

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**February
3
2019**

“KNOWING THE TERROR OF THE LORD”

Jim Stauffer

The apostle Paul uses this phrase immediately following his representation of the plea of man to inherit his heavenly body and be with the Lord instead of suffering the aggravations of the flesh as we live on earth.

First he reminds us the judgment is something we must face prior to the reception of this reward. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”*

Every once in awhile a preacher will hear one of the members reminiscing about the “old days” when we used to hear “fire and brimstone” sermons. These, of course were sermons that reminded brethren of the need to walk the strait and narrow in order to be prepared for the day they would stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Paul, on this occasion seems to be using a bit of that to stir the hearts of the Corinthians with the realization they will stand before a Judge who will be implementing the vengeance of God from heaven.

The Hebrew writer says this to those who *sin willfully and trample under foot the Son of God*, *“For we know Him who said, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.” And again, “THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.” It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb. 10:30,31)*

There is ample evidence in Scripture that the apostolic writers spoke of the needed fear of God’s wrath on the part of both Christ’s disciples and those who rejected His gospel.

Paul classifies this as bold speech. When Barnabas intervened on his behalf in Jerusalem following his conversion Luke tells us, *“.....how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord. (Acts 9:27,28)* Paul

even requested the Ephesians pray for him to have the necessary boldness in preaching while he was in prison in Rome **(Eph. 6:20)**.

The Scriptures then communicate unto us the terror of the Lord should play a part in the message of the gospel. Speaking boldly is no doubt a definition of confidently setting forth the principles of the salvation Christ has afforded all men with His sacrifice of life on the cross of Calvary.

One must recognize the purpose of Jesus’ death was to provide atonement for the sin of each man since *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Rom. 3:23)*. Both my sin and my forgiveness is dependent upon my personal conduct. When Peter confronts the Jews who crucified Christ, Luke records, *“Peter said to them, “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 2:38)* It is then each man who was guilty of sin and therefore in need of repentance and baptism. The same is true when we read of Jesus being the author of salvation in **Heb. 5:8,9**. He is the author of salvation to those individuals who obey Him.

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, persuade men... is to apprise men of their need to repent and continue in their obedience to the Lord to avoid the terrible consequences that await those who are cast into hell fire **(Mat. 5:22; 7:21-23)**.

Paul tells the Thessalonians, *“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. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,” (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)*

ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN

Edward O. Bragwell Sr.

The popular concept of being a Christian is that of being a person who has “accepted Christ as his personal savior” with emphasis on forgiveness of sin with very little attention to the avoidance of sin. Often celebrities are extolled in both the secular and religious press as “born again Christians” – along with reports, in the same papers, of the typical worldly life-styles of these same people. It is not only among celebrities. We see it often in our day by day observation of people in general. The idea of so many seems to be that since “no one is perfect” that doing our best to avoid sin is futile. So, we need to relax and quit fretting about the sinful actions of ourselves and our friends – just rejoice in the forgiving grace of God. If one uses bad language, participates in sinful activities, dresses or undresses in a shameful manner, seldom attends worship services, or misses the mark in other ways – so what? – he is covered by God’s forgiving grace. This is not the concept of a Christian and the grace of God taught by the writers of the New Testament.

In **Acts 11:23**, Barnabas was able to see the grace of God at Antioch. He saw a people who had believed and turned to the Lord (**v. 12**). He could see it in the behavior of the people. It was more than their having access to forgiveness of sin – it was a life changing grace.

1 John 1:7-10 tells Christians how to maintain fellowship with Deity. It is by freely acknowledging and confessing sins. Twice he warns against denying our sins (**vv. 8, 10**). Then immediately after these warnings, with an admonition to confess sins sandwiched in between, he says he is writing that they avoid sin (**2:1**) – but if despite their efforts to avoid sin they did sin then they had access to forgiveness through Christ. All of this is a part of the grace of God.

Grace not only forgives (saves), it teaches. In Titus 2:11, grace brings salvation (forgiveness), but it also teaches a godly life style on our part. Not only did Jesus give himself to “redeem us” from sin, but to purify us to be his special people zealous of good works. All this by his grace.

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” (Titus 2:11-14 NKJV)

The Hebrew writer warns against insulting the Spirit of grace. A Christian who goes on sinning (**10:26 NASV**) after receiving a knowledge of the truth “insults” the Spirit of grace. As long as he continues in that state, he has nothing to look forward to but certain damnation. He cannot look forward to another sacrifice for his sins – the only sacrifice available to him is that of Jesus Christ. Having rejected him by turning to willful sinning, he has rejected that sacrifice. There will be no other.

His only option to avoid eternal punishment is to give up his willful sinning and turn back to God’s last and perfect sacrifice for his sins. But, that sacrifice does not allow for one to willfully continue in sin.

Some seem to have the idea that if we try, to the best of our abilities, to keep all the commands of God in order to go to heaven that we are somehow dishonoring God and his grace and exalting ourselves. In fact, the opposite is true. By not doing our best to obey all his commands, given by his grace for our good, we are flying in the face of the teaching of the grace of God. Jesus said, *“So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.” (Luke 17:10 KJV)*

Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid..... Rom. 6:1,2

YOUNGER WIDOWS

“But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. Therefore, I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some have already turned aside after Satan” (1 Timothy 5:11-15).

Timothy’s goal in preaching in the city of Ephesus was to bring “order” to the church (**1 Timothy 3:15**). If some of the Christians in Ephesus were not following God’s word, they were to “turn themselves around” and start doing right once again. Preaching God’s word was designed to help whatever needs existed in Ephesus. Clearly, 1st Timothy is about relationships—older men and women, younger men and women, widows young and old, rich and poor. Older widows come into the discussion, as do younger widows. Were there problems among these groups? Do Paul’s words hint of some wrong behaviors?

Younger widows were not to be enrolled by the church; they were not to be singled out for special treatment or help from the local church. This isn’t necessarily a bad reflection on these sisters; this was good advice for them and for all church members. Still, younger widows could face certain temptations because of their ages. They could grow “wanton” against Christ. That is, they could be overcome with sexual desires; and while normal and God-given in the right context, here it seems their desires could cause them to act out in sinful ways. Younger widows should be aware of this temptation. Youth can be a good thing; but it sometimes carries with it peculiar temptations. Even the desire to marry, while right and good in itself, can divert one’s attention away from Christ and His service. Idle wandering and gossiping from house to house would give Satan the upper hand. Rather than

enrolling these sisters, and thus giving opportunity for misconduct, they should marry again, have children, and work in the home. This helps to defeat Satan. This kind of conduct helps them, helps the church, and sets a good example for all. Yet, some seem to have turned from what was right.

"If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows" (1 Timothy 5:16). There is a difference between "church" action (collective) and "individual" action. The church, the local congregation, has a duty to its members, in this case, to the "widows indeed." No one denies this. Those who stand in need of help from the collected body (local church) should receive help. The younger widows should, when at all possible, continue on with their lives regarding marriage, children, the home, etc. It is unreasonable to call upon the local church to help my loved ones when I am able to help them. And in the case of **1st Timothy 5**, Paul says it is unreasonable for the local congregation to "enroll" younger sisters for help, when they can continue on with their lives in normal, God-given ways. It is not true that the church (local congregation) can do whatever the individual can do. Let individuals act as they are supposed to act. And let the church be the church. When this happens, the result is "order in the church." Then, but only then, is the Lord pleased.

Randy Harshbarger

Hidden in My Heart #4

As we pick up again on the theme of Hiding God's Word in Our Hearts it just seems obvious that I ought to give you a bit of the rationale behind why I am suggesting that you memorize the particular verses that I do. After all, knowing the "Why?" is a genuine aid to accomplishing the "WHAT?" which is "Hiding God's Word in My Heart".

1. Some verses are suggested because they teach a fundamental TRUTH about an important subject.

Genesis 1:1-3 and **John 1:1-3** are passages which fall into this category as they teach us basics of the Christian world-view, which is how we understand and therefore operate in the world in which we live.

2. Some verses are suggested because they teach a truth to us about Salvation, what it is and why we need it. The twin verses of **Romans 3:23** and **6:23** fall into this category. Sometimes you 'just gotta' hear the bad news before you'll listen to the 'good news'! You need to know your heart is putting your life in danger before you'll consider open-heart surgery.

3. Other verses are suggested because they teach us about Christian living and Morality, like how to treat friends. **Acts 20:35** and **Leviticus 19:16** are good

examples of these verses for they teach us to be generous and to avoid gossip, both of which help to build society and good relationships.

4. Some verses are given to inoculate us against much of the false teaching that is around. **John 3:36** and **Luke 6:46** and **James 2:24-26** are examples of these verses since they show that the doctrine of "faith alone" has no biblical merit.

5. Today's suggested verses are **Matthew 19:9**; **Leviticus 10:1-3 & 17:11**; **Hebrews 11:1, 6, 24-26** and **Ephesians 4:1-6**.

Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.

Every Secret Thing

In this age of modern media we have unprecedented opportunities to look at, listen to, and participate in evil things. And, with the rapid advance of technology, we can engage in these evil deeds with relative anonymity. In years gone by, if there was a desire to engage in these sordid and sinful activities, it was necessary to go out in public places to do so. Pornography was available, but only at newsstands and the like. Filthy movies were out there, but you had to go to the XXX movie house to see them. No more! A person can sit in front of his computer screen and quickly access (via the Internet) all manner of pornography -- and no one can see him do it. "Chat rooms" allow perverted persons the ability to openly discuss their twisted passions with total strangers -- and they are out of public view when doing so. With cable and satellite TV, it is possible to receive all manner of filthy programming -- and watch it right there in the privacy of your own home.

This new accessibility -- with anonymity -- has already served as a downfall to many, including not a few Christians. We all need to be on guard about this powerful temptation. Never forget that God in heaven sees and knows all that you think and do. Consider: *"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* (**Ecclesiastes 12:14**)

"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." (**Hebrews 4:13**) Are you engaged in things that you would not want others to find out about? If so, you should know two things. First, God already knows! And, secondly, in the final judgment everyone will know, for He will *"bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts"* (**1 Cor. 4:5**).

Christian, be careful!

by Greg Gwin

Let us be reminded to pray for those we support who are preaching in other areas of this country and also of the world. Remember to pray for Kyle Bennett in Boston Ma., Matt Hodge in Marshfield, Mo. and Cleveland Reddinger in El Dorado, Ks. Overseas we need to remember, Wilfredo Pelino and Jonathan Sapitula in the Philippines as well as Moses Tivane and Francisco Vascob in Mozambique.

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

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons: Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Casey Dent

Joe Hurd

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK,
STEPHEN KIMKER, STEVE AND SUZANNE
WIMP, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRACY
RICHARDSON AND EMALI PRICE.

BIBLE CLASSES SUNDAY MORNING:
THE PSALMS - RON PECK - TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING:
HEAVEN AND HELL
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY SERMON: SEALED WITH THE
HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE

SPRING GOSPEL MEETING:
MAY 19-22
ROGER SHOUSE



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