

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"

JUNE 3, 2018

REASONS FOR "EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES"

Jim Stauffer

Acts 17:11 *Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*

The reason given in the verse for examining the Scriptures was to verify the credibility of the teaching of the apostle.

It is obvious those in the world who worship with the many differing denominations are not examining the Scriptures to verify the accuracy of their teachers.

Why do I say that? If the teaching were accurate there would not be hundreds, even thousands of religious doctrines, each having its own special differing tenets. If each of these denominations were teaching the truth they would be worshiping together and teaching the same things. Yes, that is right, there would be no denominations.

It is obvious the passage needed here is **1 Cor. 1:12** *Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."* **13** *Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?* The only way Christ is divided is by the men who choose to differ with His message. Has Jesus given one message? Did the Holy Spirit send differing messages as He revealed the mind of God to the apostles?

Jesus **said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (John 14:6)* He said He would send the Comforter to the apostles to *.....guide them into all truth (Joh. 16:13).* Jesus claims to be the only way to the Father. He further promised to provide by way of the Holy Spirit, His message of salvation to be communicated to the world by these men **(Mat. 28:19,20).**

Paul insists this message is the mind of God, *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who*

among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (1 Cor. 2:10-13) Paul then teaches Timothy as he trains him to preach the gospel, to adhere to the *sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim. 3:15)* Sacred writings that would lead him to salvation through faith in Christ have to be these very Scriptures that are *inspired by God* or as Paul says in the passage cited earlier, words that express the mind of God.

Friends, there is no way to escape the singularity of the message of God. In the Old Testament, Israel was told not to alter or change any of God's message **(Dt. 4:2).** In the New Testament, we are commanded not to alter, change or go outside it for authority **(2 Joh. 9; Rev. 22:18,19).**

Hear what the apostle says about division in the body of Christ. *.....being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:3-6)*

When we divide the body of Christ into all these denominations, we are in essence saying there is more than one Lord, Spirit and God and Father of all. And that is the height of arrogance.

What has happened to bring this about over the last 500 years or so? A failure on the part of the children of God to *examine the Scriptures daily to see whether these things are so.*

WORLD VIEWS

MONISM

Monism is the philosophical teaching that reality consists of only *one thing*. On the other hand, metaphysics is concerned about ultimate reality beyond the physical. A metaphysical question might be: Does God exist? If so, how, where, etc? Is God real? Or, is anything real? Monism points to the existence of only one thing, but allows for many things within that one, main thing. Confusing? Probably! Think of it like this: Monism makes no distinction between God and His created universe. They are the same; they are one. Yet, the Bible teaches that God is above His creation; He has placed it before mankind for the right and proper use of what He made (**1 Timothy 4:3-4**).

Have you ever heard someone say: Nature is my God! They mean that they find a god of some kind (their own personal god) in the material world; they commune with nature; nature is god, and vice versa. Human beings are not soul, spirit, and body—they are simply *self*. We now begin to understand how the teaching of monism destroys the spiritual identity of man.

If man is simply ONE thing, then the idea of dying and the return of the soul/spirit to God is not possible. *“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7)*. The immortality of the soul is negated, by the teaching of monism. There can be no existence of man in a disembodied state. There can be no future bodily resurrection, no intermediate state, no possibility of any kind of future life.

What does the Bible teach? *“And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise’ (Luke 23:43)*. Does this passage indicate some kind of intermediate state between death and the resurrection? Was Christ going to be alive in Paradise even though He was being crucified and His spirit would leave Him? What about the thief? What about **Luke 16** and the rich man and Lazarus? Both men died. Both men had a conscious existence “on the other side.” What about **2 Corinthians 5:8**? *“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”* Paul said that he could be with the Lord even though his fleshly, physical body was no longer alive. What about **Matthew 10:28**? *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* The body can be killed; physical life can (and will) come to an end. Yet, the soul cannot be killed; it can be lost and cast into hell.

What does this mean? It means that man is composed of a fleshly nature and a spiritual nature. We live in the flesh and use this life to be faithful to the Lord. We want to save our soul or spirit, the part of each us that is made in God’s image. Philosophical teachings notwithstanding, man is a soul—a human, living being,

and man has a soul—the part of man that is made in God’s image. The outward man decays; the inward man can be renewed. That is where our emphasis must be.

Randy Harshbarger

The Third Purpose of the Seventy Weeks

Occasionally in the shop I will be working on something where several things seem to be moving at once. Trying to get them all settled at once is an impossibility, but if you get one, just one, exactly where you want it and in place the rest just seem to go into place of their own accord. That’s what it’s like here. One purpose, nailed down and crystal clear, illuminates the remaining five. This is that purpose: *“to make reconciliation for iniquity”*.

Many commentators point out, rightly, that the word “kaphar” here rendered ‘*reconciliation*’ is elsewhere in the Old Testament rendered ‘atonement’. So it is in **Leviticus 17:11**, *‘For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.’* So Daniel would have understood it. Here God was promising a far greater ‘atonement’ than offered by the blood of the animal sacrifices upon the altar of the temple. A simple reading of the book of Hebrews will bring us to **Hebrews 10** where the writer spends the entire chapter showing that Christ’s offering on the cross was the complete fulfillment of the Law of Moses, the PERFECT sacrifice. Why? Because, as he writes in **verse 4**, *“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”*

This purpose refers SPECIFICALLY AND UNMISTAKABLY to the Cross of Jesus Christ and what happened there! This also casts light on the first two purposes: They were both fulfilled at the Cross of Jesus on Calvary too!

With this purpose nailed down and the first two clarified we begin next week to look at the final three purposes of the Prophecy.

Cleveland Reddinger

I Can't Compete

The religious world is a world of fierce competition, just as car dealerships are in competition with one another. Obviously the dealer that sells the most cars makes the most profit and has bragging rights - "We're the #1 Chevy dealer in the Southeast." How does a car dealer become #1? It offers the most - friendly salespeople, up-to-date service center, free loaners, comfortable waiting rooms, etc.. That's all the name of the game. But a car is a car, and whether Ford or Chevy, will get you from point A to point B. The choice comes down to personal preference.

Much is the same with churches, but there are also sharp distinctions. I get calls asking what the Roswell

church offers. Do we have a sports program? Do we have a “youth minister?” Do we have a day-care program? Do we have a “Mother’s Morning Out?” Do we have a “divorce recovery” program? Do we have praise bands? In other words, are we a “full-service church?” Then I see the preachers on TV, with \$1,000 suits and \$100,000 cars (or a \$350,000 car, which is driven by a local mega-church pastor). I don’t even have my own jet plane to fly me to my preaching appointments. (I don’t even fly first class on scheduled airlines.) I don’t stand before an audience of 10,000 or 20,000 on Sunday—not even one of 1,000. I don’t have a staff of people to write my sermons or do my research, or make hospital visits. I don’t have a drawer full of amusing stories to liven up my sermons. I don’t even have any sermons in my notebooks dealing with the “health and wealth” gospel. And I certainly don’t make \$1,000,000 a year as some do. And some of these churches have bragging rights about being the largest in their particular denomination in the state, Southeast, or even in the nation.

Then who am I, and what do I have to offer? I am just a preacher of the gospel of Christ, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation...” (Romans 1:16)*. All I know is I have *“determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2)*. I preach for a congregation of people who love the Lord and who love one another. I preach for people who come to worship assemblies and classes to learn, to worship, to encourage one another, to express thanksgiving to our God. The congregation may not be large, but the members do have large hearts.

Do I want people to “feel good” after they leave? Certainly, but I also recognize that Muslims and Hindus and pagans may also “feel good” after their worship. Feeling good is great, but the gospel doesn’t always make people feel good. Thousands were *“cut to the heart”* when Peter convicted them of sin in **Acts 2**. People rushed upon Paul and stoned him more than once for preaching the gospel. If emotion is what it is all about, then I guess the mega-churches with their entertainment would win the debate. But as I search the New Testament, I find no such mandate for God’s church. In fact, there are times when preaching the truth may make people feel bad (guilty). Paul instructed Timothy to, *“preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables” (2 Timothy 4:2-4)*.

We see this in churches that go into communities to find out what people want a church to offer, and then design a church around what pleases people, rather than what pleases God. And then if the preacher says something that “offends,” people get upset. Paul understood this when he asked a poignant question: *“So*

then am I become your enemy, by telling you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16). Then there are those like Joel Osteen who state, “I don’t preach on sin. God hasn’t called me to do that. I want my people to feel good.” One day he will meet his Maker, who often dealt with sin, urging mankind to turn from sin to righteousness.

The true competition is between God and Satan for the souls of the lost. And Satan is a good strategist. He knows how to please people. He knows how to get preachers to tell people what they want to hear. He knows how to mix the Bible with pop psychology. He knows how to wow the crowds with great entertainment and pleasing sermons. He even has his own preachers. *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds” (2 Cor. 11:13-15)*.

If it’s OK with you, I’ll stick with being a simple preacher, preaching the simple gospel. I don’t think of myself as being either eloquent or powerful, just someone who loves the Lord and loves the souls of men. Thanks to those who put up with and encourage me.

**Jefferson David Tant / Roswell, Georgia, USA
Taken from Meditate on These Things August 2017**

Bewildered By Welby

On “Preston on Sunday” (November 26, 2017) Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, said that he “‘really genuinely’ doesn’t understand why fundamental Christians in the United States voted for Donald Trump.” Amazing!

Now I “really genuinely” do not understand the logic of the head of a church founded by King Henry VIII of England (so he could get a divorce and take another wife; he managed to take six wives) would have anything to say about what “Christians” do or do not do. Does Mr. Welby not know that Jesus promised to build His church (**Matthew 16:18**) and He fulfilled His promise (**Romans 16:16**)? The church of Christ was built and functioning about 1500 years before King Henry got into the church building business. The church revealed in the New Testament is not a thirty-second cousin to what we see in the Church of England (Anglican Church). Why would the Head of the Church of England, founded by an unscrupulous monarch for lecherous purposes, have ought to say about whom “Christians” elect? Welby purportedly said Trump’s behaviour toward women was “completely unacceptable.”

His position, as head of the church founded by King Henry VIII, gives, so it seem to me, tacit approval to the conduct of Henry VIII toward women. Two of his wives he divorced, and two he had beheaded.

Welby, old chap, I am bewildered by your bewilderment.

—wvb— The Lincoln Bible Reader.

The above article is not intended as a political endorsement of anyone, but rather an effort to show the crass hypocrisy of the stated position.

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

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We offer Correspondence Courses

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THE MOTHER OF ALMA
BAUMGARTNER

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
CHRISTIAN PARENTING PART 2 -
RON PECK TEACHER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS:
ANGELS AND DEMONS -
JIM STAUFFER TEACHER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:
OUR WEALTH COMES FROM
ENCOURAGEMENT



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