

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.

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30

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## YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK

Jim Stauffer

**Prov. 23:6** *Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, Neither desire thou his dainties: 7 For as he thinketh within himself, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; But his heart is not with thee.*

We often hear you are what you eat as a warning to maintain a healthy diet. This passage focuses on something that is even more important than our physical diet, the thoughts and intents of our heart. We are warned not to be swayed by the King's wealth and in the process sacrifice our integrity to gain his favor. After all he is using his power and influence to effect a change in our judgment to his benefit. When we allow ourselves to cater to others based on their wealth and power we have allowed our integrity to be purchased by one who the wise man says has an evil eye. The Psalmist repeats this theme, **Psa. 141:4** *Incline not my heart to any evil thing, To practise deeds of wickedness with men that work iniquity: And let me not eat of their dainties.*

We must not deceive ourselves into believing we can 'be holy as He is holy' and have such selfish and carnal thoughts.

Two contrasting examples of men led by the thoughts of their hearts are Absalom and Solomon. Absalom's brother Amnon raped his sister Tamar. This brought boiling hatred in Absalom. Certainly a normal reaction. However, he conspired to convince his father David, to allow Amnon to travel on a journey with his men. He then arranged for his men to murder Amnon. This is exactly the result of evil thinking that Jesus warned against. **Matt. 15:18** *But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings:* Solomon, on the other hand, when offered a request of God, asked for wisdom and knowledge to lead God's people. He was unaffected by the wealth of becoming king. God's reply, **2 Chr. 1:11** *And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thy heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honor, nor the life of them that hate thee, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: 12 wisdom*

*and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee; neither shall there any after thee have the like.*

We have an expression in our day that says of a well grounded man, "He is comfortable in his own skin." This means a man has found contentment with who he is and what he has. Paul was this man. **Phil. 4:11** *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content. 12 I know how to be abased, and I know also how to abound: in everything and in all things have I learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in want.*

Once we understand God is pleased with a pure heart, we can all become content with our situation, knowing God can use us as we are. It is then our worship to Him can be genuine and from the heart. We will sing His praises because we truly adore Him for what He has done for us and who He is. We will not be the one Jesus warns in **Mat. 6:5,6**, *And when ye pray, ye shall not be as the hypocrites: for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have received their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thine inner chamber, and having shut thy door, pray to thy Father who is in secret, and thy Father who seeth in secret shall recompense thee.* We will then be able to make the same claim as Paul does when he says he chooses to please God rather than men. **(Gal. 1:10)** Remember, it was a decision of the heart that enabled us to escape the bonds of our own sin. **(Rom. 6:17)**

The Lord in His own words and the words of the Holy Spirit, has made it abundantly clear that we are the person that lives in our hearts. If we practice piety to be seen of men Jesus says we are hypocrites. **(Mat. 23:28)**

If we are indeed holy as He is holy it will be because we have truly allowed Christ to dwell in our hearts. **(Rom. 8:10)** Again, Paul tells us this is how his life was directed. **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*

*continued on page 2*

*gave himself up for me.*

Brethren, we live in a world of “tin horns”, people who wish they were something they are not. God calls on us to be servants in His kingdom. All are only servants, there is no hierarchy in His Kingdom. He is the King. It is very special to be His servant, the adopted child of God. Let us be content in our role and we will increase in peace within as well as production in His service.

## What Does The Lord Require?

*By Carey Scott*

Let us take note for a minute what the word 'require' means. A requirement is something that must be done to fulfill a condition. It means having the ability and skills to do a particular thing. Before we can win a prize, we are required to meet the conditions. So when we use the word in the Bible, it usually means that certain conditions must exist before something will happen.

God has many requirements. God teaches that if one were to make an oath, that person would be required to keep it. (**Deuteronomy 23:21**). God said that the murder of a life should require capital punishment (**Genesis 9:5**)

**Deuteronomy 18:18-19** speaks of Christ, and whoever does not listen to Christ so as to obey Him, God will require it of him. In other words, God is going to hold everyone accountable for either doing what they should do, or not doing what they should have done. God holds each person accountable for everything He has commanded. When someone does not do what they should have done, the Lord will require it of them.

There are a few verses that describe what the Lord requires of His people. In **Deuteronomy 10:12-13**, we read: *"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord, your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?"*

In **Micah 6:8** we read: *"He has told you O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"*

Both of these statements are presented in the form of a question. The writers are inquiring of the people if they know what God requires of them. Notice what is recorded is what God requires of each person.

First of all, to fear the Lord, and keep His commandments is at the top of the list. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** tells us this is the whole duty of man. To have the reverential fear of God, and do what He commands. This serving of God and keeping of the commandments is to be done with the heart involved. We should not give God lip-service. As Isaiah said: *"these people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me"* (**Isaiah 29:13**).

Micah teaches us that the Lord's requirements begin with doing justice. This has to do with our relationships with people. Treating them fairly and justly is what God wants from us. God teaches that a short measure is an abomination. God teaches that cheating people is

wrong. God teaches that we should treat others the way we would want to be treated. Micah also teaches that we are to love kindness. Kindness shows a lot of humble qualities. Not only should we be doing acts of kindness, we should appreciate those others who do the acts of kindness. Finally, humbling ourselves before God is a great thing. This involves denying ourselves as our Lord taught us that we would be required to deny ourselves. Humility is a necessity to approach God. It means that we have recognized that God is much greater than we are, and we submit to God in everything. Submitting to God means that we do His will above or beyond our own desires and wishes.

Of course, all of this is just the most basic of what our duty to God involves. It requires the whole heart be devoted to doing God's will that God has commanded us to do.

There are those who observe the commandments without learning God's most important commands. The commands to show compassion and to demonstrate love should rank at the top of anyone's priorities. Yet often we see that is not done. Many people will emphasize law-keeping and not consider the emphasis that God requires of us. In **Micah 6:6** we read that: *"I require(desire) compassion, and not sacrifice"* This does not mean that we are exempt from sacrifice, but that showing compassion is more important as far as God is concerned.

This is similar to the statement of Samuel to Saul in **1 Samuel 15:22** *"Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord?"* The point Samuel was telling Saul was that obedience from the heart is better than mere outward expressions of piety. Jesus talked during the Sermon on the Mount about those who were seeking the praises of men. They appear to be righteous, but their show was for man and not for the praise of God. We also need to be careful that our actions are done for the glory of God, and not our own upbuilding or egotistical appearance.

This does not mean that law-keeping is not important; indeed it is vital to our soul's salvation. But what God teaches us is that how we treat others is equally important for us to consider. Love is one of those qualities that God commands. But if we have no love, we will show no compassion towards others. Jesus taught that love is the foundation of the whole of God's laws. This is how we demonstrate our love to Jesus (and God) by showing love to others. Showing compassion to others is a quality that God requires of us. That is what makes our law-keeping meaningful.

Jesus said that if we keep His commandments, we demonstrate our love to Him. This is what God wants. Our love to God demonstrated by keeping His commandments, and our compassion by showing love towards others. When we learn to treat others with care, concern, and compassion, we become more like Jesus.

## The A,B,C's of Bible Study

*by Warren E. Berkley*

**ATTITUDE.** If you have a strong desire to find out what's right, and to live as you should before God, that



attitude will serve you well as you read and study the Bible. This desire becomes the motive that keeps you "on task," as you seek to discover the right way of the Lord. *"Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart"* (Psa. 119:2; Jas. 1:21).

**BALANCE.** You should give attention to all the Word of God. There may be certain topics you develop a special interest in, and some passages may be especially relevant to current needs. But you need to have a good, overall knowledge of all the Word of God (Acts 20:27).

**COMMANDMENTS.** In your study, you will come across commandments; imperative statements which require action, and originate in divine wisdom. Carefully look into the context, and discover who the commandment is directed to. If the commandment applies to you, decide right then that you will obey (Psa. 119:4; Rev. 22:14).

**DILIGENCE.** Diligence means great effort and care. If you read the Bible carefully, and study the context, define words and consult references ... that requires effort, but pays great dividends. Pray as David did: *"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law"* (Psa. 119:18).

**EXAMPLES.** All through the Scriptures, there are examples. We read of people who did good things, and afford us excellent illustrations of what's right. There are also stories of good people who took wrong turns and sinned against God. In other words, there are good examples and bad examples. We should study these, and let them instruct us (1 Cor. 10:6; Phil. 4:9).

**FAITH.** Effective Bible study requires belief in God, trust in Jesus, and full confidence in the truth of God's Word. Mere intellectual or academic interests will never yield the fruit that is generated by faith (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6).

**GOD.** One vital accomplishment of Bible study is to learn about God. There is really no other way to find out who God is, what He is like, how He reacts, and what He has promised, except in the Scriptures (Rom. 11:22).

**HELP.** Don't ever hesitate to ask for help. Have you ever been in a preacher's office? The walls are lined with hundreds of books, and their purpose is to help the preacher understand the Bible. Dictionary books, concordances, commentaries and reference works simply imply that we may need some help. There is no shame in asking for help (Acts 8:30,31).

**IMPLICATIONS.** As you go through the written Word of God, not only will you learn from examples, and find commands that apply to you, there are also implications. Don't call just anything an implication, but when the information in the text leads to a conclusion, accept it and consider it to be part of God's revelation.

**JESUS.** *"...God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."*, and this good news is the theme of the Bible. Look for this everywhere! In Old Testament prophetic passages, the psalms of David, the institutions of the Mosaic system, the gospel accounts, Acts, the epistles and the Revelation of John ... Jesus is everywhere. Look for Him, and let every new experience of Bible study bring you closer to Him (John 3:16; Col. 1:18).

**KNOWLEDGE.** Your object is to acquire a knowledge of God's truth.

**LOVE** for the truth. Paul spoke of some who would perish, and he said they were deceived *"because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved"* (2 Thess. 2:10). Therefore, a love for the truth is an essential quality of a good Bible student.

**MATURITY.** Growth to maturity in Christ can never be realized, apart from Bible study. As you learn of Christ, and study His will and apply what you learn, you involve yourself in a process that produces maturity (Col. 1:28).

**NOURISHMENT.** Understand, that you cannot have spiritual

life without the divine food that sustains that life. *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"* (Matt. 4:4; see also, Heb. 5:12-14 & 1 Pet. 2:1-3).

**OBEDIENCE.** Honoring Christ and pleasing God by obeying the Word of God ... let that be your constant object (Matt. 7:24-27; Heb. 5:9).

**PATIENCE.** Do you sometimes think it would be great to sit down with your Bible today and have complete knowledge by noon tomorrow? That's not reality. Be patient with yourself, keep studying, and you'll add more to your store of Bible knowledge after every session (Phil. 3:15).

**QUESTIONS.** Use questions to learn about a text. "Who wrote this ... Who was it written to ... What was the historical circumstance ... Are there any other passages that will help me understand this ... What is there in this passage that I need to apply ... How does this passage help me understand other parts of the Bible ?? etc."

**REVIEW.** Don't ever finish or "get through" with any portion of Scripture. Go back and review. Start over again with key passages, and you may learn something you missed before (Phil. 3:1; 2 Pet. 3:1).

**STUDY.** There is a difference between reading and study! When you read, that's your first contact with the information. Next, you should think about that information: "What did it mean to them? What does this mean today? How do I apply this today? How does this passage or teaching relate to other parts of the Bible." When you study, you apply the mind God gave you to the book He gave you (Eph. 5:17).

**TRACKING** promises and prophecy. When you find a promise (Gen. 3:15), or a prophecy (Isa. 53) in the Old Testament, follow those passages to their fulfillment.

**UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES.** Especially when you read the stories in the Old Testament, don't just regard those passages as historical narratives. Look for underlying principles that transcend dispensational boundaries (Rom. 15:4).

**VERSIONS.** Bible bookstores' shelves are running over with all sorts of different versions and translations of the Bible, some good and helpful; others, twisted and inaccurate. Consulting several English translations can be helpful, but don't get too far away from the standard translations {King James, New King James, American Standard, New American Standard}.

**WORDS.** Don't deceive yourself into thinking that "word studies" and definitions are boring or unnecessary. The fact is, God has chosen to communicate with us through words. We need to know what those words mean. Use a good Bible dictionary, consult references, and respect the Biblical significance of the words you read (1 Cor. 2:13).

**X** marks the spot. Systematic reading all the way through the Bible is a great help to your understanding. Read a portion; mark an "X" in the margin, or put the date, then continue at that place next time.

**YOURSELF.** We may be tempted, in our Bible reading and study, to immediately think of others -- how they need this; how others have violated what the passage says. Our first concern must be, self-examination (2 Cor. 13:5).

**ZEAL.** As you read and study and gain knowledge, be sure that knowledge is accompanied by the zeal to teach and practice the truth of the gospel (Rom. 10:1-3)

There'll be no terror attacks in heaven  
Where living will be a delight  
No mention of September 11th  
In that land "where cometh no night".

*by Grant Clothier*

**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:**

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS: J.R. DANIEL, MARY CZIRR AND JAN PATRICK. LORETTA TAPP HAS BEEN MOVED TO REHAB AND GRANT CLOTHIER HAS RETURNED HOME.

OUR CURRENT STUDIES ARE: SUNDAY MORNING: GIVING ANSWERS TO DOCTRINAL QUESTIONS AND WEDNESDAY: THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

SERMON SUNDAY AM: PERSEVERANCE

SUNDAY PM: SINGING SERVICE



### **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