

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 7, 2017

"THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH"

Jim Stauffer

Every Spring and Fall we have a Gospel Meeting. A few days devoted to presenting lessons from the word of God.

We do this as part of our effort to *teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*, in compliance with the command Jesus gave to His disciples (**Mat. 28:19,20**).

This is an effort to offer an opportunity for the community to see that we are indeed, *the pillar and support of the truth* (**1 Tim. 3:15**).

Just what is the church existing in the community of Lenexa, Kansas? It makes every effort to comport with all Scripture says about the church that Jesus promised to build when He said, *"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."* (**Matt. 16:18**)

This would be the same church Paul referred to when speaking this to the Ephesian elders at Miletus, *"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."* (**Acts 20:28**)

Any church that is not the church of Christ as presented in the New Testament Scriptures is not the one to whom the saved souls are added, *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.* (**Acts 2:47**)

It is the primary goal of such Gospel Meetings then, to offer to any and all who will come, the opportunity to become members of that church that Jesus built and purchased with His own blood, by obeying the same commands as the people of New Testament days.

We know they were taught the necessity of faith in Christ as the first step to obedience. *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.* (**Heb. 11:6**)

We know the mission of Jesus was to *save his*

people from their sins. (**Mat. 1:21**) It was in accordance with that very concept that Peter's answer to the very question of, *Brethren, what must we do?*, was, *repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* (**Acts 2:37,38**)

Of course the Scriptures are replete with teaching by way of direct statements and examples of faith leading men to comply with the requests to repent of sin and be baptized for the forgiveness of that sin (**see Acts 22:16**). James indicated true believers should be doers of the word and not hearers only (**Jas. 1:22**).

With this in mind we then are willing to make the good confession that Jesus is the Son of God and has been made both Lord and Christ (**Rom. 10:9,10; Acts 2:36**).

This Gospel Meeting is especially precious to me. The lessons will be presented by my brother in the flesh, L.A. Stauffer of the Kirkwood church of Christ in St. Louis, Mo. He has preached the gospel for the last 60 years in Kentucky, Indiana and Missouri on a regular basis in addition to holding such meetings as this all over the United States.

He will present the following lessons, all based on texts from Scripture, May 14-17:

Sunday AM Bible Class - 9:30 AM

Members One of Another

Sunday AM Worship - 10:20 AM

The Royal Law

Sunday PM Worship - 5:00 PM

Consider One Another

Monday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

Care For One Another

Tuesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

They First Gave Themselves

Wednesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

The Fruits of Righteousness

Please come and attend any and all of the sessions you can. We would love to meet you and worship with you.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34). Showing off for others with long verbose prayers, or giving alms to be seen by others, or fasting to appear pious are all manifestations of worry—worry about the wrong things. Preoccupations with food, shelter, and clothing divert our hearts away from the kingdom of Christ. The endless pursuit of things, such as mammon, leaves us exhausted; we have no strength or true interest in pursuing the kingdom.

Seeking Jesus and His kingdom first remains the first priority for Christians today. It was true of those who sought to be part of Christ 2000 years ago. Today, though, we probably don't worry about daily concerns of simply existing as did folks a long time ago. To put it another way, most who read these words don't worry too much about where their next meal is coming from or what they will wear from day to day. In the first century (and still for much of this world) people daily struggled as they worked to provide, eat, clothe, and shelter themselves. That partially explains *"give us this day our daily bread."* Bread one day at a time was received with thanksgiving. Israel learned that lesson when they gathered too much manna on one occasion. If tomorrow came, bread would be sought then. But service to the Lord was given and must be given today. Jesus says remember that trying to serve two masters is the worst kind of slavery.

Worry does all kinds of bad things to us. Jesus says don't worry about earthly treasures because they do not last. The darkness of this life hides the light of true moral and spiritual values. Worry says that we can have both God and mammon. Worry prevents total allegiance to the kingdom of God. Don't worry; don't worry about *things*. Responsible concern yes; distorted belief about what is most important, no. Worry says that we lack faith in God to do what He says He will do. He takes care of the birds and flowers; much more, does He care for us.

We have not known Thee as we ought, Nor learned Thy wisdom, grace, and power; The things of earth have filled our thought, And trifles of the passing hour. Lord, give us light Thy truth to see, And make us wise in knowing thee.

We have not feared Thee as we ought, Nor bowed beneath Thine awful eye, Nor guarded deed, and word, and thought, Remembering that our God was nigh. Lord, give us faith to know Thee near, And grant the grace of holy fear.

We have not served Thee as we ought; Alas, the duties left undone, The work with little fervor wrought, The battles lost or scarcely won! Lord, give the zeal, and give the might, For Thee to toil, for Thee to fight.

When shall we know Thee as we ought, And fear, and love, and serve aright? When shall we, out of trial

brought, Be perfect in the land of light? Lord, may we day by day prepare, To see Thy face, and serve Thee there. T.B. Pollock

Does Jesus recognize that every day brings concerns? Yes. But He also knows that with each tomorrow, comes also His grace. So why worry?

Randy Harshbarger

Are We Patternists?

"You're a patternist." This sounds like an insult, especially when it refers to how one reads the Bible. Patterns are constricting and binding, but Christ came to set us free, right? We're no longer a slave to any pattern, but freed by God's grace from having to worry about patterns anymore. So, if I say you're a patternist, I've just condemned you. I might as well have called you a legalist, because the two words are virtually synonymous.

The problem with the above reasoning is that we're all patternists. Humans were built to see pattern and design in everything. We are pattern-recognizing creatures, and this allows us to do literally everything we do mentally. No one can play music without a pattern of notes that work together in harmony. To be sure, there are infinite variations of harmonious sounds, but without a recognizable pattern of notes to work with we wouldn't be able to make any music. It'd just be random noise. The same logic that applies to our musical abilities applies to all other mental abilities. You're able to read this sentence because you're a "patternist." When certain letters are strung together in a certain pattern, it becomes meaningful to you. Do you recognize the difference between "potter" and "putter"? A slight variation in the pattern of letters creates a different meaning, but there must be a pattern for those letters to have any meaning when put together.

As a matter of fact, once we appreciate how integral patterns are, we come to recognize that patterns are what liberate us. The musician cannot improvise or compose beautiful music without recognizing sound patterns. The ability to make patterns with words and letters gives us the freedom to express ourselves. We could go on and on, but hopefully by now you get the point. Patterns are necessary for both comprehension and expression.

If at first we don't comprehend something, we will attempt to make a pattern in order to understand it. It's just built into our DNA. So to call someone whose reasoning we dislike a "patternist" isn't really the derogatory label it's intended to be. To call someone a patternist is to call them a human. It would be like calling someone with bad breath an "oxygenist." We may not like their breathing but that's a poor way to express it, and we shouldn't furthermore conclude that we should be liberated from oxygen.

It is true that some patterns are better than others, just as some songs are better than others. It is also true

that sometimes we see patterns that aren't there. The solution to bad patterns, however, is not to say "away with patterns!" That's not even possible. To discard another person's pattern is to substitute your own. You may debate whether a dog is of one breed or another, but you cannot say it is of no breed at all. The only way we can judge the validity of one identification or another is measure it against a pattern of "breedness."

Hopefully you can already see what this has to do with our Bible reading. If we don't like that certain people have gone to the Bible looking for a pattern, the solution isn't to say that they shouldn't be looking for patterns. That's unavoidable. What we should do if we don't like a particular pattern is figure out if the pattern is flawed. Did someone find this pattern because it's in the Bible, or did they impose a foreign pattern upon the Bible?

For example, someone who says that Christians should only meet in upper rooms may go to the Last Supper and the apostles on Pentecost and exclaim that their pattern is biblical. Do I believe their reasoning is flawed? Yes. Is the solution to label them as "patternists" and thank God for grace instead of patterns? No. The solution (and really the only possible solution) is to show them a better pattern, and show them why their pattern is flawed.

The accusation of "patternism" exposes the foolishness of the accuser more than it does the accused. When we use faulty labels to refute faulty interpretations, we're doing nothing more than showing how much we blindly resemble the very thing we dislike. *"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."* (Matt. 7:3-5). May we always seek the patterns that God has put into scripture and the world, and discard the faulty ones we've imposed on them, and let us do so with discernment and humility.

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A Win-Win Situation

Dan McKibben

The past few weeks I talked with a couple of different sisters who have faced serious health problems. One sister in West Virginia who is battling cancer, talked about her situation. She said if the alternative treatments she is taking helps her get better, she wins, and if she does not overcome the cancer, she wins, so it is a win-win situation for her. I talked with another sister who was facing open heart surgery. She said if she gets through the surgery, she stands to gain, and if she doesn't get through the surgery, she stands to gain also, a win-win situation. What a great attitude to have, that is manifested by these two good sisters in Christ.

As Christians we have the privilege to go to the throne of mercy to seek help in time of need. *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and grace to help in time of need"* (Hebrews 4:16). God certainly has the power in his providential care to act in our behalf. If God chooses, He can and does act in our behalf at times. Even if He chooses not to intercede in his providence, we have confidence in the promise of the gospel.

The child of God knows that if we pass from the scenes of this life we stand to gain. *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* (Philippians 1:21). Now for those that are not faithful Christians, death is a tremendous loss! But through the promise of the gospel we have great hope. *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us"* (Rom. 8:37). The gospel brings life and immortality to light. *"But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel"* (2 Timothy 1:10). We have nothing to fear about death if we are serving the Lord. The Hebrew writer said, *"And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage"* (Hebrews 2:15). The attitude of these 2 good sisters is uplifting and refreshing. What about you, as you think about death and dying? Will it be a loss, or a winning situation? We pray that if you are not serving the Lord, that you will start doing so today!

What Saith The Scriptures; Rockcastle, Kentucky. Taken from Market Street Messenger, Athens, Ala.

In one of his books, A.M. Hunter, the New Testament scholar, relates the story of a dying man who asked his Christian doctor to tell him something about the place to which he was going. As the doctor fumbled for a reply, he heard a scratching at the door, and he had his answer. "Do you hear that?" he asked his patient. "It's my dog. I left him downstairs, but he has grown impatient, and has come up and hears my voice. He has no notion what is inside this door, but he knows that I am here. Isn't it the same with you? You don't know what lies beyond the Door, but you know that your Master is there."

Christian Theology in Plain Language, p. 208.

Before his death in 1981, American writer William Saroyan telephoned in to the Associated Press this final, very Saroyan-like observation: "Everybody has got to die, but I have always believed an exception would be made in my case. Now what?"

Today in the Word, April 11, 1993.

Heb. 9:27 *And inasmuch as it is appointed unto men to die once and after this the judgment, so Christ also having been offered once, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await him.*

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

Elders Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

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NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

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

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH - RON
PECK

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS -
FORGIVENESS - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: HOW
DO WE ESTABLISH BIBLICAL
AUTHORITY?



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