

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

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

MAY 23, 2021

FLEEING YOUTHFUL LUSTS

by Jim Stauffer

“Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)

The apostle directed Timothy to plan his life and the direction it would take with this instruction. There is no greater difference between any two things than exists between the lusts of the flesh and righteousness. Giving ourselves to fleshly desires and concerns at the expense of righteousness is the very thing we have been redeemed from. *“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13–14) cf. 1 Peter 2:9* John explains the contrast here, *“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:15–17)*

This contrast is the very essence of the conversion of the soul of a man. We have all sinned and since the wages of sin are death we, of necessity seek a solution to the problem brought on by our sin (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). God has sent a solution to the sin problem of man, *“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)* John the Baptist identified Him as, *“...the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29).* Peter tells us we were redeemed by the precious blood of a lamb without blemish and says that lamb was Christ (1 Pet. 1:18,19).

As Jesus is being introduced in the gospel account of John, we are introduced to this concept of light and

darkness. We are told He came to bring life and light to mankind and that when the light would shine in the darkness it would not be comprehended by those who choose to live in darkness (John 1:4,5). Then in the 3rd chapter of John’s gospel he explains God’s desire to save those who are in darkness so they would not perish (John 3:16), while further explaining there would be those who would choose to remain in darkness (3:19).

Friends this is what redemption, salvation, righteousness and the ultimate reward of heaven is all about. Choosing to walk in the light rather than darkness. John and Peter both identify this as walking in the footsteps of Jesus (1 John 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:21ff).

Now those who have responded to the gospel message that Paul says is the *...power of God unto salvation... (Rom. 1:16)*, are aware of all these things we have mentioned. However, as long as they live in the flesh on this earth, they are faced with the war between the flesh and the spirit as Paul describes it in Galatians 5:16ff.

Yet we are warned against the temptations of the world to draw us back to a life of sin and disregard for the words of our Savior. Peter describes it very graphically in this text, *“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,” and, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.” (2 Pet. 2:20–22)*

As the months of Summer approach us and young folks are out of school and families will go on vacations, it is imperative we keep in mind the words of the apostle Paul, *"abstain from every form of evil."* (1 Thess. 5:22) The temptation to dress immodestly to participate in recreational activities will present itself. There is no vacation from our discipleship with Christ. The fact that our family and friends are not there does not mean God is not. Remember the omniscience of God. Remember the words of Job, *"For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps."* (Job 34:21)

Why Is There So Much Immorality?

by Keith Sharp

According to evolution, people are just apes who grew bigger brains, stood upright, and lost most of their body hair (I've lost more than most). One anthropologist wrote a book about mankind entitled The Naked Ape. According to Scripture, God made both the man and the woman *"in His own image"* (Genesis 1:27). The difference between evolution and creation is the difference between a naked ape and a child of God. If we're just animals who happen to walk on two legs and have bigger brains, why should we have any higher moral standards than any other animal? Why not obey the law of the jungle, kill or be killed? Why not mate whenever and with whomever we feel like? Since most people accept evolution as a proven fact, is it any wonder that their morals, or the lack thereof, are like jungle animals – or worse?

Every Secret Thing

In this age of modern media we have unprecedented opportunities to look at, listen to, and participate in evil things. And, with the rapid advance of technology, we can engage in these evil deeds with relative anonymity. In years gone by, if there was a desire to engage in these sordid and sinful activities, it was necessary to go out in public places to do so. Pornography was available, but only at newsstands and the like. Filthy movies were out there, but you had to go to the XXX movie house to see them. No more! A person can sit in front of his computer screen and quickly access (via the Internet) all manner of pornography -- and no one can see him do it. "Chat rooms" allow perverted persons the ability to openly discuss their twisted passions with total strangers -- and they are out of public view when doing so. With cable and satellite TV, it is possible to receive

all manner of filthy programming -- and watch it right there in the privacy of your own home.

This new accessibility -- with anonymity -- has already served as a downfall to many, including not a few Christians. We all need to be on guard about this powerful temptation. Never forget that God in heaven sees and knows all that you think and do. Consider:

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:13)

Are you engaged in things that you would not want others to find out about? If so, you should know two things. First, God already knows! And, secondly, in the final judgment everyone will know, for He will *"bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts"* (1 Corinthians 4:5). Christian, be careful!

by Greg Gwin

Making Choices

Frank Jamerson

Man has no choice but to choose! We are by nature creatures of choice and there is no way to live in this world without making choices.

Joshua challenged the Israelites to *"fear the Lord, serve him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"* (Josh 24:14,15).

Some kind of choice was inevitable. Joshua did not say "make a choice or remain neutral," for that was impossible. Furthermore, Joshua could not make the choice for them. He really could not make it for his family, but he could lead them in making the right choice.

When people try to get us to make right choices they are not taking away our power to choose. Ultimately, each one must answer for himself. God said, *"The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself"* (Ezek. 18:20). In verses 5-13 of this chapter, Ezekiel discussed the fact that a righteous father may have a

wicked son; then in **verses 14-18**, he discussed the wicked father having a righteous son. In both cases, the blame or credit was given to the one who made the choice. Others may influence our choices but each is accountable to God for his own decisions.

In man's determination to pass the blame, he may say, "I couldn't help it; I had no other choice," but that is not the truth. A person who is tempted to drink has at least three choices. He may submit to the temptation, refuse to drink, or tell others that they should not be drinking and urge them to stop. The person who is tempted to commit fornication has several choices. He can flee the scene. (While I was in Romania, a young man said that if you are alone with a girl in her home and she begins to take off her clothes, that is not a good time to preach to her! It is time to get out!) He can tell the person that he *"cannot sin against God,"* as Joseph did (**Gen. 39:9**), or he can give in to the temptation. Every temptation demands a choice.

Before we choose, we should also consider the possible consequences of that choice. The power to choose does not mean that we have the power to choose the consequences of the choice! A person who jumps from an eight story building has very little choice about the consequences. When Moses looked at the choices and consequences, he chose to suffer with God's people (**Heb. 11:24-26**). When Joseph considered the consequences of adultery, he chose to run. I am sure that Moses' mother would have been proud of her son's choice, and surely Joseph's parents would have been pleased with his choice, but each had to make his own choice. Parents cannot make moral choices for their children, neither can children make the choices for their parents.

The power of choice is a God-given right. No man can take it away from us. We may hurt, or please others by our choices but ultimately the choices as well as the consequences are personal.

Taken from the Auburn Beacon

Whose child are you?

John 8:31-47 *"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in (stay within) My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'" Jesus wants people to live in his words. But the Jews objected to the idea that they needed freedom.*

33 *"They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's descendants (children), and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to*

you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ... 36

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

Verse 39: *"They ... said to Him, 'Abraham is our father.'" Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. ... You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "...we have one Father - God." Jesus said to them, "... You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do."*

You and I are children of the one that we follow: either God or Satan. If you say you follow God, you have to search out and live by the words of God. Are you doing what your Father wants? May you guide your life by God's words this week and be a child of God.

Matt Hodge

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We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." (Matthew 24:36)

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 'He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me (John 14:23-24)

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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Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

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Do Good People Need Salvation?



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