

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.

**March
14
2021**

GOSPEL MEETING THIS WEEK

Jim Stauffer

Ken Chumbley, from Gibson, Illinois, will present a series of lessons this week. The lessons will be Bible based. He will only teach lessons that are sustained by the Scriptures which is in keeping with the practice of the Lenexa church of Christ.

We cordially invite you to attend these lessons if you are within driving distance of the church building.

We plead with you to carefully consider the lessons and compare them to Scripture and if you desire to study them further, please contact me by way of the information in my signature on this email.

Following is the Schedule of Lessons:

Sunday Bible Class - 9:30 AM

A Modern Message From a Minor Prophet - Amos

Sunday Worship - 10:20 AM

How To Get the Most Out of a Sermon James 1:21,22

Sunday Worship - 5:00 PM

The End of All Things is at Hand 1 Pet. 4:7

Monday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

The Faith of Noah - Heb. 11:7

Tuesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

Marriage - Genesis 2

Wednesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross Acts 2:22-36

The Gospel is to be preached

Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom - **Mat. 4:23**

He told Nicodemus to be born again to enter the kingdom - **John 3:3-5**

Paul said redemption resulted in the forgiveness of sins and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son **Col. 1:13,14**

Jesus then told His disciples to preach the gospel to all creation - **Mark 16:15,16**

Peter then, first accomplished this in **Acts 2:22-36**

Peter then preached this gospel to the Gentiles

Acts 10:34-43

This gospel was preached to the Ethiopian, to Saul of Tarsus who became the apostle Paul, to Lydia, a seller of purple and the Philippian jailer, all recorded in the Book of Acts.

In each case these people obeyed the gospel, repented of their sins and were baptized for the remission of those sins as they were redeemed by the blood of Christ.

Romans 3:23 tells us all men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, therefore all men need redemption which is the process of having our sins forgiven. Without it we cannot enter the kingdom and cannot attain to salvation which leads to eternal life.

Please consider your need for redemption and come hear these lessons and carefully consider what God has spoken to us in His word.

Things Which Make For Peace

David Cox

"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another" (Romans 14:19). Among any group of people, there will be times that there will not be agreement on some issue. It is true in the family, in the workplace, in school, and in the church. Why is this the case? Because people are different. Even among the twelve, they had these moments (**Mark 9:33-34; Matthew 20:24**). Paul writing to the Romans is reminding them that they should work for peace. Why? So the church can be

edified, strengthened, and built up. Peace is absolutely necessary if we are to be successful in strengthening others and reaching others for Christ. Let us consider the things which will make for peace.

Resolve Conflict.

Conflict must be resolved if we are to have peace. The idea that we can just sweep conflict under the rug and go on to achieve peace is very shortsighted. Solomon writes, *“The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts”* (**Proverbs 17:14**). The instruction of Solomon is to *“stop contention.”* It is much easier to stop contention than to unravel a quarrel. The idea is that we should be seeking reconciliation, to be made friends again. We need to see the tragedy of allowing differences of opinion to destroy the work of God. Paul is saying that Christians should not let these things hinder the growth and development of the church. In resolving conflict, we will remove the trivial things from standing in our way.

Restrain Your Tongue. The tongue can cause the greatest harm and can disrupt peace among people. We would do well to remember the instruction of James, *“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”* (**James 1:19**).

James tells us to be *“slow to speak,”* which is precisely restraining our tongue. The one pursuing peace will use his tongue to build up, instruct, and not to belittle, teardown, or win the argument. It is just not worth the disruption of peace and the edification of the church.

Actively Pursue Peace. As the people of God, we need to be peace-makers with everyone (**Romans 12:18**). We must be proactive in creating an atmosphere of peace. This is done as we invest time with God. Take time to read the scriptures and meditate on them. Pray to God for yourself and for others. Take time to focus on the mission that God has given us to do. When peace seems to be almost unfathomable, continue to pursue peace in doing these things. Take the time to follow these things that make for peace. It will draw you closer to God and closer together. Peace will allow you to grow and be an influence on those you are around for good. Remember, Jesus taught, *“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God”* (**Matthew 6:9**).

A Few Words about the “Social Gospel” **Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.**

We “conservatives” sometimes speak of the “Social Gospel” in a way that shows we know very little about it. Many think the Social Gospel is all about churches

sponsoring social activities like social meals and recreational activities. While these unscriptural practices are wrong and may have in some way grown out the social gospel movement, they are not at the core of it.

Historically the social gospel was a Protestant movement that began in the later part of the nineteenth century and became a strong influence during the beginning years of the twentieth century. It was started by classic theological liberals (classic Modernists) who basically lost faith in the hereafter and tried to make preaching and the church still relevant by making them a means of improving the present world order (the here and now).

Its influence continues to shape the religious thinking, preaching, and church practice of many in this country. The shifted emphasis and focus of the gospel and churches from saving souls and preparing them for heaven to that of social reform and the betterment of society is seen everywhere. The role of Jesus as the Savior has been replaced with Jesus as a mere wise man whose teaching will make a better society. The theory involves the notion that the problem of sin is caused by the corruption and inequities of our social systems. The solution is to produce a better world order and the problem of sin will diminish. The emphasis in preaching is turned to social reform and away to from personal conversion to Christ.

Emphasizing salvation from poverty and inequity, rather than salvation from sin and its temporal and eternal consequences is the present order. Another way of putting it is that the focus has shifted from pursuing heaven and avoiding hell, by overcoming personal sin through the gospel, to making a better life in the here and now. The reason little is preached about heaven and hell is either that they no longer believe in them or if they still do believe they think that virtually no one is in danger of hell and that everyone is going to heaven.

The social gospel’s shift is often so subtle that it is hard for us to see. Sure, the gospel addresses a Christian’s behavior in this present world (**Titus 2:11, 12**), but in the context of how these things affect his pursuit of the future world (**v. 13**).

Think of the themes and topics for “gospel meetings,” “seminars,” “specials” and even “Sunday sermons” that you see from churches. How many of them suggest that they will be addressing matters of spiritual and eternal import or will it be matters that are basically designed primarily to improve life in the here and now? Will there be lessons from the Bible designed to tell how to better prepare for heaven, or will they be more designed to take the Bible as a manual for their physical and social betterment? Even when the gospel

does address Christians' responsibilities in the home, the community, or work place, it is not that improvement in these areas is an end within itself, but as a part of living here in a way that prepares one to live in heaven in the hereafter.

I suspect that we all may have been influenced by the social gospel concept that we realized and need to be careful to preach the gospel as the apostles preached it. Church sponsored social activities may be a spin-off from the social gospel, but the social gospel manifests itself in far more ways than that.

The Wooden Bowl (a Grimm fairy tale)

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table but the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor."

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

Two Lessons: 1) Children are remarkably perceptive.

Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently provide a happy home atmosphere, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives. 2) God's instructions about honoring our parents never ends.

Whit Sasser

What Is That In Your Hand

*The Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?"
And he said, "A staff."--Exodus 4:1*

God's people were slaves in Egypt, trodden under the heel of an oppressor that made their lives miserable. It was God's will that they be delivered and that Moses lead that deliverance. Moses was hesitant to undertake that task and said to the Lord, "*they will not believe me*". This prompted the Lord to ask this simple question to which Moses answered, "*a staff.*" Just a little rod, some sort of stick used in tending the sheep. But that which was just a little stick in the hands of Moses became, by the power of God, the force that brought the plaques on the land of Egypt, divided the Red Sea and brought water from a rock.

It may sound strange, but the Lord can take the little things we hold in our hands and change them into something great and mighty when we, with a willing mind submit them into his hands, He can take the things of little value in our hands and make them priceless.

I think of David who once held in his hands only a sling and five small stones as he went out to fight the giant, Goliath (**1 Samuel 17:20-51**). As David approached him, Goliath mocked David but David simply said, "*I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel*". That sling and those stones when placed in the hands of the Lord became a force that slew Goliath and put the Philistine army to flight. I think about a little boy who had only 5 loaves and 2 fish (**John 6:8-14**). A simple lunch, not more than enough for two, perhaps three people but when placed in the hands of the Lord it fed 5000 with 12 baskets left over.

We must never look at our life and begin to think that we are just small, weak, frail, insignificant individuals with little to offer the Lord. We hold in our hands our life, time, talents (abilities) and influence. I submit to you that if we will place our life into his hands with the attitude "Lord, here am I, use me", he can make it something beautiful, wonderful and useful.

My friends, this is not simply a matter of what can I do. It is a matter of what God can do through me. I plead with you to willingly, without reservation, place your life, time, influence and abilities into the hands of God and let Him surprise you with some marvelous results.

To God be the glory forever and ever, Amen.

Charles Hicks; swabbie5256@gmail.com

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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Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

News and Notes:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick, Trudy Mullen, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer and George Root. Tracy Richardson now recuperates at home L.A. Stauffer currently in rehab.

Sunday Morning Bible Class - Messianic Pathway - OT to NT - Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening Bible Class - Home and Family - Ron Peck

Sunday Morning Sermon

Our Gospel Meeting:

3/14/21 thru 3/17/21

Ken Chumbley



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