

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 27, 2018

CAN YOU ACCEPT THE BIBLE MESSAGE?

Jim Stauffer

How many of the following statements can you say you truly believe? Now before you read them, remember the Bible specifically teaches we practice the things we truly believe. Remember the example of Abraham.

(Heb. 11:17-19; Jas. 2:21-23)

"Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son." **(2 John 1:9)**

Do you believe we are limited to what Jesus has authorized in His word to please God and Him with our service?

"For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus." **(2 Thess. 1:6-8)**

Do you believe those who do not obey the word Jesus has given, the gospel, will be condemned eternally?

"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." **(Mark 16:16)**

Do you believe it is necessary for one to be baptized to be saved?

There are many more concepts and specific doctrines taught in the Bible to be added to this list. But let's just use this list as an example of the religious teaching that is happening today.

Many people are being taught by theologians, many of whom have had extensive training at Seminaries, that such things as we have noted that are clearly taught in the Bible are not necessary.

Who are we to challenge the word of God? Who among us has any right or authority to overrule the commands of God?

What is the difference in levels of rejection between calling for Christ's crucifixion and making our own

decisions about how to serve and worship Him? Is that not what Nadab and Abihu did in **Lev. 10:1,2**?

BETTER INSTRUMENTS

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart might well have been the greatest composer who ever lived (I realize that is, to a great extent, a subjective judgment, but for the sake of the argument let's assume it may be true). His musical accomplishments are unrivaled. He began writing music at the age of five. He wrote his first symphony when he was eight years old, and his first opera at the age of 14 – that's over two hours of music for all the parts of the symphony and the vocals. During his lifetime he produced over 600 separate pieces of music – and undoubtedly would have written hundreds more if he had not died at the young age of 35, while he was arguably in his prime. Music flowed into him and out of him like it did with no one else. Will Durant, in his well-known *History of Civilization*, tells the story of Mozart's final exam in music school. He was placed in a room with a chamber ensemble. The ensemble played a piece of music – just once. Then Mozart was taken to a room, given a blank sheet of paper, and told to write down the music he had heard. He correctly wrote every note, not only of the melody, but of all the harmonies. If you have ever listened to classical music (in general), it is not hard to pick Mozart's music out from the work of others. His music has a spirit and a beauty unlike anyone else's.

As amazing as it may seem, Mozart's music sounds even *better* today than it did when it was performed – even by Mozart himself. Sure, we will never be able to recapture the musical phrasing, the emotion that Mozart himself communicated in his personal playing. But the quality of the sounds and the tones of his music are tremendously superior to what they were in Mozart's day. His symphonies and

concerts and operas actually sound better today. How can that be? It is simple: musical instruments are better today than they were in Mozart's time. There are actually orchestras that play the works of classical composers using only instruments that were known to exist in the composer's time. They are called "Period Instrument Orchestras." Now I am no expert on the quality of musical instruments, but those who are tell me that the music of the great masters sounds ten times better when played on modern instruments than when they are played on period instruments (with perhaps a few exceptions, like the famous instruments made by Antonio Stradivarius). With better technology and tools, we simply make better instruments today. They play better, and they sound better. It is my understanding that Period Instrument Orchestras are not very popular, for the simple reason that they do not sound as good.

Ask a professional musician, or even an amateur who is serious about playing, and they will all tell you a similar story: the better they get at playing, the better quality instruments they want to play. Why? Because the better quality instruments sound so much better, they communicate the music so much better.

Why all of this talk about music and musical instruments? Because it illustrates an important spiritual lesson. The work of a great composer sounds best when it is played on the best instruments. Similarly, God's gospel shines the brightest in this world when we allow God to make us into the best instruments of His will that we can be. We are like the instruments on which God is communicating his word to the world. Of course, I realize that there is no substitute for the word of God, and I'm not suggesting there is one. But the fact is that the gospel was always meant not just to be taught, but to be *lived* – just like music is meant to be *heard*. People learn about Christianity not only from hearing the word of God, but also by observing the behavior of Christians. In this sense, then, we are God's instruments through which the gospel is being presented to the world.

As it is with music, so it is with the gospel: the better the instruments, the better the presentation, the better the communication. Mozart's piano concertos sound much, much better when played on a finely-crafted Steinway piano than when they are played on a piano purchased from Toys-R-Us. Poor instruments block and hide the beauty of music. Only a great instrument can begin to communicate great music adequately. Likewise, God's gospel is most effectively communicated by people who have allowed God to make them into the image of Jesus as much as possible. Every piece of us that is not Christ-like makes us poorer instruments of God's gospel, which makes it harder for others to see the beauty of Christianity.

There can be little doubt that if Mozart could hear his music as it is played today, he would be pleased. It sounds better now than it did when he heard it played because the instruments are better. How much more is

God pleased when we become the very best instruments of his gospel that we can be.

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Heresy

Keith Sharp

In January 1972, Robert F. Turner and W. Carl Ketcherside had an exchange during the Florida College Lectures on the subject of fellowship. Ketcherside asserted, "If you love one another as you should, you will not divide or fuss or fight." But the Lord sternly warns us about *"false teachers..., who will secretly bring in destructive heresies"* (2 Peter 2:1-3) and commands us to *"avoid them"* (Romans 16:17-18). What do the Scriptures teach about heresy and heretics?

What Is Heresy?

The term translated *"heresies"* in **Second Peter 2:1** occurs nine times in the New Testament. In the New King James Version of the Bible it is translated *"sect"* (Acts 5:17; 15:5; 24:5, 14; 26:5; 28:22), *"factions"* (1 Corinthians 11:19), and *"heresies"* (Galatians 5:20; 2 Peter 2:1). The word *"heretick"* in the King James Version of Titus 3:9 is rendered *"divisive man"* in the New King James Version.

Opinions

The primary meaning of the Greek word "hairesis," which made its way into the English language as "heresy," is "'a choosing, choice' ...; then, 'that which is chosen,' and hence, 'an opinion,' especially a self-willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth, and leads to division and the formation of sects" (Vine. 303).

Everyone has opinions, "a belief or judgment that rests on grounds insufficient to produce complete certainty" (Dictionary.com). My opinion is that *"the Day"* of **Hebrews 10:25** is the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. I can offer what I consider good reasons for this view, but I cannot prove it as scripturally certain, so I don't ask anyone to believe it. The obligation of preachers and teachers is to *"speak as the oracles of God"* (1 Peter 4:11), to *"preach the word"* (2 Timothy 4:2), which *"is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). I must leave my opinions out of my preaching and teaching and present "book, chapter, and verse" for what I ask people to believe and practice. Those who preach and teach what they cannot prove by Scripture are guilty of teaching *"heresies"* (2 Peter 2:1).

Sects

The most common usage of the word "hairesis" in the New Testament is *"sect"* (Arndt & Gingrich. 23). The various parties of the Jews were called *"sects"* (Acts 5:17; 15:5; 24:5, 14; 26:5; 28:22). These Jewish sects

were formed around human opinions rather than Scripture (**Matthew 15:1-9**), they were identified by sectarian names (**Acts 5:17; 15:5**), and they were jealous of other sects and of those who adhered to the doctrine of Christ (**Acts 23:6-10**). They were parallel to modern denominations in Christendom. In two New Testament passages “haireisis” denotes a party or sect formed from within the Lord’s church (**1 Corinthians 11:18-19; Galatians 5:19-21**). These sects are formed upon human opinions, whether it be damnable error (**2 Peter 2:1-3**), such as the premillennial denial that Christ now reigns on the throne of David (**cf. Acts 2:29-32**), or an innocent opinion raised to the level of the word of God and made a test of fellowship (**Titus 3:9-11**), such as the opinion that all in the worship assembly should drink the fruit of the vine in the Lord’s Supper from the same drinking vessel. (The one “cup” is the contents, not the container.

1 Corinthians 10:16)

Sects choose sectarian names to set them apart (**1 Corinthians 1:11-13**). I don’t want to be identified as either “conservative” or “liberal,” names unknown to the New Testament used to identify members of factions. Feel free to call me a “disciple” (**Acts 9:1**), “saint” (**Acts 9:13**), “Christian” (**Acts 11:26**), or “member” (**1 Corinthians 12:27**).

Jealousy abounds between such factions and toward those who simply follow the doctrine of Christ (**3 Joh. 9-10**).

Church of Christ Not a Sect

The Jews of the first century viewed the Lord’s church as a sect of Judaism (**Acts 24:5,14; 28:22**). They contemptuously called members of the church “Nazarenes” (**Acts 24:5**), since the Lord was from the despised village of Nazareth (**John 1:45-46**). But the church found in the New Testament follows only the Scriptures (**1 Timothy 3:14-15; 2 Timothy 3:16 - 4:5; 1 Peter 4:11**) and is known by divinely given descriptions rather than a sectarian name (**Acts 9:2; Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Hebrews 12:22-24**). It has no reason to be jealous of sects, for it has no rivals (**Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23**).

Causes

What causes heresy (sectarianism)? Hatred and wrangling among brethren can lead to the formation of sects (**Galatians 5:20**). When Christians behave as politicians, seeking their own way, their own advantage, positions of power or influence (**2 Corinthians 12:20**), they sin and form sects. Promoting opinions and speculating about unrevealed things can also lead to the formation of factions (**Titus 3:9-11**). Teaching false doctrine can also (**2 Peter 2:1-3**). A very common cause of sectarianism is unscriptural loyalty to men (**1 Corinthians 1:11-13**). I don’t care what “Brother so-and-so,” who is the finest preacher you ever heard, says. What do the Scriptures teach?

Attitude Toward

What should be our attitude toward heretics, those who cause factions to arise by promoting their opinions or false doctrine? They destroy both themselves and those who follow them (**2 Peter 2:1-3**), they shall not inherit the kingdom of God (**Galatians 5:19-21**), and, after repeated admonitions, we must reject them (**Titus 3:9-11**).

Conclusion

“Heresy,” sectarianism, is damnable. We must scrupulously avoid it. Do not preach, teach, or promote opinions. Do not place loyalty to any man or group above Scripture. Make sure what we teach and accept is scriptural. Avoid the party spirit, loyalty to a group above loyalty to Christ. Refuse party labels. Mark and avoid those who persist in this sin. We must carefully watch our hearts, tongues, and lives to remain free of heresy.

Taken from Meditate on These Things August 2017

The Second Purpose of the Prophecy

We are giving a very brief look at one of the most beautifully worded prophecies recorded in the Old Testament, The Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks from **Daniel chapter nine**. We are looking at the six purposes to be accomplished within the prophetic message.

The second purpose to be fulfilled within the Seventy Weeks would be the “*making an end of sin*”. Several ideas are possible for this but the idea that most resonates to my mind is that this means God is going to deal with the issue of sin in an effective way once and for all.

See, under the Law of Moses there was a system of sacrifices for sin, a whole lot of them. But they were just a shadow of that which was to come. **Hebrews 10:1** says, “*For the law having a shadow of the good things to come, not the very image of the things, can never with the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect them that draw nigh.*” (See also **Heb. 9:9-14**) Yet later the same writer pleads with the Hebrew Christians to “*draw near with a true heart in fulness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience: and having our body washed with pure water*” (**10:22**). God has dealt effectively and finally with the sin problem through the Cross of Christ. With the old sacrifices, we are told in verse three, “*there is a remembrance made of sins year by year.*” They had not and could not be dealt with effectively by the old system of sacrifices given by Moses as ordained by God. That was yet to be accomplished. The Old Law had a purpose but dealing finally with sin was not it. That was yet to come!

Cleveland Reddinger

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.*

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SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:
THE EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER



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