

# LENEXA EDIFIER

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

October 17, 2021

## SUSTAINING OUR HUMILITY

*Jim Stauffer*

*“Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:7–10)*

Here, the apostle explains the source of his humility. He has indeed accepted Christ as the Lord and that acceptance meant he trusted God.

We can soon learn how much he trusted God by observing the great suffering he endured for the cause of the Lord (**2 Cor. 11:23-29; Col. 1:24**).

The obvious conclusion at this juncture is trusting in the Lord to guide and protect us for His purposes requires great humility.

Our humility should match that of our Lord since we are His disciples. Look at His humility, *“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Phil. 2:5–8)* We then are called upon to imitate God and to *walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.* This represents a considerable commitment on our part just as it did on His.

But then, what do we, who claim to be children of God our Father and brethren of Jesus our Savior (**1 John 3:1; Rom. 8:17**), seek in our relationship with Him?

The answer, of course, is heaven itself when this life is over. This we learn from the apostle Peter will require both growth and perseverance (**2 Peter 1:5-11; 1 Peter 3:18**). We are expected *...to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.* And we are to practice those attributes mentioned in **2 Pet. 5-7** throughout our lives in order to secure our home in heaven.

We cannot accomplish this without the humility that leads us to trust in him as our opening passage indicates the apostle Paul did.

We have selected articles this week that emphasize our dependence upon Christ to call our attention to just how needful we are of His saving grace. We know we are saved by grace through faith, and yet we often fail to understand the conduct that is demanded by faith.

As Paul awaited his death sentence to be carried out, he rejoices in his own faithfulness throughout all these trials we have mentioned as being the basis for His confidence he would receive the reward of heaven.

You see, a part of his faith is his understanding that God does not lie (**Titus 1:1,2; Heb. 6:17-20**). He therefore knows he has met the demand of faith by submitting himself to the will of God as he served in the kingdom.

Brethren, we need to remember just who we are. Paul raises the question for us here, *“Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24)* Then he gives us the answer here, *“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with*

*Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin."*

**(Romans 6:3-7)** This act of obedience is the culmination of the response to Jesus' demand of any who would be His disciples here, *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. 'For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'"*

**(Matthew 16:24-25)**

Life is filled with reminders of Who is in charge. Watch carefully for the signs in your life and you too will sustain your humility and busy yourselves with service in the kingdom.

### ***What does Jesus mean by "Blessed are the poor in spirit?"***

Jesus was preaching to his disciples on the mountain in **Matthew 5**. In verse three he said, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit..."* Jesus is saying that the poor in spirit are fortunate, in a place of well-being. It is to our advantage to be poor in spirit. That does not sound like an advantage! To be poor means to lack, to be without, in need --- *poor!* Nobody wants to be poor. However, Jesus knows that people that consider themselves to be rich, full, without any need *in spirit*, think that are already in a good place. We are all in need spiritually, but only those who feel their weakness, are conscious of their sin, realize their failure and imperfection before God will be motivated to do better, seek to improve -- repent.

If you feel a deep need for God and seek his approval ... if you are humbled by your own sin and selfishness ... if you consider yourself unworthy and unfruitful, then you are motivated to seek God, seek forgiveness, seek to live worthily and bear fruit. You know you need to do and be better. You are blessed when your heart is desperately seeking God!

Jesus told a parable in **Luke 18** that illustrates one who was poor in spirit vs one who was not.

*9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray,*

*one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

Lord, help us feel our spiritual poverty and seek after you.

**Don Bunting**

### **The Second Requirement for a Kingdom**

We are discussing things required for a kingdom as they relate to the promised Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven. We noticed last week the first need: a King, which we see in Jesus the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Today we look at the Second Requirement for a Kingdom: Citizens. After all, a King without someone to rule is just a person on an ego trip. So, just who are these citizens?

Well, how does any kingdom get subjects? Well, they are either *Born* into the Kingdom and are citizens by right of birth. Or, on the other hand they may be *Naturalized* into the kingdom having been born elsewhere. How does this work for the Kingdom of Heaven?

Jesus said in **John 3:3-5**, *"Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus \*said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he? Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* This is how one gets into the kingdom, he is Born Again!

Paul covers the other avenue in **Ephesians 2:19** *"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household"*. He is writing to Gentile Christians who have obeyed the Gospel commands and are now 'naturalized into' the family, the kingdom, of God.

Of course we should realize that these two pictures are of one and the same act! Being born again is being naturalized into the Kingdom of God

and being naturalized is being born again. From the moment we first sin we are in the kingdom of darkness but becoming a Christian changes our citizenship. As Paul says, *“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 1:13f) He also says in **Philippians 3:20**, *“For our citizenship is in heaven”*.

Well we have a King, Jesus, and we have subjects, Christians, those who have been born again.

What else do we need for a Kingdom?

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## JESUS TAUGHT

**It has been said** that many want to call Jesus their Savior, but very few want to call Him their Lord. Jesus spoke to this idea in Matt. 7 as many would say “Lord” but few would obey. They are not respecting His authority. An early manifestation of that authority can be found in Luke 4 as Jesus cast out an unclean spirit (vs. 31-37). What points might we make?

•**Jesus teaches (vs. 31)** – That implies that we must learn and apply that learning. This discipline is inherent in being a disciple, like our Teacher (Matt. 10:25). It is today as it was then. All some people are interested in is food and games. Very few care about teaching. Jesus taught.

•**Jesus’ customs (vs. 31)** – Jesus taught them, “on the Sabbaths”. Earlier in the chapter, it speaks to what Jesus would do each week. He would gather with the spiritually minded people (hopefully) in the synagogues (vs. 16). If your faith is more hit-and-miss, something is wrong. Develop better customs.

•**Belief alone isn’t enough (vs. 34)** – The demon knew who Jesus was. James points this out as well (Jam. 2:19). Those who claim that faith alone is all a man needs for salvation would have the demons saved, for they believe.

•**Why was the demon-possessed man there to begin with?** Option 1: The man had moments of lucidity. Option 2: The devil loves going where the spiritually minded are. They are his favorite food.

**Will we obey?** – The people were amazed at Jesus’ authority, as He taught (Mk. 1:22) and as the demon was cast out. Let us be doers and not hearers only.

**John Hines**

## A Lesson For Life From Golf

**Wayne Goff**

Okay, okay, even if you’re not a golf enthusiast, this lesson will be easy for you to digest. So please stay with me, and read on. One of the basics of golf is the need to improve and get better. This is obvious. But the golfing industry makes billions of dollars, literally, every year selling golf equipment and accessories — none of which will help improve your game directly! I can vouch for that personally.

After every round of golf, every golfer has a keen idea of what part of his golf game needs improvement. It seems to never be the same. One week it is the accuracy of his drive off the tee. Another week it is the approach shot with irons. Another week it is putting on the greens. But here is the catch. Often the golfer will decide to go out and purchase expensive equipment to make his golf game better, when in reality he needs to just go out and practice!

The golfing industry encourages this by coming out with new and better(?) equipment every year. It takes a strong will to avoid buying that new item that shines like the stars! Now don’t get me wrong. There is great advantage to having some of the newer equipment — millions of dollars have been spent on research and development. So if a golfer is playing with 10-year-old clubs, he would be surprised how much easier the game becomes with a much newer, better developed set of clubs. But he still needs to practice, a lot, to improve.

### The Application?

Many of us Christians decide to become better Christians. So we go out and buy a new Bible, or new Bible software, maybe a Bible dictionary and concordance, and sometimes even a good set of commentaries. We hear a sermon that arouses our desire, and we are even more determined to be a better Christian. So we go out and buy a nice “outfit” for Sunday! While none of this is bad, and while I encourage all of us to do exactly that, we still need to read, and practice. Hearing a sermon won’t make us a better Christian until we put it into daily living. Reading God’s Word won’t help us until we have sufficiently meditated upon it to make it our own. So, as Peter wrote, *“giving all diligence, add to your faith...”* (2 Peter 1:5). You can even take a piece of paper with a Scripture to memorize and think about that while you’re playing golf! And remember: whether you’re trying to get better at golf or life, there’s no substitute for practice!



**Dennis F. Kinlaw** (1922—2017)



Satan disguises submission to himself under the ruse of personal autonomy. He never asks us to become his servants. Never once did the serpent say to Eve, "I want to be your master." The shift in commitment is never from Christ to evil; it is always from Christ to self. And instead of his will, self-interest now rules and what I want reigns. And that is the essence of sin.

— *This Day With the Master*, November 14

***We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.***

***Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ.***

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

**Things people believe that are not taught in the Bible!**

**That all men are born with the sin of Adam on their souls. (See Rom. 3:23; Ezekiel 18:20 for a beginning point on this study).**

**Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.**

***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:**

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***Visitors welcome***

***We conduct in home Bible Studies***

***We offer Correspondence Courses***

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

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[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

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

### ***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 and Tim Young.

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

Wednesday Evening - **1&2 Peter and Jude** - Ron Peck

#### **Sunday Sermon:**

*Truth and Righteousness (The inseparable pair)*