

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.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

July
5
2015

Anna Surface 2010

GOD'S PROVIDENCE: REAL OR IMAGINED?

Jim Stauffer

Paul makes a very bold statement in **2 Cor. 9:8**, *And God is able to make all grace abound unto you; that ye, having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work:* He combines the principle thoughts of God in His teaching of brotherly kindness in this text. In **Deut. 15:10** the law directed a man to give to the need of his brother. *Thou shalt surely give him and thy heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him, because for this thing Jehovah thy God shall surely bless thee in all they work and in all thy putteth thy hand unto.*

In his admonition to provide the needs of those in want, Paul makes a very important point. He assures the giver that God's grace will be sufficient to enable him to conduct such benevolence in the future as well. This message may well be taken from the Psalmist who speaks this of the man who trusts in Jehovah. **Psa. 112:9** *He hath dispersed, he hath given to the needy; His righteousness endureth for ever: His horn shall be exalted with honor.* What Paul promises, guided by the Holy Spirit sent from Christ to reveal the mind of God, is that we can be assured God is not only aware of our love for Him and our brother, He will also support us in order to sustain our ability to continue such in the future.

God's thoughts are further expressed in the accompanying verses. It is stated in **verse 10**, *he that supplieth seed to the sower and bread for food, shall supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.* This phrase, *the fruits of your righteousness* seems to carry multiple implications. It appears Paul is detailing a circle of love that benefits both physically and spiritually all who are involved. Not only are the needs of those in want cared for but this work, *aboundeth unto many thanksgivings unto God (vs 12).* In turn those who were in need, *glorify God for the obedience of your confession (vs 13)* and offer supplications on your behalf because of this grace of God brought to bear in their lives.

The circle works this way. A man is obedient to the God who loved him and saved him from his sins and extends that same love to others bringing glory to the God who saved him. God in turn cares for that man that the fruit of his righteousness may continue and that glory will come to God leading others to the same

obedience.

We are told by some that the providence Paul alludes to here does not continue today. That God is not active in our lives except through the word. Please do not confuse the promises God has made to care for us as some claim of the direct operation of the Holy Spirit. We firmly believe the work of the Holy Spirit is completed in the word of God.

But on the other hand, please do not attempt to deny God's promises to watch over and care for His saints. He promises, *For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears unto their supplication. (1 Pet. 3:12)* Those same people are admonished three verses later to, *sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear. (vs 15)* This instruction is given so the saints will know how to conduct themselves in the face of severe persecution that is surely to come. God's promise is not that our lives will be easy but rather that He will stand by us in our difficulty we face in our stand for the truth. **Heb. 13:5** *Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have: for himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee. 6 So that with good courage we say, The Lord is my helper; I will not fear: What shall man do unto me?*

God can and does intervene in the lives of men individually as he does on a national scale when He rules in the nations. (**Jer. 27:5-8; Rom. 13:1**) For instance, He promised relief to the brethren at Philadelphia, **Rev. 3:10** *Because thou didst keep the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of trial, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.* I believe this because He has promised to help me do good to others to perpetuate His love. He has promised to provide for me that which I need to sustain my relationship with Him.

We have not exhausted the references to God's promises of providential assistance. They are abundant. He has promised wisdom to the faithful man who pleads in prayer. (**Jas. 1:5**) He understood the heart of Cornelius as he pleaded for guidance in serving the

continued on page 2

Lord.

For us to simply dismiss God's promises given in His word with a sweep of the hand by saying those were the days of miracles is to conclude God no longer cares for the saints today. It is even more dangerous because His teaching clearly states it is useful for strength in the face of the adversity a child of God will face. The one who dismisses such and has no faith in God to help in his time of need will find himself unable at some point to endure the suffering that results from temptation and persecution.

R.L. Whiteside gave a warning to young preachers. He told them not to speculate in order to claim knowledge of things they could not prove. I cannot identify for you every providential act of God in your life or mine. But I can and have shown you He has promised to be active and supportive of our efforts toward faithful service. As a result, I believe He will be there when needed and His wisdom will determine when He is needed.

The man who does not trust in God's promise of providential care has no reason to trust in His promise of heaven to the faithful.

Jamaica Patois Wisdom - # 21

Jefferson David Tant | Roswell, Georgia, USA

The Jamaican Patois dialect is colorful, unique and humorous. It is my desire to share some of the philosophy shown in this mix of colorful phrases that are witty, as well as thought-provoking. I hope the readers both profit and enjoy. In my quarter-century plus of teaching there, I have come to appreciate some things about their culture. - JDT

PATIOS - When di gal dem dress like prostitute, it comin like pig a roll ina mud. Mi we get attention from pigs mose of all dough.

ENGLISH - When a girl dresses like a prostitute, it's like a pig rolling in the mud. The girl will get attention, but mostly from pigs.

MEANING - When a girl dresses immodestly, she will attract attention, but mostly the wrong kind of men.

Why do some women/girls dress the way they do? I suppose there are various reasons, which would include comfort, fashion/style, to impress, to attract, to display, etc. To display? Display what? Their body, of course! Why else do they wear low cut and/or tight fitting and revealing outfits that call for the world to "Look at me! See my beautiful body! Aren't my short shorts cute?"

I know not all women who dress immodestly have that foremost in their minds, but I wonder if they really look at themselves in the mirror before they leave the house. Or how about young girls that dress that way. Don't they have parents? Especially fathers, who obviously know how men think. Why would husbands or fathers want human pigs leering at their wives and daughters? The women that I know would be highly offended if some man propositioned them. But if you have nothing

to sell, then you are guilty of false advertising. I remember teaching a group of high school students at a summer camp years ago, and the question came up as to why girls wear revealing clothes. The answer the students gave was "Advertising!"

For years my wife and I have taken several young people with us to do mission work in Jamaica, where the rate of sexual immorality is off the charts. At times when a group of us are walking around town, we are approached and asked, "Are you Christians?" Why would that be suspected of us? Because we are dressed modestly, and most tourists are not so attired. And of course this sometimes presents an opportunity to have a discussion and/or study with the questioner.

Job made a covenant: *"I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?" (31:1).*

Obviously, we cannot help seeing an immodestly dressed woman, but men can choose not to stare and allow lust to enter their hearts. *"...every one that looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).* Thus if a woman dresses in such a way as to cause a man to lust after her, she has committed sin herself.

So, ladies, you have two choices. Solomon wrote about a foolish young man, *"And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot..." (Proverbs 7:10).* And then Paul wrote about the fairer sex: *"Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness" (1 Timothy 2:9-10).* Not that it's wrong to wear jewelry or braided the hair, but that women should emphasize good works more than appearance. Which do you choose?

There is nothing wrong with dressing nicely and being attractive, but a woman should be known for her godly life rather than by how much cleavage she shows. God said the wife is to "cleave" to her husband, not show her "cleavage" to all men.

THINGS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION

Salvation is the theme of the Bible. Even before the world began and man was created, God, knowing that man would sin, devised a plan for his salvation (**Eph. 3:9-11**). The death of Christ was the plan by which He purposed to accomplish that salvation (**Isa. 53**). He died for our transgressions and thereby is the Progenitor of our salvation.

Salvation is just that, salvation -- being saved from sin. Sin is man's main malady. It will cause his soul to rot in hell if it is not taken out of the way (**Ezk. 18:20; Gal. 6:8**).

I want to make a few statements about salvation from a biblical perspective.

Faith is necessary to salvation:-- (Heb. 11:6). But

faith is more than just one's admission that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. **Jas. 2:22** says that *"faith without works is dead, being alone."* James further states that *"...as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead, being alone."* Faith is the foundation for all obedience; but it is only that, the foundation. There must be actions based upon that faith.

Repentance is necessary, but it is more than just a decision to turn and serve God: -- It must result in activity. In **2 Cor. 7:8**, we are told, *"For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal..."* Repentance is not a staid decision that sits still. It causes the turn to something better, or it isn't true repentance (**Acts 2:42**).

Confession is necessary, but it is more than an admission that Jesus Christ is the Son of God: -- That's important, certainly; but there's more to it than that. **Rom. 10:9** says, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* That's pretty clear, isn't it? If you don't confess there is no salvation for you; that's what it says. But is that the end of the matter? Confession is a pledge of allegiance, one where Jesus is affirmed to be the captain of one's soul; but it produces in the believer the desire to do something. *"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and hath not works, can faith save him"* (**Jas. 2:14**)?

Baptism is necessary, but it is more than just "getting saved": -- While it is absolutely biblical to affirm that baptism saves (**1 Pet. 3:21**), just being baptized no more insures salvation than does a faith that does not work. Some of my brethren need to learn that fact. Baptism alone is no better than faith alone. *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God"* (**Col. 3:1**). To be risen with Christ is to be baptized into Him. Once one has been baptized, he is to start seeking things above. He is to worship, teach, learn, grow. He is to put off the bad and put on the good. In verse 17 of this same context, Paul admonishes that *"whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord..."* There's stuff to do once you've been baptized. You have to grow up after you've been born.

Just attending the services of the church does not guarantee salvation: -- There is more to do than what is done in the meeting house. That is not intended to minimize the importance of the assembly; but it is to say that just meeting on the Lord's Day is not tantamount to faithfulness. *"As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all men..."* (**Gal. 6: 10**). *"Pure religion and undefiled before God is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and keep oneself unspotted from the world"* (**Jas. 1:27**). Christianity is a daily living process, one where you present your body *"a living sacrifice"* (**Rom. 12:1**).

Salvation is our most vital concern. We should consider it carefully and long. And we should be aware that to be saved, we have to follow the Master. And that takes work.

By Dee Bowman via Gospel Power, Vol. 13, No. 35, Aug. 27,

KINGS AND KINGDOMS

There are not many kings and queens in the world today. Perhaps, we Americans, pay some attention to England and Queen Elizabeth; at least we are forced to because of the media. Yet, there is constant debate in the British empire about whether or not the monarchy needs to be abolished. The fact is, we do not have a true understanding of what it is like to live under a king. Our forefathers living before the American Revolution may have understood, but we probably do not.

But what about the King of Kings? Do we need to understand who He is? Do we need to understand what it means to live under His rule? Yes! The kingdom of God basically refers to the leadership of a king, the rule and reign of a king, the exercise of the power of a king. We sometimes use people, realm, territory, laws, etc., to describe kingdom. But the exercise of power, of kingly power, gets closer to Biblical teaching about a king and his kingdom. Focus on the rule of God and you can't go wrong.

In the OT, kingdom sometimes refers to earthly kingdoms. *"For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die"* (**1 Samuel 20:31**). This passage tells Jonathan that the seed of Jesse (David) would succeed to the throne; Jonathan would not be king (see **1 Chron. 12:23**; **1 Kings 2:12**). While territory was involved, the focus needs to be on kingly authority. Take the time to study the book of Daniel, king Nebuchadnezzar in particular, and you will find references to his power and his kingdom; not all references involve a geographical territory. Yet, physical boundaries did not assure allegiance to the king. Respect for the king's rule established the correct boundaries.

The NT contains references to a king and kingdom in the secular sense of those terms. *"Therefore He said: A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading"* (**Luke 19:12, 15**). The ten horns mentioned in **Revelation 17** refer to earthly kings.

God is always king. *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple...So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts" (Isaiah 6:1, 5).* God is not an earthly king, but His kingdom includes this world in which you and I live. It includes the kingdoms of men and the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. For our salvation and spiritual benefit, the kingdom of God must include you and me. Does it?

Randy Harshbarger - January 12, 2014

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:

J.R. DANIEL, PAT AND GRANT CLOTHIER, JAN PATRICK AND IRENE HURD CONTINUE TO BATTLE FOR GOOD HEALTH.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SHUT IN AND HELP THEM WITH NEEDS BROUGHT ON BY THEIR LIMITATIONS IN MOBILITY.

BIBLE CLASSES: SUNDAY, THE GOSPEL OF JOHN - RON PECK
TEACHER - WEDNESDAY,
PREMILLENNIALISM - JIM STAUFFER TEACHER

SUNDAY AM SERMON: TWO SELFISH SONS



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