

LENEXA EDIFIER

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

November 14, 2021

I WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS, BUT...

Jim Stauffer

Jesus said, *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* (Matthew 6:19–21) He also said, *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* (Matthew 6:33)

The greatest threat to the church in America today is the material success of its members. There is nothing wrong with being wealthy as we will show later, but there is the desire of the flesh that can become enraged with wanting more once we have experienced some levels of wealth.

How wealthy are we and how did it come about? Wealth is a comparative thing as we measure it. When we compare ourselves to others in different circumstances we can see even those with modest assets are wealthy by comparison. Of course when we are compared to others who have had greater success, we do not appear to be wealthy at all. Most of us in this nation fall into this category. We are not among the most wealthy with maybe a few exceptions.

There are two overriding principles concerning material success that Paul speaks to Timothy about as he leaves him in Ephesus to, *.....instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines.....* (1 Tim. 1:3).

Switching our attention to **Chapter 6**, we see at least one of those strange doctrines was that godliness would bring gain. Specifically Paul teaches that when a slave who is a Christian finds himself under a master who is a brother in Christ, he is not to attempt to use that relationship to enhance himself in some material way (see **verses 1,2**) The instruction in **verses 3-5** is that all such teaching is done by those who are so filled with pride they are ignorant of

sound teaching. This subject is also covered in **Ephesians 6:5-9** where he advises both slave and master to conduct themselves toward one another understanding they serve a greater Master who is in heaven.

Chapter 6 then proceeds to teach us the principle that the love of money is the root of all evil. We can see that in the teaching of those in **verses 3-5** who would try to use godliness as a means of material gain.

At the end of the chapter he gives instruction to those who are rich, teaching them to be rich in good works by sharing their wealth generously to attain for themselves the real treasure, eternal life. This is the explanation of the earlier phrase that *....godliness is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.* (**Verse 6**)

Now, let us make application of these principles. Godliness is not intended to bring material gain. We are not supposed to be concerned primarily with material gain. We are to be content with our daily needs. Remember **verse 8**, *"If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content."* Now, compare this with Jesus' instruction when He taught His disciples to pray, *Give us this day our daily bread.* (**Mat. 6:11**) After all, the failure of the rich young ruler was not having wealth, but that it was more important than following the Lord.

Will you follow Jesus?

TWO MEN 'KNOW' THEY ARE SAVED

Bill Hall

The first man bases his assurance of salvation on his experience. He has been assured that when he completely turned his life over to Jesus Christ, accepted Him as his personal Savior, and received Him into his heart, that an inner peace and feeling of

well-being would sweep his soul; that he would be able to recognize that feeling when it came; and that his peace and feeling of well-being would be unmistakable evidence of his salvation. In keeping with that teaching he did "receive Jesus into his heart." He did feel this wonderful peace sweep his soul. And he "knows" that he is saved.

The second man's assurance is based on the promise of God. He had read in God's word, "*He who believes and is baptized will be saved*" (**Mark 16:16**). From other passages he had learned the necessity of repentance and confession of faith (**Acts 2:38; 8:37; Romans 10:10**). Trusting God's promise of salvation, he obeyed from the heart those commands (Romans 6:17), and has never doubted since that God forgave him of all his past sins, according to His promise.

The first man's assurance of salvation is based upon an unsure foundation. The Bible teaches neither the action he has taken nor the criterion he has accepted. We do not question his feelings; but we do question that such feelings are proof of salvation, for they are the product of his teaching. The cultist who has been taught certain gross practices in religion and has become the victim of his perverted leader will experience similar feelings. If the feelings of the latter are not sufficient proof of salvation, neither are the feelings of the former.

"But an angel appeared and spoke to me," someone may be thinking; or, "I spoke in tongues." The Bible teaches, however, that even unusual, inexplicable occurrences in one's life cannot set aside the teaching of God's revealed word. Many who will be in Hell will have said, *Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?* (**Matthew 7:22**). But all their experiences, even "miracles", will not substitute for their doing the Father's will as it is recorded in the scriptures (**Matthew 7:21; see Galatians 1:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Colossians 2:18,19**).

The second man has based his assurance on a solid foundation. God's promises are sure. He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). What He has promised He is able to perform (Romans 4:21). The person who obeys His commandments through trust in His promises can know, because God is faithful. "*Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments*" (**1 John 2:3**).

We ask our readers, "Who really demonstrates strong faith in God: the one who simply trusts God's promises and finds assurance in His word or the one who must experience some overwhelming feeling that

sweeps his soul?" God's judgment will be based, not on what we "know" but on His word. Be not deceived.

This was posted by Ben Carson a couple years ago. Think about it.

A preacher was driving home one night with his wife and two daughters in the car.

It was raining and dark, and because of the intensity of the rain, he could hardly see past his headlights.

On the way, he had to drive over a huge bridge. There were signs posted all along the bridge that said "DO NOT PICK UP HITCH-HIKERS."

There was an institute for the criminally insane near the base of the bridge and sometimes people would escape from it and try to hitch a ride.

On this particular night, as he turned his car on to the bridge, he had to drive exceptionally slow because he could hardly see the road.

Somewhere near the top of the bridge, a man suddenly appeared in the headlights. He was soaked, standing in the middle of the road with his shirt off, frantically waving it over his head and screaming.

This preacher's wife said, "Oh please don't stop! Try to drive around him!" But the man was unavoidable and there was nowhere for the car to go to miss him. So he had to stop the car and as soon as he did, the man slapped his hand down on the hood of the car and was screaming at the top of his lungs.

The preacher looked over at his wife and said to lock the door after him and not to unlock it until he returned. His family was now crying and pleading with him not to get out of the car. He opened the door and stepped outside. He was immediately soaked from the rain. As he approached the front of the car to grab the man, all of a sudden he could make out what the man was screaming, "THE BRIDGE IS OUT! THE BRIDGE IS OUT! A BUS LOAD OF KIDS JUST WENT OVER!"

As these words registered in the preacher's mind, he looked back in the car at his wife and daughters. He wrapped his arm around the man and wept in gratitude.

The preacher stood there with the man for the next half-hour in the middle of the road, waving his jacket above his head, screaming. "THE BRIDGE IS OUT! THE BRIDGE IS OUT!"

For a lost and a dying world: "THE BRIDGE IS OUT!" For a people heading to a Christless Eternity: "THE BRIDGE IS OUT!" Where are the men and the women who will stand in the middle of the road and forbid people to perish ?

HELL HAS OPENED ITS MOUTH WIDE AND MANY ARE SPEEDING INTO IT.

Where are those who will stand in the gap, on the streets, the highways and the byways to forbid multitudes with the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST from going to such a horrible place?

**SPREAD THE GOSPEL.
THE BRIDGE IS OUT!**

I Don't Have the Time!

When I was attending college my Botany professor, Dr. Thomas Gaither, also was in charge of the college's Electron Microscope. While talking with Dr. Gaither one day I casually remarked that I would really like to come work with the E. M. and learn how to use it. He said, "Well, I'd be glad to have you show up and teach you." "Can't, I don't have the time!" And in typically direct Dr. Gaither fashion he responded, "I find that people will always make the time for what they consider important enough." No. I never went to work with the E. M. I never considered it important enough to MAKE the TIME.

So many people excuse themselves from laudable accomplishments because they never are willing to make the time for what those accomplishments will cost. They consider other things of higher priority, more important, and so that's where their time will go. As a result they don't increase their earning potential because they don't learn the new skills they need to perform at a higher level. They go from failed relationship to failed relationship because they fail to work on the skills needed to make relationships actually function in the real world. Or, most tragically, they reach the end of life only to look back and realize they missed the whole point of living. The truly important things of life were left undone because they were never given the time they actually deserved.

"I don't have the time!" we say, as though God gave everyone else 168 hours each week but we only got 144. The question has always been "How are we using the time entrusted to us?" Paul told us in **Ephesians 5:15f**, *"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."* We are to fill every minute with something worthwhile whether it be intense labor, study or rest.

Your relationship with God deserves to be given TIME. It is the most important relationship you have, and on Judgment Day it will be the only one that matters! Don't say you don't have time for God or He will not, in the end, have time for you!

Cleveland Reddinger

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." — **2 Cor. 4: 16, ESV**

Funny thing about life. When we're finally smart enough to live it well, it's almost over. Every day we pitch our tents on earth is one day's march closer to eternity. Our body starts to creak. Our hair changes color or location. We notice lines on our faces that weren't there yesterday.

But though it's true we're losing ground on the outside, the phenomenal thing about being a follower of Jesus is that we are getting better on the inside! We are all made with the deep sense that we are more than just our physical bodies. There's an inner part of us that defines our eternal person. As we walk with Christ, daily learning, and growing more like Him, that inner person is being changed — *"renewed day by day."* There's great joy in that!

2 Cor. 4:10 says we are being given over to death for Jesus' sake, *"so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies."* How is Jesus' life seen in us? When our characters are transformed to be more like His character; when we become more loving, humble, selfless, giving, obedient.

Phil. 3:10 describes this process as *"becoming like him in his death."* What Jesus modeled in going to the cross for you and me is the essence of what God wants to renew in us. For the most part, these things are unseen. The chapter closes with these words, *"the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."*

If we're walking and growing with God, our best years are up ahead. God's process of transformation is faithfully renewing the inside us — the eternal us — day by day.

Ken Green

No Condemnation

It seems very important not to be condemned in today's world. We hear about not condemning others and accepting others as they are. God, as the ruler of this world, has a standard and we must accept him and his standard as they are. There is a way for us to make sure we are not condemned by God though. He says: *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."*

Romans 8:1 That sounds great! That's where I want to be, so how do I get *"in Christ Jesus"*?

What does it mean to be *"in Christ"*? **2 Cor. 5:15, 17-18** *"and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away..."* Not living for yourself, but living for Him is what being a Christian is all about.

How do you get into Christ? **Romans 10:1-21** describes how a person must hear the Gospel, believe, and confess Jesus as the Christ who rose from the dead. We also must stop sinning (**Romans 6:11**), and none of this would be possible if God had not offered Christ's sacrifice by his grace to start with. But regarding when God puts us into Christ: **Galatians 3:26-27** *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* See also **Romans 6:1-23**

We can have confidence that we will be uncondemned and go to Heaven if we remain faithful in Christ! **Romans 6:5** *"For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death (baptism), certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection."* May God bless you as you seek his will for your life diligently.

Matt Hodge

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 taught in the Bible that people do not believe, and foster false teaching as a result.

That the term pastor means elder and one must meet the requirements. Read Eph. 4:11 and Titus 1:5-9

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

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Elders:

Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Joe Hurd

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

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, Tim Young, Gerry Sandusky, Cleveland Reddinger, Andy Robertson and Addy Armstrong.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning - **Revelation** - Bill Miller

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

Sunday Sermon: *Accepting God at His Word*