

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 5, 2019

A GOSPEL MEETING FOR ALL

OUR SPRING GOSPEL MEETING

MAY 17-19

ROGER SHOUSE IS OUR SPEAKER

THE SUBJECTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Friday 7 PM

Flight of Arrows

Saturday 10 AM

Parenting 101

Saturday 7 PM

Parenting 201

Sunday 9:30 AM

Renovations

Sunday 10:20 AM

Life The Way It Was Meant To Be

Sunday 5 PM

Generations

We truly hope you will set aside time to visit with us and hear God's plan for us as His children

THE GOSPEL CALL

Paul tells the Thessalonians in **2 Thess. 2:14** they were called through the gospel to the salvation through sanctification mentioned in **verse 13**. The word called in that text carries the meaning of an invitation. Similar to when Jesus said, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (**Matthew 11:28-30**)

So, we are invited by the gospel to come to the Lord and Jesus says we receive rest from the heavy burden which we learn is the burden of our own sin. Even as Paul identifies the work of the gospel as salvific in nature

by the sanctification that comes by way of the Spirit and faith in the truth. Paul then tells the Romans in **chapter 1:16** the gospel *is the the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

Therefore, we conclude the gospel calls us with its message of salvation and those who recognize their need of it can respond by calling on the name of the Lord as Ananias told Saul of Tarsus in **Acts 22:16**. This is precisely what Peter preached in the first gospel sermon in **Acts 2:21**, *"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Paul puts the entire package together for us in this text, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"* (**Romans 10:13-15**)

So, God's plan for our salvation is to communicate His message of redemption which identifies all men as needing the redemptive power of the blood of Jesus Christ (**1 Pet. 1:18,19**). The gospel sets this forth along with the process of engaging that saving blood by being baptized into His death and rising to walk in newness of life (**Rom. 6:3,4**).

Now we understand we are dead in our sins (**Eph. 2:1**) and then made alive by the process of redemption revealed by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we call on the name of the Lord because we believe in Him as a result of having heard the message of the gospel. That is why we continue to preach this gospel. Men need to hear and understand the message in order to *call on the name of the Lord*, as an answer to their need of redemption.

Understanding God's Will

Kenny Moorer

One important thing that I believe people should know about the Bible is that it (the Bible) can be understood. The apostle Paul commands us: *"Be not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is"* (**Ephesians 5:17**). Many people excuse themselves from a sincere effort to know what God wants them to do by saying that "I just can't know what God wants from me" or "Why are there so many different people saying different things about what scripture means?" "Doesn't that show me that there is just no way to really know?" What that really shows is that most people are unwilling to do what it takes to reach the conclusions that God wants all men to reach.

It should be clear that God wants each person to think for themselves. My responsibility as a preacher here is not to tell you what to believe; my responsibility is to share with you what I believe the Bible teaches. It is entirely up to you to reach your own conclusions. But the Bible tells us that we can all understand His will for us. You and I are expected and **can** know the will of God according to **Ephesians 3:3-4**. *"How that by revelation He has made known to me the mystery as I have written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ."*

When I teach classes, especially in one on one settings, I make sure the person I'm studying with knows that we are learning together and that both of us have responsibility to reach our own conclusions. In my experience, that seems to be an important point to make right up front, helping the person I'm studying with become more engaged in the study. Personal responsibility is fast becoming a "lost art" in our society among many folks. Many refuse to accept the fact that **they** have failed and that **they** are unwilling to think for **themselves** and be responsible for **themselves**. *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body..."* (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). That includes the way I have gone about understanding God's will.

~via Family Report; Florence, Alabama; Taken from the Market Street Messenger

"Whose Heart The Lord Opened"

Leonard White

In **Acts 16:14** Luke records:

"A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul."

This language is sometimes understood to support the Calvinistic doctrine of the direct operation of the Holy

Spirit. It is affirmed that man, because he is born totally depraved, cannot believe the gospel, or do any other good thing, until God directly intervenes to change his heart. This action is believed to be something altogether separate from the effect wrought by the word of God.

Let's carefully examine all that is said about Lydia's conversion and see if it is, in fact, an instance of such a direct operation of the Spirit upon a sinner's heart.

Note carefully the sequence of events **(including verse 13)** :

1. we spake to the women
2. Lydia was hearing
3. the Lord opened her heart
4. she attended to the things spoken

There can be no question that Luke tells us that the Lord opened Lydia's heart. The vital question is: By what means did He do so? It will help our understanding to look at the word translated *"attended"* in the King James Version. It is the Greek word PROSECHO. Other translations render it as:

NKJV: *"to heed the things spoken by Paul"*

NASB: *"to respond to the things spoken by Paul"*

ESV: *"to pay attention to what was said by Paul"*

NIV: *"to respond to Paul's message"*

Luke did not say that Lydia's heart was opened, so that she would hear Paul's teaching, but rather that after hearing Paul's message, her heart was opened to respond to what she had learned. Consider brother J. W. McGarvey's comments on this verse:

"We are likely to jump to the conclusion that the Lord opened Lydia's heart by a direct operation of his Spirit, and thus to ignore a very different method clearly indicated by the context. We must inquire what led Luke to make a remark in regard to Lydia, which he has not made in regard to any other person whose conversion he has described. It cannot be because God did for Lydia something which he omitted in other cases. The difference is only in the phraseology employed. Luke, together with Paul and all his company, had been very much puzzled for weeks past, as to what God was doing and intending to do, by turning them away from fields of labor which appeared to them the most promising, and leading them to this heathen city. In the very midst of their perplexity they unexpectedly met with these women; and though they had never met them before, and though they might have expected, under the circumstances, a long and ardent struggle to overcome their natural repugnance to a crucified Messiah, they are surprised to find Lydia's heart immediately opened, and they see at once what the Lord has done and has been doing since they were first forbidden to go into Asia. The

Lord opened Lydia's heart, as he did that of the eunuch, by bringing from afar, at the proper juncture, the living preacher through whose word the end was accomplished."

I believe brother McGarvey is exactly correct. The Lord opened Lydia's heart in the same way he opens the heart of any other person who will listen to the gospel and allow it to do its saving work.

The scriptures tell us that God's power unto salvation is the gospel (**Romans 1:16**); that we are begotten by the word of truth (**James 1:18**); that we are born again by the incorruptible seed, the word of God (**1 Peter 1:23**); and that the implanted word is able to save our souls (**James 1:21**).

Luke's language should be understood as expressing what is taught throughout the New Testament, namely that the method or means God uses to open hearts is the saving message of the gospel.

Taken from cedarparkchurchofchrist.org

Just As Christ Loved The Church

By Al Diestelkamp

For men who are married, I doubt that there is any greater challenge than the one posed by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians: *"Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it" (5:25)*. Loving our wives is easy, but loving them *"just as Christ loved the church"* sets a very high standard. Therefore, it is important that we see just how Christ loved the church so that we might act accordingly toward our wives.

Christ loved the church sacrificially

He *"gave Himself for it."* To succeed at loving our wives *"as Christ does the church,"* we must have an attitude of sacrificial service toward them. It's not likely that we will have to die for our wives, but we must be willing to serve their needs. As husbands, we need to understand that our wives' needs differ from our own. True love *"does not seek its own" (1 Cor. 13:5)*. It is our responsibility to meet the needs of our wives. A great "fringe benefit" of doing this well is that our wives will respond in kind by making sure that our needs are met. While not all wives have identical needs, a survey of Christians attending a ladies' Bible class showed that their number one need is for their husbands to provide spiritual leadership. Other expressed needs (in order of their importance) were family commitment, communication, affection, and financial security.

Christ loved the church exclusively

The apostle says that Christ's gift of Himself was *"that He might sanctify and cleanse it" (v.26)*. Though Jesus loves the whole world, He has "set apart" His church

from the world. He has only one bride. The marriage relationship requires sanctification—a setting apart from other relationships. In marriage, the husband is "set apart" to belong to the wife, and the wife is "set apart" to belong to the husband—he for her; her for him. Any interference with this God given arrangement is sin.

Christ loved the church caringly

"So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church" (vs.28-29). The word nourish means "to feed," and the word cherish means "to soften by heat" [Vine].

I think we know what we do for someone or something we cherish—"protect and care for lovingly; hold something dear" [American Dictionary].

Christ loved the church enduringly

As the church is joined to Christ, so *"a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (v.31)*. This is a reference to the intimate sexual relationship between a husband and wife. However, Jesus used this same quote to teach the inseparability of marriage (**Matt. 19:5-6**). As Christ and His bride are *"one body"* which nothing can separate (**Rom. 8:35-39**), so the husband and wife are *"one flesh"* which man must not separate.

From the beginning, God said, *"it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him" (Gen. 2:18)*. As men, we should have a great appreciation for our wives. We should view them as highly- prized (and nicely packaged) gifts from our Creator. He knows just what we need to help us go to Heaven.

260 N. Aspen Dr., Cortland, IL 60112

e-mail: aldiestel@gmail.com

Taken from Think on these things

The strongest argument for the Gospel of Christ is the personal testimony of someone whose life has been changed by it. Charles Bradlaugh, an avowed infidel, once challenged the preacher H.P. Hughes to a debate. The preacher, who was head of a rescue mission in London, England, accepted the challenge with the condition that he could bring with him 100 men and women who would tell what had happened in their lives since trusting Christ as their Savior. They would be people who once lived in deep sin, some having come from poverty-stricken homes caused by the vices of their parents. Hughes said they would not only tell of their conversion, but would submit to cross-examination by any who doubted their stories. Furthermore, the minister invited his opponent to bring a group of non-believers who could tell how they were helped by their lack of faith. When the appointed day arrived, the preacher came, accompanied by 100 transformed persons. But Bradlaugh never showed up. The result? The meeting turned into a testimony time and many sinners who had gathered to hear the scheduled debate were converted.

Unknown

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 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

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PSALMS - RON PECK - TEACHER
WEDNESDAY - 1&2 TIMOTHY -
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**SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:
PAUL TEACHES FELIX**



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