was forcing them. It was their conviction forcing them. We read already that the Thessalonians were fully convicted. They were convicted of two primary things: the teachings of God (**1:5**) and that Jesus was going to come back from heaven some day (**1:9**). As a result of their conviction, they changed their lives to such an extent that every one around them talked about them. They began to try and imitate Paul and the Lord, and they started waiting for God's Son (**1:10**). A saint's conviction is founded upon the teachings of God and the promises of God.

Conviction is the absence of all doubt. Contrast Phinehas conviction with Peter's effort to walk on the water. Peter started out with good intentions, but in the end needed to be rescued. Jesus rebuked him by asking, *"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"* (**Matt. 14:31**). If a congregation is going to be successful, there must be no doubt that God will grant them success. Jesus expressed what will happen through us if His power is combined with our assurance -- *"Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea' it will happen"* (**Matt. 21:12**). Is that your conviction? Why is it so tempting to add the conjunction, "But..." to these and other such statements of God?

Conviction is confidence that we as a congregation will grow and thrive as long as we follow God's plan for us. One of my favorite letters in the Bible is Paul's letter to the Philippians. It is clear to me that these saints had a problem with pessimism. Everything Paul says is an effort to get them to see the positive side of things. *"I am confident of this very thing,"* Paul says, *"that He who began a good work in you WILL PERFECT IT until the day of Christ Jesus"* (**1:6**). *I KNOW that I will remain and continue with you all for your PROGRESS AND JOY IN THE FAITH"* (**1:25**). Paul admonishes them to rejoice, to dwell on the good things, to avoid anxiety. How can we be anything but positive if we are convicted that God is perfecting our work and that we will progress? How can we avoid confidence knowing that *"all things work together for good to those who love God"* (**Rom. 8:28**).

A congregation without conviction looks like this: it lacks motivation that comes from confidence in God's words and promises. It has no drive to *"excel still more"* (**1 Thes. 4:1,10**) It is not making every effort to imitate the Lord and not waiting for Him. They have all sorts of doubts, doubts that the world will listen to them, that they themselves can significantly change, that with Jesus' power they can cast mountains into the sea. They are pessimistic. They are not confident that God is perfecting them and that they will progress. Lack of conviction will certainly lead to the demise of a congregation.

**By Jason Cheney via The Eastside Edifier,  
Aug. 5, 2007.**

**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**

## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

**Check out the following websites**

[thelenexaedifier.com](http://thelenexaedifier.com)

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist/](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist/)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

OUR SISTER IN CHRIST,  
LINDA FOSTER PASSED FROM  
THIS LIFE ON WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2014. LINDA  
HAD SUFFERED FROM A  
MALIGNANT BRAIN TUMOR FOR  
THE PAST MONTH OR SO.

WE WILL MISS HER, BUT  
ACCEPT THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT  
THAT HER CURRENT STATE IS  
BETTER. SHE AWAITS THE  
COMING OF THE LORD IN THE  
BOSOM OF ABRAHAM IN  
PARADISE.

FUNERAL: AMOS FUNERAL  
HOME 11:00 AM 9/15/14.



## **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