

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.

**August  
30  
2020**

## WHAT IS YOUR EXCUSE?

by Jim Stauffer

Maybe you need to have the security of a nice place to eat and sleep, or you may need to attend to the death of a family member. Maybe you just need to tell all your family and friends goodbye with a nice going away party. These are the issues that stood between prospective disciples and their service to the Lord in **Luke 9:57ff.**

Can you see how the society in which these men lived formed their thoughts on what is important in life? Lifestyle and family relationships were paramount for them. But that is not what the Lord has taught us. *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; 36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. 37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."* (Matthew 10:34–39)

As a young person then we must according to our society consider the expense and time involved in a proper education. When we do that, there is little time left to work for the Lord. To try to teach others about the salvation offered to sinful man to enable him to live in heaven rather than perish in hell. But once we finish our education we will be ready to follow Jesus.

Once our education is finished we realize it is a tough market for jobs and we must get busy finding a place to pursue our career. Without an appropriate way to produce income we will struggle to be able to afford a

wife and family. We must devote ourselves to this company in order to progress to a higher paying position. Once we reach that level and can begin to repay college loans, etc., then we can begin to follow Jesus.

Now we find the young lady we plan to spend the rest of our life with and the marriage has taken place. We now plan the family we have always anticipated and soon there are youngsters in the house needing a lot of attention. We are forced to move up to a larger house that brings greater responsibility and costs that demand much of our time along with the kids. Need to get life stabilized and then we can follow Jesus.

But as the kids grow, their lives begin to take over our time. School activities and all the sports and leisure things they gravitate toward really become time consuming. We just do not have the time to fulfill the demands of discipleship. But soon the kids will be off to school, followed by their own careers and then we will be able to follow Jesus.

But, of course, they do just that and begin to have families of their own. Now we have grandchildren who are in need of the attention of grandparents. When will we ever find enough time to accomplish all those things for the Lord we once had planned?

Likely we will not, because we are now approaching retirement. Age is beginning to slow us down and after all there are younger brethren with much more energy to do those things. I do contribute rather substantially so that makes up for the lack of time I have had over the years.

No, it does not. Rearing children and providing for their welfare is not something that should in any way come between us and the service of the Lord. Nor should our education or caring for grandchildren or any

of the things we have mentioned. These are all the blessings the Lord promised us if we would *seek first His kingdom and His righteousness*. These are not responsibilities the Lord gave us to inhibit our service to Him. If we are faithful to His cause it will enhance the upbringing of children. It will lead a wife to become more spiritual instead of “needing” material things for her and her family.

We are, indeed, the people Jesus illustrated in our text who place earthly treasures above those treasures in heaven and we will soon learn the earthly treasures are corruptible and will become worthless eventually whereas we have passed on those heavenly treasures that will last an eternity in the presence of God.

Brethren we need to think farther down the road to see where we are headed so we do not wind up holding worthless things in our hands and then watch our children do the very same thing. Once we have made the wrong choice it is likely they will too and our disappointment will be multiplied simply because we did not follow Jesus first and then take care of these other matters as we had time and opportunity.

What Jesus demands as our Savior is what Paul told Timothy in **Titus 2:11,12** *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”* When we accomplish that we have truly become His disciple and we will be seeking those heavenly treasures.

## TEN LEPERS

*“While He was on the way to Jerusalem, He was passing between Samaria and Galilee. As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; and they raised their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us! When He saw them, He said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they were going, they were cleansed. Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered and said, Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner? And He said to him, stand up and go; your faith has made you well” (Luke 17:11-19 NASV).*

Jesus continued marching toward Jerusalem; this inexorable determination is mentioned often by **Luke (9:51; 13:22)**. As Jesus traveled from Galilee through Samaria, we are not surprised that He encountered a Samaritan. The Samaritans were viewed as outcasts by the Jews, this Samaritan was a leper—a double exclusion. Lepers were excluded from society, forced to live apart from other people, and had to make sure no one came in contact with their uncleanness (**Leviticus 13:45-46**). These ten lepers were not in the village, but stood away from those who were coming and going. A cry for mercy to Jesus, the Master, the one who could actually help them, is not surprising; it is likely they knew something of Jesus and His work in helping others. The Law of Moses commanded that lepers be examined by the priests; this would ensure that the health of the lepers had actually been restored; then the lepers would give an offering in the temple in thanks for their cleansing. *“But go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, as a testimony to them” (Luke 5:14).*

Did the lepers need faith in order to do as Jesus commanded? The Lord said “go”; as they were going, they were cleansed, but not before they left to go. Luke says one leper, a Samaritan, returned to say *thank you!* Ten were cleansed; where are the nine? This Samaritan, this leper, this “foreigner” was the only one to return, fall on the ground, and give thanks for his healing. Ten were cleansed; one said thank you. In a leper colony, distinctions of ethnicity mattered little; their shared misery made them equal. Yet, the Jews would hardly believe that a Samaritan could do something of spiritual significance, even something as small as giving thanks. That fact that Jesus asked about the nine highlights their lack of thankfulness. Could that have been the real problem for the Jews?

After all, they were the chosen people of God. They were the religious elite. Why should they bother saying thank you?

Here we are today. We are God’s people. Do we down deep think we are better than everyone else? We have our salvation all wrapped up; it is secure; the Lord should be thanking us. Remember that Jesus said to the leper who returned: *“Your faith has made you well.”* When Jesus says that to you and me, we need to run to Him as fast as possible, fall down, and say “thank you.” And if we never get up again, that’s OK.

**Randy Harshbarger**

## Why So Many Churches? (5)

As you can see in the title, this is the 5<sup>th</sup> in this series. There will probably be at least this many more so don't lose hope or sight of our goal. There is not a single answer to the question, there are many contributing factors. Each one, however, is traceable to a violation of a simple, fundamental New Testament principle which we'll examine citing scripture.

We made the point last week that once God has spoken (specifying what we are to believe) we no longer have the right to our own opinions. That is absolutely so. There are, however, places where God has given us freedom and He has clearly outlined them in **Romans 14** where He uses two examples: the eating of meats and the observing of days. Each of these examples is elsewhere dealt with by the Holy Spirit who made it clear they were matters of spiritual indifference to God. In other words God will not refuse a man entry into heaven because he was not vegetarian, or because he did keep the Sabbath, which was nailed to the cross (**Colossians 2:16**). I can eat meat or not. I can keep the Sabbath or not. It is a matter of personal preference and not something for anyone else to judge.

To take a matter of opinion and make it a matter of faith is, therefore, clearly wrong! On the other hand, to take a matter of faith and make it into a matter of opinion where difference is no concern at all is ALSO CLEARLY WRONG! Divorcing my wife for burning supper and marrying another woman clearly involves me in the sin of adultery, as Jesus said in **Matthew 5:31 & 32**. That is NOT a **Romans 14** matter and WILL keep me out of heaven.

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## Propitiation

Greek: **Hilasmos**

Vine: "signifies an expiation, a means whereby sin is covered and remitted."

Thayer: "an appeasing, propitiating."

Propitiation as translated from hilasmos is used in reference to Jesus four times.

*Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed (Rom. 3:25).*

*Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for*

*the sins of the people (Heb. 2:17).*

*And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world (1 Jn. 2:2).*

*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 Jn. 4:10).*

Since man could not do or offer anything to remove his own sins, something else was needed to appease the wrath of God. The only appeasement that would work was that of a perfect sacrifice. Hence, the blood of the Son of God had to be offered as an expiatory sacrifice so our sins could be remitted.

What does this mean for us? It means we owe a debt of gratitude to God and Jesus. God sent Him; Jesus voluntarily came. Without this act of mercy, we would have no hope of heaven. Rather, we would be left to face the wrath of Almighty God.

It means we must live daily for Him who gave Himself for us. Our short service in this life is the least we can do to express our thanks. It is the height of ingratitude to live according to our own selfish ways and desires.

**Steven F. Deaton**

## He Has Not Left That Open To Us

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

**by C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity**

*"But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish — the very works that I do — testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me." (John 5:36)*



**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**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

**Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons: Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Joe Hurd**

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### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

#### **SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

JAN PATRICK, ALMA  
BAUMGARTNER, TRUDY MULLEN,  
RENE RATLIFF, DENESE GORING,  
CHARLOTTE STAUFFER, RODNEY  
BLOUNT, TRACY RICHARDSON,  
DAISY DARNALL, BROOKLYN  
BOYER, RENEE ANDERSON, L.A.  
STAUFFER, STEVE WIMP.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK OF  
DANIEL - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - STUDY  
OF WORSHIP - JIM STAUFFER  
(BOTH CLASSES OFFERED ON ZOOM)

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON  
(YOUTUBE ALSO)  
SINCERITY IS THE ANSWER AFTER  
ALL



## **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