

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

Anna Surface 2010

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

July  
14  
2019

## HONEST HEARTS LEAD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

by Jim Stauffer

*“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”*

**(Luke 8:15)**

Jesus said in **Mat. 22:37** *“And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.”*

*“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”* **(Romans 1:17)**

We all want to live by faith. We seek the eternal life that Paul tells the Romans comes as a gift of God to those who have become slaves of righteousness. From these texts it is clear we must first be people of honest and good hearts. Then we must love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind. The gospel, *the power of God unto salvation* **(vs.16)** then delivers this salvation by containing the *righteousness of God*.

This is agreed to by all reasonable minds. Yet the issue is finding people with these *honest and good hearts*.

What God tells us is we have the ability to understand the message of the gospel **(Eph. 3:1-5)**. In the passages we have cited He tells us we *will* understand it if our hearts are honest. When that understanding occurs we will have come to a state of righteousness that will lead us to eternal life as a gift from God.

Now, ask yourself the important question as you seek to find the faith of the righteous. What is the source of what I believe? If it is Scripture, you should be able to cite those texts that support your faith. There is an idea prevalent in the world that many different faiths can come from Scripture. Paul says two things about this faith that must be harmonized and eliminate that theory. He says there is, *one Lord, one faith, one baptism*, **Eph. 4:5**, and he says that faith leads one to the righteousness that ends in life eternal, the gift of

God.

There is a serious problem in the rationale of any and all of us who hear the message of God and do not respond to it obediently. No one who views himself as a believer says he does not love God. We cannot claim to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and yet reject the message He has sent to us for our guidance to eternal life.

We learned at a very early age our parents expected us to honor their authority. They insisted we accept their word as our guide for conduct. God, Who created mankind certainly expects the same. When we alter His message by either neglecting to do what He commands or adding our own ideas to the biblical message we are told we have added to or taken from His word **(Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18,19)**. John says this about the issue, *“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)**

If we love God, if our hearts are honest, we will seek His authority for our lives of work and worship in His kingdom.

**Editor’s note: There is an interesting comparison between the writing of brethren in times past and today. As the writer of this article suggests the value is in the word spoken and not in the style.**

### Preacher And Hearer Equally Responsible

**Robert A. Farish, Summerville, Georgia**

Much has been written about the responsibility of the preacher. Some have written thoughtfully; others have indulged in irresponsible prattle. Often people feel

fully competent to tell a preacher what and how to preach when they themselves might not be able to tell a sinner what to do to be saved. The responsibilities of the preacher, both real and imagined, has long been a favorite subject with both the informed and the uninformed—with the latter generally being the more loquacious. Suggestions or criticisms based on study and experience in preaching is an entirely different thing from airing the petulant views spawned in ignorance, inexperience, or cowardice.

That the responsibility of preaching the Word is great, is evident from even a casual consideration of a few passages. *"Be not many of you teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment."* (Jas. 3:1) The anathema of God is pronounced upon any who change the gospel. (Gal. 1:8) The Apostles were approved of God to be entrusted with the gospel, and Paul states that he so spake—that is, as one approved of God. (I Thess. 2:4) How does a God-approved speaker speak? *"Not as pleasing men, but God who proveth our hearts."* The apostles' responsibility was to please God in preaching. A method of approach pleasing to men is considered by many to be a paramount responsibility of the preacher. They would require him to give much study and preparation to the method of approach, with little concern' as to whether or not his "approachers" are "shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

### Responsibility To Hear

The preacher, however, is not alone in the matter of responsibility; the hearer also is equally responsible. Reluctance on the part of the hearer to accept responsibility is wide spread. We had rather read about another man's duties than to face our own. But there is no way to avoid the fearful consequences of ignoring accountability as a hearer. No one can say, "I will avoid hearing the gospel, and thus not have a hearer's responsibility." Christ said, *"If any man has ears to hear, let him hear."* (Mark 4:23) This includes every being with faculties capable of receiving a communication intelligently. Not only is it required that you hear, but in addition you must *"take heed what you hear"*. (vs. 24)

The proper attitude must be maintained toward the Word. Upon discovering that your attitude is not right, you must cultivate an attitude that God will approve. Too little attention has been given to shaping our attitude. Those who *"receive not the love of the truth"* will be sent *"a working of error that they should believe a lie, that they all might be judged who believe not the truth."* (II Thess. 2:10-12) Paul thanked God that the Thessalonians had accepted the *"word of the message as the word of God" and "not as the word of man"*. (I Thess. 2:13) There is to be recognized a vital difference between the words of God and the words of men. While it may be allowable (or even necessary at times) to 'apologize for the words of some men, it is

inexcusable for any one ever to apologize for the word of God.

### Hear Discerningly

If the hearer entertains the correct attitude toward the truth, he will re-act properly when he comes into possession of the truth, The Bereans were more noble than those in Thessalonica. They manifested their nobility in their readiness and carefulness as hearers. While they were open for the truth, yet they were careful. They examined the scriptures to determine if the things taught by Paul were so. Too often today, in contrast to that attitude, hearers consult their prejudices, whims, fancies—allowing such to be the standard by which they accept or reject the things heard.

*"Be not carried away by divers and strange teachings."* (Heb. 13:9) No innovation could have occurred had hearers been more concerned with this warning of the Holy Spirit and less enraptured with the "man-pleasing" approach of teachers of divers and strange doctrines. It would be well to scrutinize carefully the doctrine which is taught, even at the expense of missing some thrilling details of the sheep's skin disguise. The content of the sermon must be the chief concern if one is to hear discerningly. He must not allow the drapery of the preacher's manner to weigh too heavily with him. Errorists can use just as smooth and fair speech as can true gospel preachers; they can pray just as long and fervent prayers (and sometimes longer). The sincere are pious; but they do not display their piety. The discerning hearer will always give an extra careful study of the teachings of those who are "over-much" pious.

That the truth of a proposition cannot be determined by a consideration of the manner of the one preaching it is evident from Paul's statement, *"For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly, and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent."* (Rom. 16:18) *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world."* (I John 4:1)

### Hearing Plus Doing

Hearing unaccompanied by doing is profitless. The one who hears, but fails to do, is deluded (Jas. 1:22-25). The wise man is the one who hears and does, while the fool is one who stops at hearing. *"Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man and every one that heareth these words of mine and doeth them not shall be likened unto a foolish man."* (Matt. 7:24-26)

### Itching Ears

Hearers can always find teachers who will teach as the hearer demands. As long as hearers allow itching ears to determine what they will hear, there will be teachers willing to be used as tools to tickle their itching



ears. *"Having itching ears, they will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables."* (II Tim. 4:3,4) A great need exists for hearers who are aware of their responsibilities as such, and strive to measure up to God's standard of approved hearers.

***Taken from The Gospel Guardian, May 5, 1949***

## "WHAT THE BIBLE DOES FOR MAN"

"Give me the Bible, Holy Message shining; Thy light shall guide me in the narrow way; Precept and promise, law and love combining, Till night shall vanish in eternal day." Does this familiar song truly express the sentiments of your heart? Do we really mean what we are singing?

Do we really want the Bible, with the full implications for our lives that the Bible would enjoin upon us? Yes, man needs the Bible; but does man want the Bible? The Bible produces faith in God and is therefore valuable and needed for this reason alone. Since none can please God without faith, all people must come to that point of acceptance or trust in God as they live their lives at His direction (Rev. 11:6). Faith is based upon evidence or testimony. Faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17). To say that we have faith in God, or to say that we have faith in God's word, is not to say that we have stepped blindly into the unknown. The written record is designed to lead one to believe that Jesus is truly God's Son and mankind's Savior (John 20:30-31).

The Bible reveals the plan of salvation. It is not enough to know that we must have faith or that faith is essential to pleasing God. By the plan of salvation, reference is simply made to the instructions God has revealed with which all men must comply. God's word guides and lightens our way (Psa. 119:105). Worldly wisdom fails to comfort and save; man is incapable of providing for his most basic need - namely, salvation (Jer. 10:23). What must I do to be saved? That question is easily answered and easily understood. When one reads the book of Acts, he will find people hearing God's word, repenting of their sins, acknowledging their faith in Christ, and being baptized for the remission of their sins. Read Acts chapter eight and see this for yourself.

The Bible brings spiritual life. The seed of the kingdom is the word of God (Luke 8:11). When that spiritual seed is planted in a good and honest heart, the result will always be a person who is committed to the proposition of living as God directs. The only way to be born again is in response to the incorruptible seed of God (1 Pet. 1:23). Having thus determined to live for the Lord, one now begins to grow spiritually. The Bible promotes and encourages spiritual growth (2 Pet. 3:18). As one matures in the faith, his appetite increases for the meatier matters of God's word.

In fact, unless a Christian is growing and studying, he has already begun to fall backward into neglect (Heb. 5:11-14).

The Bible is needed because it is the standard all men will meet in judgment. Jesus said that in John 12:48. There will be no surprises at the judgment. Jesus says: "Here it is! This is what you need to listen to and obey!" The Bible deals with man and his time upon this earth. The Bible appeals to the part of man that will stand before the Lord in judgment. The books will be opened at the last day (Rev. 20:12). The book of your life will be opened and read by the Lord. Are you living your life now by following His book?

Whatever we know about the life to come with its final destinies, we know from the Bible. We know about ourselves because God had revealed these matters to us. Sooner or later we will face God and His word. Let us all face Him now, by faithfully practicing His will in our lives. May we all allow God's word to transport us safely through this life into the portals of glory. Believe and obey the Bible now.

***Randy Harshbarger***

## The Church Seeks the Knowledge of Christ

Of all the religious bodies on the face of the earth the one that ought to seek the knowledge of Christ is the church which He bought with His own Blood! Paul as much as said so Philippians 3:8-11 where he wrote, *"More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."* Paul had every advantage available to the Jew of his day: Wealth, Family, Position, Education and Roman Citizenship. Yet here he discounts them all when compared with the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Compared with the overwhelming need to know Jesus and the blessings attached to such knowledge, they were but rubbish.

The Church ought to reflect such an attitude in all its efforts. To the extent that it doesn't, it by that much falls short of being the church it ought to be. No church, when viewed from the human perspective, is perfect because it is made up of people. The church is only perfect when viewed from God's perspective however; the true church will stand out from the churches of men because of their unquenchable thirst for the knowledge of Christ.

***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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TEACHER - BILL MILLER

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**SERMON: BEHOLD, THE  
KINGDOM**



## **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