

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

August
27
2017

Anna Surface 2010

THE FOUNDATION OF WHAT YOU SAY

by Jim Stauffer

We have all found ourselves involved in discussions where a person is expounding upon his beliefs and giving further strength to his argument by citing an authority who agrees with him.

Just this week I had a brief discussion with someone who did that in the following way.

In an effort to criticize those who oppose gay marriage, he cited a loving Jesus, who taught us to love one another.

In one fell swoop, he was saying Jesus was O.K. with homosexuality and that anytime you oppose someone's conduct you demonstrate you do not love them.

When it was pointed out that Jesus was the author of Scripture by way of the Holy Spirit, he quickly pointed out Jesus did not speak the specific condemnation of homosexuality in **1 Cor. 6** and other passages, but rather Paul and other writers did. He remains in denial of the holy inspiration of the writings of Paul.

The problem that was then in the process of being exposed was his tepid belief in Jesus. Any effort to show where Jesus demanded obedience (**John 14:15**), was brushed aside with the generic gospel this man believed. That gospel is that Jesus is a loving Savior and would never condemn someone for loving another such as the case of two homosexuals.

The fact is Jesus does love all mankind. After all, He died for each of us (**2 Cor. 5:14**). But He also condemns sin very aggressively in His expulsion of those trading and profiteering in the Temple (**Joh. 2:13-16**), the conduct of the Pharisees (**Mat. 23**), and any and all who follow false teaching (**Mat. 7:21-23**).

This man, like so many today, tried to use Jesus to make a point he believes in, a point that originated in the hearts of men.

Even Jesus made certain of the foundation of His teaching. **John 7:17** *"If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself."*

Things We Should Learn From the Feeding of the Five Thousand

Of all the miracles that Jesus performed during His lifetime on earth I know of only one that is recorded in all four of the Gospels, Feeding the 5,000. It is found in **Matthew 14; Mark 6, Luke 9 and John 6** (Call for an interesting mnemonic on this!) From this one miracle we should learn several important lessons!

1. Jesus, being ever the Master Teacher, carefully laid the groundwork for the disciples' to understand the miracle by the questions He asked beforehand in **John 6:5-7**.

2. Jesus told the disciples to get things organized. An organized effort will almost always be more productive than a haphazard one. He had them sit by hundreds and fifties, **Mark 6: 39f**. Can you imagine the turmoil if He'd just said "Here's food, y'all come get some!"?

3. Jesus started with what they already had on hand: five loaves and a few fishes (picture pancakes and minnows) donated by a remarkably generous young lad, **John 6:9**. This is food these folks would all have been already accustomed to eating on a daily basis. Don't go asking God for new blessings if you despise the ones you've already got!

4. Jesus thanked God for the food they already had! "Dear God, we are grateful that we are not here in a deserted place without food, even if all we got is five pancakes and a few minnows and there are 5,000 of us to feed. We're grateful!"

5. Jesus did not throw a Hunger Party! They ate till they were full, satisfied, **John 6:11; Luke 9:17**, etc.

6. Jesus ordered that leftovers be collected *"that nothing be lost"*, **John 6:12**. If Jesus could do all this and yet order that nothing be wasted we shouldn't waste either!

Cleveland Reddinger

THE TRANSFIGURATION

"Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light" (Matthew 17:1-2). Peter, James, John, Moses, Elijah, and the Father are there. And Jesus is there. The one who raised the dead, healed the sick, and fed the hungry, the one who would go to Jerusalem and die, is now seen in His glory. This gathering happened after the sixth day—the day after Jesus' followers correctly identified Him as the Christ of God. Matthew tells us that this event happened on the 7th day, an important day in the Bible.

Jesus was transfigured; He was changed; He was transformed. His face was like the sun; His clothes white as the light. His human appearance was changed, if even so briefly, into the appearance of a heavenly being. Even though we strain to describe and understand the brilliance of Jesus on this occasion, still we must try. Jesus told His disciples not to be afraid. Who would not, though, fall in fear, in awe, in wonder at this transformation? Yet we must see, and fall, and fear. We will one day be transformed with *"white garments"* of faithfulness (**Revelation 3:5**).

Moses and Elijah were present on this occasion. Why? We remember some similarities of this event and the time Moses ascended up the mount to come into the presence of God at Sinai; when he returned, his face was shining. Elijah is soon to be part of the discussion between Jesus and His followers (**Matthew 17:10ff**). Certainly Elijah connects Jesus to the prophets of old; faithful prophets instructed Israel in her relationship to Jehovah. Without OT testimony, it is hard to understand what Jesus said and did, something Jesus had already spoken about (**Matthew 7:12**).

We are not surprised to hear Peter say: *"Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."* Luke tells us that Peter didn't know what he was saying (**Luke 9:33**). Did Peter think that earthly tents were needed? Did he envision a long stay on the mount? The voice from heaven soon hushed him.

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" These words are the same as in **Matthew 3:17** with *"hear him"* added. Moses spoke of God's prophet that the people must listen to (**Deuteronomy 18:15**). Recoiling in fear, the disciples fall down. Then the words and touch of Jesus reassured them that all was well.

The Synoptics prefigure the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. **Matthew 17:9** *"Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead"* links the glory Christ had on the mount with the glory He would soon have once again in the presence of His Father. After the resurrection, the story could be told. In fact,

Peter spoke of this experience in **2 Peter 1:16**, saying *"We were eyewitnesses of His majesty."* Peter's message would bring faith to those who listened and obeyed. Adding faith and virtue and love to our lives means we are listening to Jesus. After all, isn't that what the voice from heaven said to do?

Randy Harshbarger

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

by J R Bronger

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

This verse has been the focus of controversy for many years. Some see in this verse the idea that so long as a Christian's usual manner of life is to "walk in the light," then sins committed in ignorance, weakness or ordinary day-to-day "slip ups" are not held against him—but he is continuously cleansed by the blood of Christ.

E.M. Zerr's commentary expresses it like this: "Hence if a man is a worker in the Lord's vineyard and his life as a whole is one of obedience to the law of Christ, he does not need to worry about the mistakes he might make which he does not realize, for the blood of Christ will take care of it and wash them away." (Vol. 6, pg. 279). He said the blood of Christ serves like a "disinfectant" destroying the germ of sin committed "incidentally."

The Pulpit Commentary (Vol. 22) states: "The blood of Jesus (his sacrificial death) cleanses us day by day continually (present tense) from our frequent sins of frailty." This cleansing, we are told, is automatic and unconditional.

Guy N. Woods used to express it like this. He said that we are like windshields on an automobile, and the blood of Christ is like windshield wipers. When rain is falling on the windshield, the wipers automatically remove the water. In this way, Woods said, the Christian is cleansed by the blood of Christ. When the rain (sin) occurs in one's life the wipers (blood of Christ) automatically removes the sins of ignorance and weakness unconditionally.

While such might seem to provide a believer with confidence it is a false confidence because that is not what John is expressing. Neither in **1 John 1:5-10**, or anywhere else for that matter does the Bible teach us that God automatically and unconditionally forgives any classification of sin, including sins of frailty or ignorance.

Before looking more closely at **1 John 1:7** let's consider some fundamental truths.

“Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness,” (1 John 3:4). One is not forced to commit sin, that is one does not have to commit sin. For example, Adam and Eve did not have to eat the forbidden fruit. David was not forced to commit adultery with Bathsheba and neither are individuals today forced to commit sin (**James 1:13-15**). To the contrary we are called upon not to sin. *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin,” (1 John 2:1).*

This being said, men and women will sin (**1 John 1:8-10**). And according to John whoever sins engages in lawless disregard for God’s divine law. This would include sins of commission, omission, frailty and ignorance. As one-dimensional as it might seem, all sin is sin! *“All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death” (1 John 5:17).*

Another fundamental truth is expressed in the second part of **1 John 2:1**, *“And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”* The sacrificial death of Jesus provided what the Law of Moses could not (**Hebrews 10:1-10**); the removal of sins. But that forgiveness is neither automatic nor unconditional for either the child of the devil or the sinning believer. For example, Paul commanded that ignorance be repented of. *“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,” (Ac. 17:30).* Also, it must be noted that “weak” slip-ups are not just inadvertent mistakes. Paul makes it plain that sins committed in “weakness” are still condemnable (**1 Cor. 8:7-13**). If weakness of faith, and/or weakness of commitment exempted one from condemnation, then weakness is the state in which one should remain. However, the Bible teaches otherwise. *“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”. (2 Pet. 3:17-18).*

It is very possible that Simon sinned either through weakness or ignorance when he tried to purchase the ability to lay his hands on others and give to them the Holy Spirit (**Acts 8:18-23**). However, he sinned—and the blood of Christ did not automatically and unconditionally wipe away that sin as windshield wipers remove water from a windshield. Instead Simon was told: *“Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you” (Acts 8:22).*

This admonition given to Simon by Peter helps us understand much of the writings of John. A favorite concept of John is the idea of “walking in.” Consider the following instances; *“I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth . . .” (2 Jo.. 4).* *“This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it” (2 Jo.. 6).* And, *“For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth” (3 Jo. 3).*

In **1 John 1** the apostle makes similar use of this idea of walking. *“Walk in darkness” (vs 6), and “walk in the light” (vs 7).* A comparison study clearly reveals that walking in the light is not mere religious sincerity; it is not simply “doing the best you can in your weakness and ignorance.” *“Walking in the light”* means that we are walking in the truth of God’s word; it means we are walking after the commandments of God. *“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (2 John 2:5-6)*

Yet even walking after the commandments of God (in the light) a believer will sin. What then? Well, the blood of Christ does not automatically and unconditionally wipe those sins away. Instead, John tells us what must happen. One, admit them: *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8).* Honest evaluation and admission is foundational. This admittance is what distinguishes the hypocrite from the sinning believer (**Luke 18:9-14**).

Two, confess them: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).* Of course confession without repentance will avail nothing. Simon was told to repent (**Acts 8:22**). Yes the blood of Christ will cleanse us from all sin, but we must admit, confess and repent of those sins. If one is unwilling to admit those sins, and if one is unwilling to repent of and confess those sins—then this is what John means when he speaks of *“a sin unto death” (1 John 5:17).*

This does not advocate for omniscience on the part of believers. None of us have perfect knowledge and understanding. When I consider this I can do no more than cry out as David did in **Psalms 19:12**, *“Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.”*

Furthermore, I refuse to be elevated to the seat of judgment. I have no way of knowing when one reaches the age of accountability, nor do I know the level of one’s knowledge and understanding. And I am certainly not about to wade into emotional and hypothetical scenarios. I am content to take my stand upon the teaching of Scripture. Sin separates one from God and reconciliation for the believer is through the blood of Christ (in this I have hope). But I also know that this forgiveness is not automatic and unconditional and before this reconciliation occurs I must repent and confess those sins (in this I shudder).

Taken from preachertrainingclasses.com

Acts 17:30 *“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”*

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

Deacons: Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Casey Dent

Joe Hurd

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 JAN
PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER, JIM
NEWMAN AND STEVE WIMP IN
PRAYER AS THEY DEAL WITH
HEALTH ISSUES.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS
- FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH
RON PECK

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE
CLASS - FORGIVENESS
JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON:
GOD'S PLAN AS DEVELOPED
PART 2



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