

LENEXA EDIFIER

"and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
(John 8:32)

September 19, 2021

GOSPEL MEETING COMING

Jim Stauffer

**The Lenexa church of Christ invites
you to hear the gospel preached
September 26-29
Lessons presented by:
Jay Dixon Richmond, Kentucky**

ENTRUSTED WITH THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL

Sunday Bible Class - 9:30 AM

Have We Seared Our Conscience

Sunday Worship - 10:20 AM

Preaching GOD'S Message

Sunday Worship - 5:00 PM

Jesus is Enough!

Monday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

Exposing the Bad News

Tuesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

Hope for the Hopeless

Wednesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

There is Room in the Kingdom

What is this gospel we should all desire to hear? Paul says this, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* (Romans 1:16) Before that he declared his readiness to preach that gospel to those at Rome (Rom. 1:14,15)

Why should we be interested in hearing this gospel that claims to be the power of God unto salvation. First, let us remember it is the gospel of Jesus Christ and it carries the message that will lead us to Him and ultimately to the Father, *"Jesus *said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'"* (John 14:6) To be sure, Jesus is the author of salvation to those who are obedient to His commands (Heb. 5:8,9).

Now, a more pressing reason is the forgiveness of sins. To be a part of His kingdom our sins must be forgiven. *"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) To have our sins forgiven we must heed His instruction. Look to the example of the sermon Peter preached on Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. His audience contained those who had called for the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. When they heard his sermon, they responded this way, *....they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?'"* (Acts 2:37) *"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"* (Acts 2:38)

What we all must recognize is our sinful condition. We are dead spiritually because of our sin (Eph. 2:1-3). This is each and every one of us, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* (Romans 3:23). This unrighteous state separates us from God (Isa. 59:1,2). God's part in our salvation then was to send His only begotten Son to die for our sins in order for us to be restored to a righteous condition, thus being reconciled to God. *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

When we obey the commands of God by believing in His Son, confessing Him as the Son of God and being baptized for the remission of sins, we regain spiritual life as described by Paul in Romans 6:4.

The gospel is a story of love. It tells us of the love God has for His creation that leads Him to suffer as Jesus did on our behalf. Jesus not only died a horrific

death on the cross, but He lived the life of a pauper on earth enduring consistent rejection from His own national brethren. We, too, when we accept Him with our obedience learn we must turn away from our worldly ways and devote ourselves to lives of service in His kingdom. We must be faithful unto death as the apostle says, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."* (2 Timothy 4:7-8) It will not be easy, but it will be rewarding.

Will you come to hear the gospel? Do you want to go to heaven? This is the only way.

Do Gospel Meetings Do Any Good? by Wayne Goff

There has been a slow, but sure decline of gospel meetings in recent years. Covid-19 shut down all such efforts in 2020, but the problem began long before that. Churches now are substituting "song worship" for gospel meetings because they are better attended by brethren in the area. I believe the problem is far more serious than a pandemic, or just encouraging worship in song. I believe brethren are drifting away from sound, biblical, soul-convicting preaching. So the question is not "do gospel meetings do any good?" but rather "Does preaching do any good?!"

The Importance Of Preaching

God ordained preaching as the Divine means to save lost souls. *"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'"* (Romans 10:14-15). Paul is quoting Isaiah and making the application to the gospel.

The objection is raised: *"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?'"* (v. 16). Is there something wrong with gospel preaching when people hear but do not believe?! Absolutely not! The problem is with the hearts of the hearers! And Paul's inspired response is: *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (v. 17). There is no other way under

heaven given to us by God to save lost souls! Hear and believe, or reject and be damned.

The Results Of Preaching

"But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God"

(1 Corinthians 1:23-24). Notice that Paul shows us the results to both Jewish and Gentile audiences: (1) Jews consider the "crucified Christ" a stumbling block; (2) Greeks consider the "crucified Christ" foolishness! So did God suggest we try another method, or another message?! Absolutely not!

"But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:24). The crucified Christ is "the power" and "the wisdom of God" to the honest, truth-seeking, humble soul! Indeed, the same sun (gospel) that melts the butter (humble heart) will also harden the clay (rebellious heart)! Is that frustrating to the preacher? It most certainly is, and not a little discouraging. But God's Word always accomplishes His will, not ours. So if brethren are not studying their Bibles, learning God's will, developing a taste for spiritual food, then the problem is with them! Somebody needs to wake up and repent! Dear reader, if this is you, then please do so before it is too late.

Bible Preaching

If you need to be further impressed with the importance and value of "preaching" in the Scheme of Redemption, then consider these many Scriptures on the subject:

John the Baptist & Jesus began their ministry preaching: *"the kingdom of heaven is at hand,"* Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:7, 38.

The Twelve Disciples were commanded to preach the gospel to the whole world, Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16

The nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem would not be destroyed in 70 A.D. until *"this gospel is preached in the whole world,"* Matthew 24:14

Every evangelist and apostle in the book of Acts traveled everywhere to "preach" the things concerning the name of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God, Acts 3:20; 4:2; 8:5, 12, 25, 35, etc. The gospel message is mentioned as being "preached" over one hundred times in the New Testament! It does lots of good!

Soul Prosperity

Beloved, I pray that in all things you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers

3 John 2

As I think about this passage from third John, these words from one of our songs swell within my heart, "When peace like a river attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul."

I pray that all of our lives will be filled with peace, comfort, happiness, good health and prosperity. But the greatest desire, hope and prayer I have for each of us is that it will be well with our soul. I truly believe that when all is well with our soul, then peace, good health and prosperity will be a blessing to us. But if all is not well, then those things will be of little or no value to us. Without a doubt, soul prosperity should be uppermost in our minds as we steadily press on toward that day when we will fold up this earthly tent and step out into eternity to stand before our God in judgment (**Acts 17:30-31**). Soul prosperity begins by hearing God's word, believing that word, repenting of sins, confessing Christ and being baptized for the remission of sins (**Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3; Rom. 10:9-10, Acts 8:37**). But it does not end with being baptized (**Revelation 2:10**).

If it is going to be well with our soul, we must stand fast in the faith we have embraced and hold on to it for dear life. (**Hebrews 10:22-25; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11**). For our soul to prosper, we must put into practice the commands of our Lord in such a way that others will see that Christ lives in us and by our example be led to obey and glorify Him (**Galatians 2:20; Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Timothy 4:12**). If it is going to be well with our soul, we must ever guard our heart and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (**Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 5:8, 6:21, 15:17-20; 2 Peter 3:17-18**).

Someday, more than anything in this world, I want to fly away to a home on God's celestial shore and live forever in that land where joys shall never end. Today I know it all depends on it being well with my soul on the day the sun sets on my earthly life. And so it is with you also. I end this message with these words: "Mid the toil and strife of this busy life, Is it well with your soul, Are you living right, should you die tonight, Is it well with your soul".

Charles Hicks, White House, Tennessee
swabbie5256@gmail.com

By Grace, Through Faith

One of the most quoted verses in scripture is Paul's statement in **Ephesians 2:8,9**, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."* This sentence is the culmination of what Paul has been saying from verse one (go back and read it, please). His point is simply that man has no claim on God that God MUST save him. God provides a plan and a path that leads to salvation purely out of His own grace because of His great Love for men. Let's examine the verses.

The two words of most importance in these verses are 'grace' and 'faith'. According to **Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon** the word 'grace' means, *"kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved"*. Doesn't that just exactly describe our situation before the Almighty? What can we have possibly done to DESERVE Christ going to the Cross on our behalf? What could we ever do? Nothing! That's what! That's what grace is: God providing for us that which we have not deserved, a way to be saved.

'Faith', on the other hand according to Thayer means, *"used especially of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus, i.e. a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah- the divinely appointed author of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God, conjoined with obedience to Christ"*. Mr. Thayer makes the important point, and rightly so, that in the New Testament any faith which does not obey is not a saving faith, (**Luke 6:46** and other scriptures).

Thus we have in one simple verse the two parts of salvation: God's part and Man's part. God provided the perfect sacrifice for sin, Jesus on the Cross. That's Grace! Man responds to this grace by believing in Jesus and obeying his commands in the New Testament. That's Faith! What could be simpler?

Cleveland Reddinger

Rich Toward God? Better Start Now!

Jesus delivered a powerful parable to a man who asked him about justice in financial matters.

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I

will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:15-21)

Lessons:

#1 Getting my spiritual life in order is more important than getting my financial life in order.

#2 Covetousness is dangerous because we do not see it in ourselves; it's in our choices.

#3 Overt, ugly wickedness is not necessary to lose one's soul - just a focus on this world.

#4 Our opportunity to become rich toward God is now. We may not have later.

Do not allow the routine demands of day-to-day keep you from being rich toward God. Success and building in business is not the problem. Not being rich toward God is the problem. The other wealth will fail you! Seek Him. Study His word. Live a life that honors God. Lay up your treasures in heaven!

Let me know if you want to begin studying now.

Don Bunting

In times of sorrow, in times so fair;
In seasons glad, or dark despair;
No matter the hour or trouble shared,
Oh Lord, with me, Thou art present there.
The hours of grief where ills betide,
Through shadows, dark, where dangers hide,
Whatever becomes in a moment's time,
Oh Lord, with comfort, be by my side.
When seasons pass, and times, they change;
When joy springs forth, away ills fade;
Through ever "uncertain" life brings by day,
The Lord, my Strength, will lead the way.
When resting in His arms we find,
A hope supernal; a peace sublime.
We worry not, for we know in mind,
The Lord is the God of all mankind.

Caleb Anderson

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

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-620-0563

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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

Joe Hurd

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

News and Notes:

Those in need of prayers:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson, Don Craig, Tina Brofft, Ken Green, Matt Bassford, Tim Young, Judy Root, Beth Armstrong and Don Simmons

Thanksgiving for the birth of Harper Helen Moody to Cody and Jordan Moody, the new Granddaughter of Bill and Carol Miller.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning - **Hebrews** - Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening - **I & 2 Peter and Jude** - Ron Peck

Sunday Sermon: Preparations Needed for our Gospel Meeting