



# LENEXA EDITOR

MARCH

26

2017

## “CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY”

by Jim Stauffer

There is the occasion near the end of Joshua's life called to mind by the title given this article. **Josh. 24:15** *If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.* He challenges the people who are very aware of what God has done in their presence by way of defeating their enemies and giving them a land flowing with milk and honey.

Then much later, Jesus asks, *.....Who do people say that the Son of Man is?* (**Matt. 16:13**) On both of these occasions people are faced with the choice of accepting the reality or choosing something they prefer. History tells us in both cases the majority chose something they preferred rather than to serve the God of heaven.

This will always be the choice presented to mankind by a God who loved them so much He gave His only Son to die for them to reconcile the broken relationship between God and every man because *all have sinned*. And that sin has separated them from God (**Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:1,2**).

Jesus further stated, *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.* (**Matt. 6:24**)

The 1967 modifications to the Westminster Confession puts those who trust in it in the very position Jesus condemned. It says, *“The Bible is to be*

*interpreted in the light of its witness to God's work of reconciliation in Christ. The Scriptures, given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are nevertheless the words of men, conditioned by the language, thought forms, and literary fashions of the places and times at which they were written. They reflect views of life, history, and the cosmos which were then current.”*

Modern Presbyterianism is detailed in *The Fascinating Doctrine of Predestination*. It says for instance: *“The blessed thing about Christian Doctrine is that there are no right or wrong answers. There is no winning an argument or losing an argument. It is not a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ situation. It is how people throughout history have looked at the world about them and their relationship to God... “So any study begins with a realization that there is no absolute proof of any doctrine. Scripture seems to substantiate both sides of any arguments. Shakespeare was right when he had Antonio declare ‘The devil can cite scripture for his purposes’ [Merchant of Venice I,3].*

### ***(The Fascinating Doctrine of Predestination)***

Ex-Episcopal Bishop of San Francisco, James A. Pike (deceased), called both the Biblical account of the Garden of Eden and that of the virgin birth of Jesus “myths,” saying of the account of the Garden of Eden, “Yet I do not know a single member of the Anglican Communion—Bishop, Presbyterian, Deacon or Layman—who believes this story literally.” (Bill Crews, *Church Origins*, p. 4) ***All these quotes taken from A Study of Denominations, Gene Taylor, padfield.com***

If, indeed the Scriptures are archaic or to be

adapted to whatever historical period man lives in and adjusted to the thinking of that era, Paul must have been mistaken when he said the Holy Spirit revealed to them the very words they were to use to reveal the mind of God to man (**1 Cor. 2:10-13**). Either that or we are to believe the Holy Spirit is unreliable.

If a thorough study of Scripture does not reveal a specific doctrine, what are we to believe about the very claim of that Scripture, *Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.* (**2 John 9**) Clearly the one who says there is no doctrine to be found in Scripture is denying the very words of the Scripture he uses to teach his followers.

Remember those who wrote the Westminster Confession both originally and the modifications are busy teaching many of the precepts of the Bible which are represented as the revelation of the mind of God by the Holy Spirit. How can any reasonable person claim to believe in God as the Creator of heaven and earth and the *rewarder of those who diligently seek him* (**Heb. 11:6**) with heaven as a reward, then turn and deny the very things He has revealed to them.

One has to choose, as did the people of Joshua's day and as the Lord demanded of His disciples, between God and Christ as who they represent themselves to be or deny them and logically refuse to follow their ideals. It simply does not make sense to profit from a successful career in religion, *faring sumptuously every day* (**Luke 16:19**) while at the same time rejecting the very statements contained in the book that religion is founded upon.

That such men can deceive so many people by saying, "Live like Jesus", while at the same time denying their actual belief in what Jesus said and stood for is the very height of hypocrisy. Is it any wonder people without knowledge of the specifics of the Bible dismiss modern religion as purely a business they want no part of? Is it any wonder why the hearts of men are turned against the pure gospel of Jesus Christ when they see religious leaders given to using religion for personal prosperity and benefit? Let me offer you this thought as you consider Pilate's question of, *What is truth?* (**John 18:38**). Jesus, it has been proven beyond a shadow of doubt died on the cross of Calvary for what He believed was God's plan to save man eternally. The twelve apostles He personally selected all with one exception died horrible deaths as martyrs believing the message He revealed to them by way of the Holy Spirit. Jesus and all His apostles proved their connection to the Holy Spirit by signs and wonders, yes, miracles (**Mark 16:20; John 20:30,31**).

Religious leaders and religious followers have one logical choice. That is to choose Jesus and accept everything He taught and stood for or accept the fact

they have rejected Him by doubting His revelation of the mind of God. If your desire is to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ which can save your soul, take His word for it (the Bible), not the word of men who have chosen a path of profit at the expense of the truth Jesus died for.

After all, the man who confesses Jesus as Lord with his mouth and believes in his heart that God has raised Him from the dead will be saved (**Rom. 10:9**).

### CHARITABLE DEEDS

*"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly"* (**Matthew 6:1-4**).

It seems clear that the Pharisees of Jesus' day were concerned about "showing off" their religious devotion to God. While prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor are admirable activities, the question is: What is our motivation for doing such things? Kingdom citizens must guard against ostentatious displays of religion. True devotion stems from humility before God; the world should never be our gallery.

Giving can be a good thing. Yet, when we give do we sound the trumpet? Do we say: Look at what I am doing? In what ways do we call attention to our giving? Meeting real needs with no thought of self-aggrandizement should be our goal. It may be that we so often speak of the reward of heaven when this life is over, that we tend to think even now of the rewards that might come to us as we serve Jesus. What if we give with no thought of any recognition? What if we serve the Lord with no thought of any reward other than our love and gratitude for Him? Trumpets call attention to us, not the Lord; they also bring their own kind of reward.

Well, you don't understand, someone says. When I give, I am helping others. I want others to notice what I am doing because it will encourage them to do the same. How sad when we covet the praises of men rather than the praises of God! Hypocrisy is a dangerous trap. Playacting is not from the heart. Others may benefit from our giving; others may applaud and pat us on the back. Yet, hypocrites have their true reward from the Lord. If you want the reward of the world, then that is all you will get.

What hand do we use in giving to others? Do we use the right hand or the left hand? Isn't Jesus saying: When you give, take no thought for receiving the praise of anyone—the recipient or even one's own inward



desire for approval. The Lord sees what you are doing and will reward accordingly. We may want to say: Watch me! OK! Remember, though, that someone is watching you.

**Randy Harshbarger**

## **“No One Will Know”**

One of the most foolish and shallow excuses for sin is the claim that “no one will know” we have done something wrong.

In **2 Samuel 11**, David committed adultery with Bathsheba, told lies to “cover up” what he had done, and had Bathsheba’s husband Uriah put to death. (**2 Samuel 11:14-15**). Following Uriah’s death, David took Bathsheba to be his wife, and seemed to think his sin was “covered up.” The only “minor detail” he missed is that God was never fooled. The end of the chapter says *“the thing that David had done displeased the Lord”* (verse 27).

**Hebrews 4:13** says *“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”* **Luke 12:2** says *“For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.”* There is no “covering up” or “hiding” from the One whose judgment matters more than all others combined.

God knows every word, action, and thought of our hearts (**Jeremiah 17:10**). Character has been defined as “how we behave when no one but God is watching” because there is no such thing as “how we behave when no one is watching.”

Hypocrisy leads one to focus on giving off an appearance of righteousness in the eyes of fellow man, regardless of what our character is. Sincere service to God leads one to focus on being righteous in the eyes of God because that is who we are. May we endeavor to have a godly character and never make the excuse “no one will know” to justify sin.

## **It Is What It Is**

A friend of mine, wise and astute beyond his years (so he tells me), has shared his newly discovered motto with me: “It is what it is.” Ok, so I have thought that a few times before, but it is one of those simple statements that forces us back to reality at times when we may feel overcome by our circumstances and disappointments of life. When things aren’t exactly as you would desire them to be, you can become focused on reality by telling yourself, “It is what it is.”

Circumstances are what they are. There are some things we can change, and some things we can’t (we are getting more profound as we go). Our problem is that we often expend more worry and energy on the things we can’t change; and this, in turn, can become a stumbling block to our spiritual growth and joy. *“And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?”* (**Matthew 6:27**). Paul’s own circumstances were often

less than ideal, and beyond his control, yet his attitude remained stable: *“I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me”* (**Philippians 4:13**). If I may venture a loose paraphrase: It is what it is, I have learned to deal with “it” through God’s help.

*“Moses My servant is dead.”* So spoke the Lord to Joshua in (**Joshua 1:2**). Joshua knew this already; they had been mourning for days. But sometimes we need a reminder of the simple truth about reality. Essentially, God was telling Joshua, “Moses is gone, and you can’t change that now or have him back. Now it’s time to get up and go take the land of promise.” In other words, “it is what it is, and you have to work with “it” the way it is.”

The only option is not to accept reality. People do sometimes go through phases of “denial.” They do not feel mentally able to accept what “is.” It hurts too much perhaps. But if we will ever *“arise and cross over this Jordan”* in our lives, we must learn to accept the facts and circumstances of life as they are. It takes courage. It takes resolve.

But, it must be done. *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* (**Philippians 4:6, 7**). God gives us the tools to be able to deal with all of our circumstances, including the painful ones. He wants us to cast our cares on Him, pray about them, and then let Him grant us peace in our hearts.

The solution to problems is not denial. We should learn to admit reality, then work with it as it is. When there are matters we can change for the better, let’s work to change them. When the circumstances don’t meet our concept of ideal, and we can’t change them, let’s learn to accept them and resolve to move forward with the strength God supplies. In all matters, we must *“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”* (**Matthew 6:33**). Because, as another one of my favorite “profound” questions reminds us, a hundred years from now, what will “it” matter? We worry about things that will pass into oblivion, and sometimes ignore those matters that have eternal consequences. A hundred years from now, it won’t matter that my car has a few scratches on it, or my water heater went out. What will matter is whether or not I have devoted myself to God and His Will. It is what it is.

**T. Doy Moyer via The Jackson Drive Reporter,  
Jan. 10, 2010  
Taken from thesinceremilkofgodsword.com**

**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;

**1 Pet. 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**

**Elders Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

**Check out the following websites:**

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

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

**NEWS AND NOTES:** REMEMBER THE SICK IN PRAYERS AND VISITS.

JAN PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER, AND SARA DENT AND J.T. PECK.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:  
RELIGIOUS CONFUSION - JIM STAUFFER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS:  
ECCLESIASTES - BYRON TAYLOR

SUNDAY SERMON: LASCIVIOUSNESS AND PORNOGRAPHY EXPOSED



## **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