

# LENEXA EDIFIER

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; Eph. 4:11,12

October 18, 2020

## DO YOU TRUST THE REVELATION?

*“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned. And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken unto them, was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen.” (Mark 16:15–20)*

From this text and the following record of the New Testament we understand how God planned to reveal His message of the gospel to the entire world (**Col. 1:23**).

There was an obvious process God had in mind. First, the apostles were immersed in the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2; 11:15**) and then they passed it on to others who also taught those with whom they had contact (**1 Cor. 12**).

There was a need for verification since anyone could speak any idea he may personally want to spread to others and without verification men would have no real reason to believe. But when the apostles and others performed these signs as confirmation the word came from Deity, it was accepted since no man could do those things by his own power. One example is the response to Peter and John following the healing of the man at the gate of the Temple called Beautiful. **Acts 3:10** tells us the people, *were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him*. Later the people of the city followed them closely to enable the sick to be healed by this power of the Holy Spirit. *“And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and*

*laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.” (Acts 5:14–15)*

Now we must realize this was God’s plan to confirm the word to those of that day to enable them to come to the Lord in obedience to His will. All this is recorded and preserved for our reading and understanding (**Eph. 3:1-5**). God did not plan for us to continue this process of confirming the word once it was recorded and man could have it before him.

How do we know that? There are a couple of instances that make this abundantly clear. First, we see the apostles were the only ones who could grant these spiritual gifts, this power of the Holy Spirit with which to heal the sick, speak in tongues, etc. *“Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:14–17)* Then Paul explains this to us when he tells us in **1 Cor. 13:8-10** these things (tongues, gift of prophecy, etc.) will cease when *that which is perfect is come*.

That which is perfect is the completed revelation. Those who spoke God’s word (the gift of prophecy) by the power of the Holy Spirit in New Testament days revealed a part of His will. This was done until it was completed. Once the revelation was finished there was no longer a need for these gifts to confirm the word. It was available for men to read and understand as Paul says in **Eph. 3**.

Because it is complete, John can warn us not to go beyond it in **2 John 9**. And not to add to it in **Rev. 22:18,19**. We recognize it as God’s word; perfect as His word has always been. *“The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.” (Psalm 19:7)*

He came from heaven to save us. We must respect His word just as we have His deeds.

## Careful to Answer

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were called before the king and faced charges of refusing to worship the golden image he had erected, Nebuchadnezzar asked, *"Who is that god that shall deliver you out of my hands?"* Things looked pretty dark.

But they replied, *"We have no need to answer thee in this matter"* (AS). The King James Version reads, *"We are not careful to answer thee in this matter"* (Dan. 3:15-16). The thought seems to be, we will not choose our words carefully -- concerned lest we offend; we will not try to "talk our way out of" this situation. And they added, *"Our God is able to deliver us"* (if it suits His purposes to do so) *"but if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."*

Several years back, a preacher said John (the Immerser) "lost his head" because he "lost his head" -- he was not tactful in his criticism of Herod. John had said, of Herod's marriage to his brother Philip's wife, *"It is not lawful for thee to have her"* (Matt. 14).

John was not "careful to answer," someone might say. Well, he certainly was not trying to "butter up" the king. On the other hand, John and the captive Jews of Daniel 3, were very careful to maintain their faith in God and to court His approval. John lost his head, and the three Hebrews were thrown into the fiery furnace, but each gained more than he lost. We "have no need" for any man's approval as we have need for God's approval.

Jesus said, *"Fear not those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell"* (Matt. 10:28).

We are not advocating crudeness! Daniel's brethren were respectful to the king; and love for souls will forbid our becoming a bully with the truth. Shouting, stomping pronouncements of damnation are often signs of weakness, while genuine strength is accompanied by humility. But genuine strength speaks truthfully, directly and clearly, regardless of temporal consequences -- and because of inevitable eternal consequences.

**by Robert F. Turner; Taken from THE BEACON - Electronic Edition - 9/15/2020**

## HE HAS RISEN

*"He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered His words"* (Luke 24:6-8 NASV).

Luke used words to tell the story of Jesus. The Apostles preached words of salvation: words given by the Holy Spirit. Jesus' words are important. Now, after the horrors of the cross, we have the words of Jesus Himself. Jesus said that He would die and then be raised. Why be surprised that the tomb was empty? After all, Jesus' words are always true; He said He would be raised. Who remembered His words?

Initially the women came to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus; they expected to find Him in the tomb. But they finally remembered His words about His resurrection. Not surprisingly, it was Mary the mother of James, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and other unnamed women who remembered what Jesus had previously said. These women reported the empty tomb to the apostles. Yet, the men who had been with Jesus for three years, the men who had heard the same words as the women, refused to accept their eyewitness testimony.

*"Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also, the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them"* (Luke 24:10-11). Were these women hysterical? Were they uttering nonsense? Strong biases against the testimony of women existed in the 1st C. Peter, though, got up and ran to the tomb; he left in wonder about what had happened. Was he thinking about Jesus' words? Only a few days before, after Peter denied the Lord and remembered the words of Jesus, "how He had told him, before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times" (Luke 22:61).

What was Peter remembering now? After Jesus' death by crucifixion, could it be possible that He was alive? Was reality sinking in? What about these women? They were not simply "eleventh hour" disciples. They had been with Jesus from the beginning (Luke 8:1-3). Jesus had restored human life (Luke 7:10-17; John 11). Jesus had actually died; the Romans knew what they were doing when they nailed someone to a cross. How can Joseph of Arimathea, who is in all four gospels, be discounted? Too many people knew him to believe that he was a figment of the gospel writers' imagination? All four

gospels mention the discovery of the empty tomb by the women. If you were trying to manufacture some elaborate tale about Jesus, you wouldn't use the testimony of women. What about the many witnesses to the resurrection? Paul spoke about many of these people still being alive at the time he wrote to the Corinthians (**1 Corinthians 15:1-11**). It would take lots of work to discredit 500 witnesses.

Finally, the transformed lives of the NT Christians we read about in Acts, Revelation, and throughout the NT, say something about the power and reality of the resurrection. Jesus always joined His actions and deeds with words of explanation. Those words need to be remembered. When your life is in shambles, or when you have a crisis of faith, remember these words: He is not here; He has risen!

**Randy Harshbarger**

### Stick With the Scriptures!

As I continue to offer a solution to the mess we see in today's religious scene I would like to include the title of this article: Stick With The Scriptures! It is the Scriptures which make us "*wise unto salvation*" (**2 Timothy 3:15**). It is the revealed scriptures which are "God Breathed" and "*profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, tor training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*" (**2 Timothy 3:16f**). It is the Scriptures which contain "*all things pertaining to life and godliness*". (**2 Peter 1:3**)

God has always put up a defensive fence around the scriptures with the sign saying "Hands Off!" meaning, "Don't Change This Message!" In **Deuteronomy 4:2** Moses wrote, "*You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*" The same message is found in **Revelation 22:18f** and **Proverbs 30:6**. They are like bookends reminding us not to tamper with what God gave to us for our own good. Even the Apostle Paul, who wrote about half the New Testament, reminded the Corinthians in **1 Corinthians 4:6** "*Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.*" Even John, the Apostle of Love himself, wrote dire warnings about not

sticking with the scripture. He said, "*Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God,*" (**2 John 9**)

Let us, for the sake of Unity, obey these scriptural injunctions!

**Cleveland Reddinger**

### TOLBERT FANNING'S CONVERSION AND MY CONVERSION

Of Tolbert Fanning it was stated:

When sixteen years of age, **he was encouraged to read the New Testament, with the view of really acquiring spiritual light.** Soon all was plain, and **his gloomy doubts gave place to an intelligent faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

About the first of October, 1827, he heard a discourse on the Gospel and its conditions, and, at the conclusion of the discourse, he walked forward, and, **with a perfect understanding of the truth, made the confession, and was immediately immersed into Christ.**

[Taken from: ***The Living Pulpit of the Christian Church*** (1868); W. T. Moore, ed.]

IMPORTANT FACTS: "he was encouraged to read the New Testament WITH THE VIEW OF REALLY ACQUIRING SPIRITUAL LIGHT..."

[This was in spite of the fact that he had PREVIOUSLY been told by preachers that it was IMPOSSIBLE to be enlightened apart from a direct operation of the Holy Spirit...]

As a result of his reading the New Testament: **"HIS DOUBTS GAVE PLACE TO AN INTELLIGENT FAITH..."**

Later, "He heard a sermon on the "gospel and its conditions"...at the conclusion of the discourse, **"he walked forward WITH A PERFECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUTH, MADE THE CONFESSION, AND WAS IMMEDIATELY IMMERSSED INTO CHRIST."**

A QUESTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

- Was Tolbert Fanning saved from his sins after doing this, or was he still in his sins?
- Did he obey a false doctrine?

I have done as Tolbert Fanning did; yet I did NOT pray a sinner's prayer; I did NOT confess my sins, but my faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ.



In regard to my sins, I repented of them...  
I was NOT baptized with the understanding that I was already saved, but with the understanding that my sins would be washed in baptism.  
ANOTHER QUESTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

- Was I saved from my past sins after doing this, or am I still in sin?
- Did I obey a false doctrine?

As the apostle Paul said, "*I write these things according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.*" ~ **2 Corinthians 13:10**

**Roger Bruner; Taken from Rightly Dividing God's Word**

#### **NEWS AND NOTES**

##### **Sick in need of prayers:**

JAN PATRICK, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRUDY MULLEN, RENE RATLIFF, DENESE GORING, RODNEY BLOUNT, TRACY RICHARDSON, DAISY DARNALL, BROOKLYN BOYER, STEVE WIMP, JESSIE GIBSON, PAT GAINES AND KAREN MOORE, THE SISTER OF RON PECK.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - EVIDENCES - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - THE PARABLES - BY MULTIPLE TEACHERS (BOTH CLASSES OFFERED ON ZOOM)

SUNDAY SERMON: REJOICE ALWAYS

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

**Elders:**

**Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons:**

**Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Joe Hurd**

*"Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:"*

**(Philippians 1:1)**

#### **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - **Rom. 10:17**

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - **Heb. 11:6**

**Repent** of sins - **Acts 17:30**

**Confess** Christ as Lord - **Rom. 10:9,10**

**Baptism** for remission of sins - **Acts 2:38**

*"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* **(Revelation 2:10)**

**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.*

#### **ADDRESS AND HOURS OF WORSHIP**

7845 Cottonwood Dr. Lenexa, Kansas,  
66216

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/ Worship

**Visitors welcome**

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**We offer Correspondence Courses**

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[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)