

LENEXA EDIFIER

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

October 3, 2021

GOSPEL MEETING IS OVER, BUT.....

Jim Stauffer

We have just completed our Fall Gospel Meeting. Jay Dixon did an excellent job and nearly all of our members attended faithfully. *Each of the lessons can be heard on our website noted on the last page.*

Now, what happens with us from this point forward will be the report card on how good the meeting was for us.

His lessons challenged us to share the gospel with our friends, relatives and any others we have contact with. He encouraged us as we face difficulties in life in general and also in speaking God's word to others. Finally, he reminded us to be realistic in assessing what we can do in the Kingdom of the Lord. We must do those things we are capable of and do not need to fret over things beyond our ability. He was very careful to remind us not to diminish our abilities to avoid responsibility by presenting a lesson entitled, THERE IS ROOM IN THE KINGDOM from the song we sing. In it we are reminded there is room in the Kingdom for the small things each of us can do.

As I was contemplating that message I came across an article by my brother L.A. in the Beacon Electronic Bulletin from Greg Gwin in Columbia, Tennessee. It is about the little things we can do and I have placed it here in this bulletin to hopefully reinforce those things Jay spoke to us about this past Wednesday evening.

Little Things

One of the intriguing stories of the book of Judges is the death of Abimelech. He murdered his rival brothers at Shechem and ruled Israel for three years. He got his just deserts when, while seeking to expand his dominion, he was killed by a woman at the city of Thebes.

The city had just been defeated by Abimelech and his troops; the remaining citizens, men and women, gathered in the city watchtower, seeking refuge from Abimelech and his warriors. The army surrounded the tower and was positioned to burn it and destroy all its fear-stricken residents. A woman spied a millstone nearby, picked it up, dropped it from the tower, and it struck Abimelech on the head and crushed his skull.

Abimelech remained conscious long enough to call on a fellow soldier to finish him off so it would not be said, *"A woman slew him"* (Judg. 9:54). When Abimelech's marauding army saw their general was dead, each man departed for his own home. *"Thus God,"* by a woman who had little prowess as a soldier, *"requited the wickedness of Abimelech"* (Judg. 9:56).

The same God killed a nine foot giant with a single rock from a sling wielded by a small lad whose only professional training was watching sheep. He also used a man with a stammering tongue to lead his people from bondage in Egypt, organize them into a mighty nation, and lead them to their land of promise. This God, Jehovah, warns us through His prophet that we must not *"despise the day of small things"* (Zech. 4:10).

The simplest of deeds that show interest and concern; the least eloquent words that express love and care; the sparsest of talent directed toward a desperate person; a smile and a handshake or a warm hug at the right moment; any of these, all of these, or a thousand other tiny deeds can effect great results when our love or service for God is behind them. No limits can be set on God, His providence,

and His use of men in accomplishing His purposes on earth.

Jehovah, our God and Father, does not demand powerful and moving sermons, flamboyant and ornate displays of service, educated and magnetic personalities, or talented and important people. God needs men and women of faith, of hope, of love, and of prayer; disciples who are moved with passion to serve at every opportunity; Christians who regardless of their talent respect God's will, seek to follow it, and labor to share themselves and His will with others. Large or small, big or little, brethren -- plant and water and leave the results to God (**1 Cor. 3:5-9**).

by L. A. Stauffer

What Does The Lord Require?

Let us take note for a minute what the word 'require' means. A requirement is something that must be done to fulfill a condition. It means having the ability and skills to do a particular thing. Before we can win a prize, we are required to meet the conditions. So when we use the word in the Bible, it usually means that certain conditions must exist before something will happen.

God has many requirements. God teaches that if one were to make an oath, that person would be required to keep it. (**Deuteronomy 23:21**). God said that the murder of a life should require capital punishment (**Genesis 9:5**)

Deuteronomy 18:18-19 speaks of Christ, and whoever does not listen to Christ so as to obey Him, God will require it of him. In other words, God is going to hold everyone accountable for either doing what they should do, or not doing what they should have done. God holds each person accountable for everything He has commanded. When someone does not do what they should have done, the Lord will require it of them.

There are a few verses that describe what the Lord requires of His people. In **Deuteronomy 10:12-13**, we read: *"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord, your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?"*

In **Micah 6:8** we read: *"He has told you O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to*

do justice to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

Both of these statements are presented in the form of a question. The writers are inquiring of the people if they know what God requires of them. Notice what is recorded is what God requires of each person.

First of all, to fear the Lord, and keep His commandments is at the top of the list. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** tells us this is the whole duty of man. To have the reverential fear of God, and do what He commands. This serving of God and keeping of the commandments is to be done with the heart involved. We should not give God lip-service. As Isaiah said: *"these people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Isaiah 29:13).*

Micah teaches us that the Lord's requirements begin with doing justice. This has to do with our relationships with people. Treating them fairly and justly is what God wants from us. God teaches that a short measure is an abomination. God teaches that cheating people is wrong. God teaches that we should treat others the way we would want to be treated. Micah also teaches that we are to love kindness. Kindness shows a lot of humble qualities. Not only should we be doing acts of kindness, we should appreciate those others who do the acts of kindness. Finally, humbling ourselves before God is a great thing. This involves denying ourselves as our Lord taught us that we would be required to deny ourselves. Humility is a necessity to approach God. It means that we have recognized that God is much greater than we are, and we submit to God in everything. Submitting to God means that we do His will above or beyond our own desires and wishes.

Of course, all of this is just the most basic of what our duty to God involves. It requires the whole heart be devoted to doing God's will that God has commanded us to do.

There are those who observe the commandments without learning God's most important commands. The commands to show compassion and to demonstrate love should rank at the top of anyone's priorities. Yet often we see that is not done. Many people will emphasize law-keeping and not consider the emphasis that God requires of us. In **Micah 6:6** we read that: *"I require(desire) compassion, and not sacrifice"* This does not mean that we are exempt from sacrifice, but that showing compassion is more important as far as God is concerned.

This is similar to the statement of Samuel to Saul in **1 Samuel 15:22** *"Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice*

of the Lord? The point Samuel was telling Saul was that obedience from the heart is better than mere outward expressions of piety. Jesus talked during the Sermon on the Mount about those who were seeking the praises of men. They appear to be righteous, but their show was for man and not for the praise of God. We also need to be careful that our actions are done for the glory of God, and not our own upbuilding or egotistical appearance.

This does not mean that law-keeping is not important; indeed it is vital to our soul's salvation. But what God teaches us is that how we treat others is more important for us to consider. Love is one of those qualities that God commands. But if we have no love, we will show no compassion towards others. Jesus taught that love is the foundation of the whole of God's laws. This is how we demonstrate our love to Jesus (and God) by showing love to others. Showing compassion to others is a quality that God requires of us. That is what makes our law-keeping meaningful. Jesus said that if we keep His commandments, we demonstrate our love to Him. This is what God wants.

Our love, to God demonstrated by keeping His commandments, and our compassion by showing love towards others. When we learn to treat others with care, concern, and compassion, we become more like Jesus.

By Carey Scott

Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

All have sinned. Nobody is worthy of heaven. Notice, however, the need for real change to happen in the lives of those who would come to Christ for salvation by grace.

Paul writes to the *"saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi"* (Philippians 1:1). These are saved people. Saints are sanctified, set apart unto God by salvation from sin. They were not worthy of that salvation. They did not deserve it.

However, the following instruction is clear: *"Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which*

is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God" (Philippians 1:27-28).

The saints in Philippi were commanded to walk worthy of the gospel. That is telling them that now that they are saved, they need to walk as saved people walk. They need to act in a way that honors the gospel of salvation. When lifted up by the Lord in salvation by the forgiveness of sins, we should no longer walk in sin! God's people are saved from sin and should no longer participate in it! The change we commit to when we repent must produce a real, practical change.

Notice that the persecution we suffer at the hands of our enemies is no excuse. We must live according to the gospel of our salvation and not be terrified and discouraged by our spiritual enemies. Notice further in this same verse: that becomes a proof of our salvation!

Don Bunting

The Foundational Work of God's People **Berry Kercheville**

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."
(Ephesians 4:11-16)

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

(2 Timothy 3:14–4:2)

Please examine the above texts carefully. These are descriptions and commands given by the apostle Paul describing the foundation for growth and maturity in a local church. Combined with the revealed word of the apostles, prophets and the sacred writings of the Old Testament, evangelists, shepherds and teachers equip saints for the work of service in God's kingdom, bringing them to maturity. This effort is a top priority for a local church so that God's people come to know him **(Hosea 6:6)** and are not eventually *"destroyed for lack of knowledge"* **(Hosea 4:6)**.

Every Christian individually, and the local church collectively, is called to the ongoing pursuit of maturity. For evangelists and shepherds, this is the prime directive. As God's servants, we must streamline the activities of the collective work so that nothing hinders or blurs this goal. The knowledge of God, gleaned from *all* scripture, preached in season and out of season, is at the root of every good work.

Notably, and often missed, is Paul's concluding statement in **Ephesians 4:16**. The push to equip saints to maturity *causes the body to grow* as individual Christians use their equipping to build up the rest of the body in love. This not only makes a healthy body, it also creates a body that is able to fulfill its mission of bringing the world to Christ. The complete knowledge of God, adorned with every good work of the saints, is the only drawing power we have for a lost world. Social activities are a by-product of our shared faith, but social activities are not the means to build us up, bring us to maturity, or draw the world to Christ. Not one text in all of scripture urges God's people to eat and play together in order to create unity or save souls.

These words by Paul, are a call to every Christian, every evangelist, every shepherd, and every church to regularly reaffirm the work of bringing the body *"to the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood."*
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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

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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 and Don Simmons

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

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

Sunday Sermon: *The Conduct of the Church*