

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

January

17

2016

DO WE JUST CONTINUE TO ACCEPT LYING?

Jim Stauffer

While watching the televised debate of people striving for the nomination to run for President of our country, I was struck by the number of times each of them accused each other of lying. No one seemed to escape the accusation.

The most immediate thought was to wonder why we could not find someone above reproach to seek this office. What have we done with honest discourse on the earth?

The second thought was, how are those of us who claim to be His disciples going to have a positive effect on this condition of men? We are told to be the *salt of the earth* and *the light of the world* (Mat. 5:13-16). We are warned that those who insist on honesty and truth (righteousness) will be persecuted (Mat. 5:10-12). By these statements from the Lord we conclude He expects the world to be filled with lies and for His disciples to conduct themselves with integrity in the face of it.

After all, Jesus described the relationship of the Jews to the devil (the prince of this world, John 16:11), this way, *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father it is your will to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and standeth not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father thereof* (John 8:44). Therefore, we know the one who holds influence over the world (Satan) uses that influence to lead men to dishonesty and lying.

Rational people do not lie for the fun of it. They lie to gain some advantage. Generally the advantage they seek is related to financial gain or some specific enhancement in their lives. There surely were some lies told on that stage Thursday night. When one man says the other is lying, one of them most assuredly is. We know their motivation. It is to seek the highest office in the land. Has deception become so embedded in achievement in this world that an honest man cannot seek to be President of the United States?

We know it is rampant in other areas of achievement. Recently, several of the baseball players with great statistical results on the field could not get elected to the Hall of Fame because they cheated by using performance enhancing drugs. Yet others with very similar performance results were voted in because they achieved it without cheating. Many of the voters in this case are holding to the integrity of the game. But have you heard many of them interviewed since the vote? They are beginning to weaken. They are thinking of relenting and voting for *some* of the cheaters they think should be allowed in. What does this tell us about the overall subject of honesty? It says, "Keep telling me that lie long enough and I will either believe it or simply accept it anyway." That is a sad statement about where we have come as God's creation.

In the eyes of God this is wrong in so many ways. It is the lustful pursuit of power and the money that goes with it. The Apostle Paul warned about this by saying *the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil* (1 Tim. 6:10). When one becomes so infatuated with riches, glory and power he will deceive to achieve it, he has become blinded by those things of this world he has lost sight of his real goal. *1John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;*

Society has given our politicians a pass on lying. We have become used to it and now accept it as a part of the process. "Everybody does it." "They have to do it because the others do." We are farther along than the baseball writers are. We have come to full acceptance of political lies. Rationalizing an act God condemns makes it no less sinful. There is a very simple formula for righteous living provided by the prophet Micah, from the Old Testament. *Mic. 6:8 He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?* There is no harmony in lying and walking justly. Nor is

continued on page 2

there any consistency in lying and kindness. To walk humbly with our God we must submit our will to His and this precludes any deceit at all. John tells us we are calling God a liar when we willingly disobey the things He has commanded and fail to make it right with Him.

1John 1:10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.* We are in essence denying the truth of His word when we openly reject and contradict it with our actions. This will eventually lead us to the eternal torment promised to those guilty of such conduct. **(see Rev. 21:8)**

The question is what can the child of God do to encourage honest discourse in society. The simple answer is for each one to be honest in each and every relationship we have regardless of the outcome. When we allow the outcome of a situation, business deal, etc. determine our action we have the cart before the horse. What must happen for truth to prevail in any real way is for the goal of those involved to be honest in speech and conduct. Note, the **goal** or the outcome desired must be complete honest conduct. That must be what we strive for rather than winning the deal. Once that is done, success has been achieved no matter the outcome. Jesus promised the influence of the kingdom of heaven would touch and influence all around it. **Matt. 13:33** *Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened.*

Beyond my own salvation there are two primary concerns I must have. 1) First and foremost, pleasing God. 2) To do that, I must be just with my fellow man. Let's do our part changing the world.

God Is Still Working On Me

"He's still working on me

To make me what I need to be

It took him just a week to make the moon and stars

The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars

How loving and patient He must be

'Cause He's still workin' on me"

Being a Christian is a growing process. It starts when the old man is buried with Christ in baptism and the new creature is raised from the watery grave. It ends when we draw our last breath on this earth. Paul wrote of the Thessalonians that *"your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing"* **(II Thessalonians 1:3)**. Peter speaks of the need to keep increasing in a number of qualities that

characterize the transformed life of one striving to be like Christ **(II Peter 1:5-8)**. *"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works"* **(Ephesians 2:10)**. Paul emphasized that he had not yet attained perfection but that he pressed on *"toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* **(Philippians 3:12-14)**. And while we press on to become more and more like Christ Jesus, God is at the same time still working on us.

Thru His word. God's word works on good and honest hearts. Devoted followers relish the opportunity to spend time mining the good news of the gospel to come to a better understanding of God's desires. We examine our hearts against His standard – searching our own motives, thoughts, words, and actions. When we are convicted by His word of sin, the tender-hearted repent and turn back to the Lord.

Thru prayer. Dedicated Christians realize that prayer is not the way we convince God to do just as we want. Rather, God uses prayer to shape our hearts. In prayer we humble ourselves before His throne, recognizing the supremacy of our Creator. We submit ourselves to His will. We confess our sins to Him while being ever grateful for His mercy and His grace.

Thru trials. Perhaps the ultimate purpose of our trials is that *"He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end"* **(Deut 8:16)**. God tests us for our own good! As we go through trials, we learn that the Lord is in control. We learn to humble ourselves and to lean on Him. We learn that things happen in His time – not in ours. If we choose to react to trials as the Lord desires, our faith will grow stronger, we will learn how to better endure and persevere, our character will take on more of the character of Christ, and our hope will become even clearer.

Thru His family. As a spiritual family, we are able to depend upon one another. We are committed to help one another as we travel together toward heaven. When we are burdened, we know that our brethren will help us shoulder the load **(Gal 6:2)**. When we sorrow, our brothers and sisters want to help comfort us **(I Thess 5:11)**. We lean on one another knowing the tender care that exists between us. We look after one another's welfare **(Rom 15:1-7)**. We admonish one another seeking to keep each other on the heavenly path. We lift one another up in prayer unto Almighty God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think **(Eph 3:20)**. When we are joyful, we are excited to share it with our brethren knowing that they will join in our rejoicing **(Rom 12:15)**. *"Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ"* **(Ephesians 4:15)**.

By Terry Bennett

LEVITICUS 1:4,5

He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering... Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD... Lev. 1:4-5

Galatians 3:24 says that the old law was to prepare us for Christ. Among other things, it was a teacher to help us understand what would happen to Jesus on the cross. I want you to consider one very important thing we learn from the animal sacrifices that help us to appreciate Christ's sacrifice.

The law made it very clear that only priests were to offer sacrifices before the LORD (**Leviticus 1:5, 7, 11; 2:2, 9; 3:2, 8; 4:7**). In other words, you couldn't set up an altar in your back yard and make sacrifices for yourself. It had to be in the place God designated once they entered the land (**Deuteronomy 12:5**) and it would be the priests to offer the sacrifices for you on the altar.

However, though the priest offered the sacrifice for you, he would not kill it for you. That was your job. You did that for yourself. After placing your hand on the head of the burnt offering (which probably symbolized the fact that the animal was taking on the guilt of your sins - see **Leviticus 16:20-22**), you would then take a knife and slit the throat so all of the blood would be drained out (*for the life of the flesh was in the blood, Leviticus 17:11*).

What was the purpose of that? It would appear that what God was teaching them (and us) was that the priest was not responsible for the death of that innocent animal, nor was God responsible. You killed the animal. It was your fault that he died. Your sins resulted in his death.

Christ Jesus *"bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24)*. No less than 10 times in **Isaiah 53** a direct connection is made between the suffering of God's Servant (Jesus) and our sins. He did not die for his own sins but for ours. It is as if we placed our hand on the head of our Lord and took the nails in our hand and drove them through. He shed his blood for our sins, every last drop.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

David Maxon

Two Men Disagree With the Preacher

Two men disagree with the preacher. They have both been taught that they are not just to "swallow" everything the preacher says; that they are to think for themselves.

They are to be commended, therefore, for their careful evaluation of what is taught.

The key words with the first man, however, are, "It seems to me." All teaching is judged according to his own thinking, as to whether or not it makes sense to him. The key words with the second man are, "What does God say about it?" He desires truth and knows that truth can only be found in God's word (**John 17:17**). If he disagrees with the preacher, he does so because he is convinced the preacher has misused a passage of scripture or has failed to consider a scripture that might affect his conclusion. He comes with an open Bible and an open mind, prepared to defend his position or to yield if he sees that it is indefensible.

The first man exalts self. He places too much confidence in his own thinking. He may do so unconsciously, but in reality he makes his own intellect and experience his god. His thinking is reflected in the words of Naaman, *"Behold, I thought,"* words that would have taken Naaman to a leper's grave had it not been for the admonition of his servants (**2 Kings 5:1-14**).

The second man exalts God. His confidence is in what God says in the scriptures. He recognizes that his own intellect and experience fade into nothingness when placed in the brightness of the light of truth. A "thus saith the Lord" ends all controversy with him. His thinking is reflected in that of the Bereans who *"were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they... searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11)*.

Unless the first man changes his attitude he is hopeless. He is susceptible to all manner of false ideas. He cannot come to know God and His truth through his own wisdom (**1 Corinthians 1:21**). He must throw his own wisdom, intellect, and experience aside; he must become poor in spirit, meek before God, mourning, hungering and thirsting for righteousness; he must bow in submission to the Lord and to His word. He must say with Paul, *"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" (Romans 11:33-34)*.

The second man is a blessed and fortunate man in-deed, for he will learn the truth that will make him free (**John 8:32**). Unfortunately, he is a rare man in the twentieth century. But he does exist—and he can exist even in the man who is presently reading this article. What a challenge to each of us! After all, it is one thing to disagree with a preacher, but quite another thing to disagree with Almighty God!

by Bill Hall THE BEACON - Electronic Edition

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:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING
IN YOUR PRAYERS: J.R. DANIEL,
GRANT CLOTHIER, MARY CZIRR, JAN
PATRICK AND STEVE WIMP.

OUR CURRENT STUDIES ARE:
SUNDAY MORNING: THE BOOK OF
ACTS - BYRON TAYLOR
WEDNESDAY EVENING: THE SCHEME
OF REDEMPTION - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:

WHO IS IN CHARGE HERE?



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