

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 17, 2015

CONVERSION: A NECESSITY FOR GLORY

Jim Stauffer

GOSPEL MEETING

With Leon Goff

May 17-20

7845 Cottonwood Drive

Lenexa, Kansas

Dates and Topics:

Sunday 9:30 AM

Lessons From the Prodigal for the Family

Sunday 10:20 AM

The Joy of Being a Christian

Sunday 5:00 PM

Suffering, Why and How

Monday 7:00 PM

Conversion of the Samaritans

Tuesday 7:00 PM

Searching for the Church Jesus Built

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Which Heart Do You Have

With the Gospel Meeting this week let us take a look at the very purpose of gospel preaching. It is to change the lives of those it reaches as the following article will indicate. We must make that change if we plan to receive the glory in heaven promised to the faithful.

The Apostle Peter describes the conversion of a man as a change from darkness to light. He says those who are converted to Christ are a people for God's own possession who are to show the excellencies of him who called them. (1 Pet. 2:9) Earlier in the chapter he says they have put away all wickedness, guile, hypocrisies, envies and evil speaking and they have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (1 Pet. 2:1-3)

It is clear the word of God has the power to change lives today. Jesus described the process as a new birth.

Without being born again of the water and the Spirit we cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:3-5)

When Paul discusses this change he says those who have put on Christ in baptism (Gal. 3:27) have become new creatures. 2 Cor. 5:17 *Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new.* This new creature has been reconciled to God by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. (vs 14,18) While this sacrifice gives spiritual life to those who were dead in their sin, that life is not to be lived unto ourselves. 2 Cor. 5:15 *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.*

For that reason Paul provides a graphic illustration of the change one must make when he becomes a child of God. First, Peter explains the purpose of Christ (The Servant) coming was to turn *"away every one of you from your iniquities."* (Acts 3:26) Therefore, Paul contrasts the life of the Gentiles of Ephesus as having walked *"in the vanity of their mind."* He says they were *"darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in thee."* He further says they were past feeling and *"gave themselves up to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."* (Eph. 4:17-19) This, he says is the old man, *"that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit."* (Eph. 4:22)

The contrast is then completed as he describes how their conduct has changed as they have put on the new man, *"that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth."* He tells them this man, in contrast to the old man, speaks truth to his neighbor; is angry without sin; no longer steals but works to give to those in need; eliminates corrupt speech from his mouth but uses words to edify others; and has put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and malicious railing in order to be kind, tenderhearted and forgiving. (Eph. 4:24-32)

Paul recognized this change as a difficult thing to do. He spoke from experience. He was trained in Judaism with a bright future as a Rabbi, educated at the feet of one of the great teachers of the law in those days. He was so committed to his religion he persecuted the

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

church as no other and gained notoriety for such. **(Acts 9:13)** Yet he was a changed man after his conversion at the teaching of Ananias. **(Acts 9:6)** He stood before King Agrippa and defended his change from persecuting the church to preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. **Acts 26:19** *Wherefore, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: 20 but declared both to them of Damascus first and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judaea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance.*

This represented a change as drastic as those of Ephesus. This is a change every new creature must make. We must cease to do anything that opposes the pure truth of the gospel and begin to practice complete compliance and support of its principles. Is it difficult? You better believe it! Paul said, *"I buffet my body and bring it into bondage; lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected."* **(1 Cor. 9:27)**

So, we must recognize our need as these new creatures, born of the water and Spirit, having put on Christ in baptism, to turn away from the world filled with the lusts of the flesh, lusts of the eye and the pride of life. We must put off the old man and put on the new. There is no other way to let our light shine, *"that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* **(Mat. 5:16)**

By glorifying our Father in heaven we are truly citizens in heaven and will enjoy the resulting glory. **Phil. 3:20** *For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself.*

Stuff About Things

Robert F. Turner

The scriptures say God sends His rain upon the just and the unjust; which prompted some wag in this dry country to say, "If He will just rain on the unjust, we could carry water for the just." In places the run-off would suffice.

The Lord Himself said few were on the right road **(Matt. 7:14)** but no amount of warning seems to dim the appeal of the majority. We simply refuse to believe that "the many with the most" could be wrong.

Noah and his family (8 souls) must have been the off-beats of his age. A little bunch of religious "crackpots" building a boat where there was no water, and before the days of trailers. And Lot, vexed with the filthy lives of his neighbors, was a regular kill-joy in Sodom. Perhaps Caleb and Joshua were tempted to "join with the crowd" --- if not to please the ten other spies, to avoid "disturbing" the people with their minority report. But these, and other hardy souls, had the courage to stand by their convictions. The majority was wrong-- then, as it usually is now.

But WHY is the majority wrong? Well, not because it is the majority. Right and wrong are not determined by

numbers, great or small. The majority is usually wrong because of the way the majority usually responds to the truth, or to divine authority.

(1) People, as a whole, lack faith in God. They substitute human authority for Divine, and base decisions upon fallible standards. Thus begun, there is little chance for sound, right conclusions in religion.

(2) Lacking faith in God, and having not the strength to stand alone, the masses seek security in numbers. The weak flock together, and imagine themselves mighty because they travel with the crowd. But might does not make right. They travel the broad way.

The solution is not an easy one. It demands independent study and action. Each must recognize his individual responsibilities before God, and find strength to act in his faith in God. The appeal of popularity -- one of the strongest known to man -- must be resisted. Compromise- so necessary in purely human affairs- must be seen as inconsistent with divine authority. We must be both humble and resolute.

For man's eternal soul is at stake.

Charismatics And The "Greater Works" Of John 14:12

By Allan Turner

In trying to teach the gospel to those caught up in the charismatic movement, **John 14:12** has frequently been used as a proof-text for their claim that miraculous gifts are still in use by "true" believers in Christ. In this passage, the Lord was speaking to His apostles and said: *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father"* (NKJV).

According to the charismatics, the "greater works" are the "signs and wonders" being performed in their so-called "miracle services." Of course, a careful examination of this passage will only serve to demonstrate how the charismatics have completely misunderstood the teaching of the Lord on this subject.

Even a cursory examination demonstrates that their erroneous interpretation of this passage actually works *against* them in the strongest way. Let's just think about it for a moment. The quality of "miracles" performed by these people does not even come close to that of Bible miracles. The Lord's miracles were undeniable and spectacular. He changed water into wine and multiplied loaves and fishes. He healed hopeless lepers, cripples, and blind people. And we must not forget that He raised from the dead one who had been dead for four days!

Furthermore, the apostles were able to perform miracles just as Jesus had done—even raising the dead. Although these charismatics claim to be doing the "greater works" mentioned by Jesus, it is obvious that their alleged miracles are not even thirty-second cousins to those performed by Jesus and His apostles.

While Jesus, the apostles, and others performed signs, wonders, and miracles which could not be imitated or equaled, those being performed by

continued on page 3

charismatics are no different than those exhibited by various religions around the world that have nothing at all to do with Christianity. For example, modern-day “tongue-speaking” (i.e., ecstatic utterance) is engaged in regularly by Buddhists, Hindus, Moslems, Shintoists, Voodooists and others. In reality, Bible “tongue-speaking” is not being duplicated anywhere today—even among charismatics—because no one today is being given direct power from God to speak foreign languages they've never learned.

A reading of **Acts 2:1-12** convinces us that the New Testament gift of tongues was the ability to speak in an unlearned foreign language. It is true that charismatics sometime claim to know someone who knows that somewhere someone once spoke an actual foreign language, but these cases are clearly unsubstantiated. It is interesting that not one charismatic I have ever spoken with has ever claimed to be able to speak an unlearned foreign language.

How then could the questionable and somewhat less than spectacular “miracles” performed by modern-day pentecostals be the “greater works” spoken of by Jesus? Remember, not even one of these folks has ever been so bold as to claim to have resurrected one who had been dead for four days. Consequently, these charismatics are wrong in their interpretation of the passage under consideration. Let's use the space that remains to determine if we can learn what the Lord was referring to when He said, *“and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father” (John 14:12).*

It is clear that the Lord made a distinction between *miracles* and a *greater work* that would be done by His followers. This greater work was dependent upon Jesus going to the Father. In John 16, the Lord said it was expedient for the apostles that He go away because when He did so the Holy Spirit would come and guide them into all truth. In **I Peter 1:12**, we learn that the gospel was preached with the *“Holy Spirit sent from heaven.”* In his first letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul wrote: *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (I Corinthians 2:12,13).*

In his message on the first Pentecost after the Lord's resurrection and ascension into heaven, the apostle Peter said: *“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being highly exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.... Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:32,33,36).* Through the preaching of the gospel with the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, men were able to be saved (**I Corinthians 15:1-4**). Although the raising of the *physically* dead was a wonderful miracle, greater still is the preaching of the gospel which has the power to raise the *spiritually* dead. In **Matthew 16:26**, Jesus taught that a man's soul is more important than the whole world. If this is true—and Jesus said it is—then the preaching,

teaching, and living of the soul-saving gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest work that can be done by His followers. There is nothing more important than this!

What a truly great experience it is to be *“born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever” (I Peter 1:23).*

Intelligent Design by God? Yes or No?

The comments of a man who believed in God during his life and one who only realized it as he died - Found on a website entitled How Atheists and Infidels Die

Voltaire, the most influential atheist of Europe in his day, cried out with his dying breath: "I am abandoned by God and man; I shall go to hell! I will give you half of what I am worth, if you will give me six months life."

Few men in Europe have tried to eradicate the Bible and the knowledge of God from the minds of the people as did the French infidel, Voltaire. The Christian physician who attended Voltaire during his last illness later wrote about the experience:

"When I compare the death of a righteous man, which is like the close of a beautiful day, with that of Voltaire, I see the difference between bright, serene weather and a black thunderstorm. It was my lot that this man should die under my hands. Often did I tell him the truth. 'Yes, my friend,' he would often say to me, 'you are the only one who has given me good advice. Had I but followed it, I should not be in the horrible condition in which I now am. I have swallowed nothing but smoke. I have intoxicated myself with the incense that turned my head. You can do nothing for me. Send me an insane doctor! Have compassion on me I am mad!'

"I cannot think of it without shuddering. As soon as he saw that all the means he had employed to increase his strength had just the opposite effect, death was constantly before his eyes. From this moment, madness took possession of his soul. He expired under the torments of the furies."

And then there is that businessman that wrote an article, which appeared in the American Magazine. He was a manufacturer, not a scientist. He had never seen the inside of a scientific laboratory, and had never heard of probability analysis. But that is what he was talking about when he gave this simple but devastating rebuttal of evolution:

"I have been reading about the wonders of the orbiting moons, planets, and stars. I am astonished at the intricacies of the galaxies, with all their myriads of stars circling a common center.

"I am no scientist. But I have enough sense to know that evolution is foolishness. It takes a girl in our factory about two days to learn to put the seventeen parts of a meat chopper together. It may be that those millions of worlds, each with its separate orbit, and all balancing so wonderfully in space—it may be that they just happened. It may be that by a billion years of tumbling about they finally arranged themselves. But, frankly, the whole evolutionary idea really does not make sense.

"I am merely a plain manufacturer of cutlery. But this I do know, that you can shake the seventeen parts of a meat chopper around in a washtub for the next seventeen billion years and you'll never have a meat chopper."

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

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

IRENE HURD, MARY CZIRR, JAN PATRICK. GRANT CLOTHIER IS AT HOME WHILE HIS WIFE, PAT

CLOTHIER WILL BEGIN TREATMENTS FOR ESOPHAGEAL

CANCER THAT HAS RETURNED. JESSIE GIBSON IS AT HOME

RECUPERATING. J.R. DANIEL IS AT SWEET LIFE ASSISTED LIVING,

12000 LAMAR

THIS SUNDAY BEGINS OUR GOSPEL MEETING AND IT WILL CONTINUE THROUGH WEDNESDAY EVENING.

COME HEAR THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED BY BRO. GOFF.



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