

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



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

September  
29  
2019

## What About Your Spiritual Posterity?

by Jim Stauffer

It is evident from our recent study of 1st and 2nd Timothy, Paul was preparing Timothy to succeed him in his efforts to evangelize the Gentile world following his death.

There are so many passages in Scripture that indicate both the Lord and His apostles not only taught for those present but to prepare them to teach to others and carry on the message through future generations. Jesus said this in **Luke 14:27**, *“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”* What do we suppose He meant by carry his own cross? Well in **Matt. 16:24,25** He explains it as giving up our lives, that is altering our future to follow in His footsteps (**see 1 Pet. 2:21ff**). Further, Jesus says this discipleship leads one to fruit bearing (**John 15:8**). What does fruit bearing mean to a disciple of Jesus? It means carrying on His message. W.E. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says, “A disciple was not only a pupil, but an adherent; hence they are spoken of as imitators of their teacher” (**see John 8:31**).

Obviously if we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we will teach those of our generation with the hope of the message being passed on to future generations. Look at what Paul says to Timothy in **2 Tim. 2:2**, *“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”* Notice the generational aspect of the older teaching the younger in **Titus 2:2-8**.

So, let us consider what we are doing to imitate our Master. What efforts are we putting forth to entrust the teachings of the Lord to faithful men in order for them to carry on when we are gone.

It becomes our responsibility to see the next generation brought to a sufficient point of maturity that they can not only teach others but are desirous of being true disciples of the Lord. The first step is in teaching “our own”. We are taught in Proverbs 22:6 to *Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he*

*will not depart from it.*

Teaching is not mandating and is not accomplished by force. One learns to be a disciple of that which he loves. A man who loves and enjoys playing and watching baseball naturally passes that love on to his son. He does so by his words and deeds that express the joy he receives from the sport. It is no different in spiritual matters. Our children will learn to love going to the house of worship and being with the brethren if they see that genuine joy in us. They will see us provoked *unto love and good works* and the same will happen with them. They will learn the joy of singing praises to God and come to appreciate the power and privilege of prayer to the One Who created us all. They will develop a reverence for a Savior Who died for them and come to understand their need for Him and the value of being His disciples. Brethren, we must teach them by our own lives to look forward to serving in the kingdom rather than feeling like they “have to”.

These principles do not stop at the doorway to our homes. It is a privilege as a disciple of Jesus Christ to discuss His message of salvation to any and all with whom we come in contact. Oh, there may be times when we are nervous about such things, but we will soon realize what a privilege it is to be entrusted with this precious message (**Mat. 25:14-30**).

So, brethren, what are we concerned enough to leave for others? Is it the family property, funds with which our children might enrich themselves? What will people remember you for? Will your ability to provide a wealthy life for your family be the topic at your funeral? Will they speak of how successful you were in this life? What will the spiritual condition of your children and friends be? As you lay on your deathbed, will you be content you told everyone you knew about Jesus and His promise to them in return for their reverence and obedience? What will your posterity be? Now is the time to secure it. Now is the time to take appropriate action to ensure your loved ones learn Who to love and obey.

## About Worship

**Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.**

In our more used English translations, “worship,” in its various forms, is found over 100 times in the Old Testament and over 70 times in the New Testament. It is used of one directing a special act (word or deed) to express adoration to another considered to be of higher rank or power than himself. As such, it is an act forbidden by God toward any being or thing in the universe but himself. This forbids our worshipping:

1. Any of God’s creation. *“Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

**(Romans 1:25)**

2. Any man. *“As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, ‘Stand up; I myself am also a man.’”* **(Acts 10:25-26)**

3. Angels. *“Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,”* **(Colossians 2:18)**. *“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’”* **(Revelation 19:10)**

### **Worship Different from Other Obedience.**

Worship is a separate activity from other acts of obedience to God. Abraham was obeying God when he took Isaac and headed out toward the place God told him to sacrifice, but as he neared the mountain he told his servants, *“Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”* **(Genesis 22:5)** Worship was a special act he was to do “yonder” and after which he would return. Every act of the whole episode was an act of obedience, but only what he did “yonder” was called worship.

Abraham’s servant said, *“And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD”* **(Genesis 24:48)**, showing that worship was different from other acts of obedience. It is said of Elkanah and Hannah as they left Eli, *“Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD ...”* **(1 Samuel 1:19)**. This shows that worship was a special act they directed to the Lord.

The conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman also shows that “worship” is used as activity other than all life: *“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”* Jesus said to her, *“Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. “You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father*

*is seeking such to worship Him. “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”* **(John 4:20-24)**

### **Worship, Service, and Obey Are Not Synonyms**

All worship is service and obedience, but not all obedience or service is worship. “Worship” and “serve” are used as separate acts in many passages: *“And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.*

**(Deuteronomy 4:19)** *“Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.*

**(Deuteronomy 8:19)** *“Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, **(Deuteronomy 11:16)** “But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, **(Deuteronomy 30:17)** “But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods AND worship them, **(1 Kings 9:6)** “But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, **(2 Chronicles 7:19)** ‘This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates of their hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them AND worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing. **(Jeremiah 13:10)***

*‘Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.’ **(Jeremiah 25:6)** Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! **(Daniel 3:28)** Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” **(Matthew 4:10)** And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” **(Luke 4:8)***

Children should obey parents, wives should obey husbands, citizens should obey governments, servants (employees) should serve masters (employers) as service to God – but must not worship anyone but God.

### **The Absurdity of “All Life Is Worship”**

The act of presenting the body to God as acts of (service/worship) is a far cry from saying every act of the body in service to God is an act of worship. The



result of this error is to equate all acts of service of a faithful Christian with worship – thus minimizing the priority of public worship. So, if I want to volunteer at a soup kitchen on Sunday rather than attend “worship” then that is ok. Helping the needy is indeed an act of service to both God and the needy and by this theory an act of worship that is at least equivalent to that done in the assembly of the saints. So, he is worshiping God just as much at those at the assembly. It is just that each has chosen a different act of worship on this day. If one prefers to go to the mall and hand out tracts at the time the church assembles, then that is ok. After all, handing out tracts is a great act of service to God. He is worshiping just as much as those who are worshiping in the assembly. So, the church has no right to question one who forsakes the assembling to do any act that he considers doing God service. Not to be crude, but to impress us with the absurdity of this kind of thinking, a couple could stay home, after a busy week at work, and obey **1 Corinthians 7:3**, which is unquestionably a command of God. They would be just as pleasing to God as those assembled for worship because, after all, “all life is worship.” I don’t know how much help I can be to one who cannot see the absurdity of that.

## Remember – There ARE Figures of Speech in the Bible!

One of the favorite tactics used by destructive critics of Christians is to ask them if they believe the Bible is ‘literally’ true. When the Christian answers that they do, meaning we accept the scriptures as absolutely true, the critic goes straight to **Revelation 13** where it describes a beast (think ‘Godzilla’) and paints the Christian into the corner of thinking they must take this as literal or deny the Bible, which is a false choice. The trap is based on the use of the word ‘literal’.

The scriptures are natural, normal and genuine messages to natural and normal people and normal people use figures of speech! If I’ve said that once I’ve said it a million times! Jesus himself used figures of speech often. For example he called Herod a fox in **Luke 13:32**, a euphemism. He also used hyperbole in **Matthew 19:24** where he said, *“It is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”* He was exaggerating to make a point, that’s all! (Just like I did earlier in this paragraph.) And when you are dealing with extraordinary circumstances or events then extraordinary language is used to convey the meaning.

It is important that the believer recognize that there is figurative language in the Bible, and to approach it properly, in order to get the truth of the passage.

Remember, it’s only figurative if the speaker meant it to be understood that way. I can’t come to a doctrine I don’t like and just say it’s a figure to escape the import of

the words used. That’s not honest!

Remember: Don’t fall for the trap of thinking that believing the Scriptures are true means believing they’re all literal!

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## "He's Better Off Now"

Have you ever said, "He's better off now"? We hear folks saying this all the time. Generally it is used after someone has suffered a long and painful illness. Death finally comes. The struggle is now over. No more tubes, monitors, hospitals, and all the things that come with critical illness. Death is viewed as a relief. Death is welcomed. It is finally over.

To comfort the family, someone almost always says, "He is better off now." They say this, thinking that the dreaded disease is no longer causing the suffering that it has. For the person who has walked by faith this is true. The family of a Christian has this hope. They are better off now.

But without realizing it, many offer these same words to those who don't walk with Christ. They offer a false hope and a false comfort. Death is not the end. Consider what happened to the rich man after he died: *"The rich man also died and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame'"* (**Luke 16:22b-24**). The Lord's description of the rich man is very alarming. He stated that the rich man was in "TORMENT," "AGONY," and in "FLAME." The rich man wasn't better off after death. There are things worse than death!

## The Suffering After Death Is Worse Than What We Suffer In Life.

- 1.. Because there is no one to help: -- There are no hospitals in Hades. There are no medicines to relieve the pain. There is no one to pray over you.
- 2.. Because it does not end: -- The suffering of punishment is eternal. Jesus used the expressions *"where the worm does not die"* (**Mk. 9:44**) and *"eternal punishment"* (**Matt. 25:46**).
- 3.. Because a person deserves it: -- There are no innocent sufferers after death. No one suffers after death by accident. There are no victims after death.

We don't like to think about the punishment of God. The Hebrew writer reminds us, *"It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God"* (**Heb. 10:31**). So, be careful when you say, "He's better off now."  
**by Roger Shouse; Taken from Beacon Electronic Edition 7/31/18**

**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**

**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, AND ALMA BAUMGARTNER, LINDIA JACKSON, TRUDY MULLEN, RON DALY AND TOM HOGLAND.

### BIBLE CLASSES

SUNDAY MORNING

STUDY OF AUTHORITY

TEACHER - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY EVENING

THE BOOK OF JOB

TEACHER - JIM STAUFFER

### SUNDAY SERMON:

MAN WAS CREATED TO WORSHIP GOD



## 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