

LENEXA EDIFIER

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

November 7, 2021

REVERENCE FOR HIS WORD

Jim Stauffer

During the reign of King Jehoiakim, Jeremiah was sent as a prophet to the house of the Rechabites to offer them wine to drink in the house of the Lord. Their father Rechab had commanded them not to drink wine forever and had taught them to live in a very temporary existence to help them remain humble before the Lord.

Jeremiah uses this as an example of reverence for the leader of the family and then compares the disobedience of Judah to the word of the Lord in hopes of bringing their hearts to understand the reason for their impending judgment, captivity in Babylon (**Jeremiah 35**).

There is a lesson to be learned from this principle. Often we place more confidence in our own understanding or that handed down to us from ancestors than we do to the advice of God Almighty.

Jesus said, *"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."* (**Matthew 7:24**) And in comparison, He followed it with this statement, *"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand."* (**Matthew 7:26**)

First, let us recognize a failure to hear the word of the Lord makes us a fool. It makes us a fool because every word He has spoken comes to us from the One Who has, *...all authority in heaven and on earth.* (**Mat. 28:18**). Therefore, *"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (**Acts 2:21**) Let it be said we cannot call on the name of the Lord while revering the words of men at the same time.

God has loved His creation so much he sent Jesus to die for our sins (**Eph. 2:4,5; John 3:16**), and then has pleaded with us to repent and turn to Him before we stand condemned (**2 Pet. 3:9**). But He

his promise to save us and His promise to judge and condemn sinners who reject Him have equal value as truth (**2 Pet. 3:10**).

We cannot escape the ultimate fulfillment of God's word. *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;"* (**Hebrews 2:3**). *"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:"* (**Hebrews 12:25**)

Jesus reigns as our King (**Deut. 10:17; Rev. 17:14**). That means we are His servants who are subject to His authority (**Luke 17:10**). This is a servitude we have chosen out of wisdom as we see the value of being in His kingdom (**Rom. 6:16-18,23**).

The hope we have of the ultimate inheritance is in the grace of God, personified in Jesus Christ (**Rom. 5:1,2**). And if we love Him for what He has done for our redemption, we will obey His word (**John 14:15**).

Christians Who Cuss

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You would think that the phrase "Christians who cuss" would be an impossible reality, yet it happens quite often nowadays.

Things Said

One of the most basic truths to godliness is pure communication. The Bible says, *"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers"* (**Ephesians 4:29**). The term corrupt (PHTHEIRO) means to "ruin or deprave" (Strong's Concordance) and "signifies to destroy by means of

corrupting, and so bringing into a worse state" (Vine's Dictionary). It carries the idea of causing decay and defilement of another's morals. And yet this is exactly what happens whenever we use profanity, course jesting, slander, or take the Lord's name in vain. We defile others and have a negative influence on them.

Jesus warns, *"But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment"* (Matthew 12:36, NAS). Can you think of a better reason NOT to say "4-letter words" or use profanity? How differently will we speak if we realize we must give account for it on the Day of Judgment? Will this change how we respond to adversity or motivate us to use a different tone with others when we are upset? Seriously, how carefully should we select our words if we must answer for them on the Day of Judgment?

Things Shared

Sometimes it is not the words that come from our physical tongue that do the most harm. It is often the ones we put on paper or express electronically that create the most havoc and condemn us the most. Nevertheless, some Christians share things on Facebook and other media platforms that are laced with profanity. Whether they realize it or not, they post things to defend their political view or to express contempt for some injustice that are often mixed with cussing, hatred, or taking the Lord's name in vain. If you are doing that, I have one question for You:

What Are You Thinking?

Even if you could persuade people to your point-of-view politically (which will never happen in an argument on social media, by the way), why are you using curse words to make your case? Children of God are supposed to *"put off filthy language out of your mouth"* (Colossians 3:8). And yet, when you share things online that include filthy language and say things in your post that reveal anger and profanity, you might as well forget about influencing anyone to the Lord. They will be turned off by you and the name of God will be *"blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you"* (Romans 2:24).

Instead, the true disciple of Christ will express love and godliness in a world of darkness and sin (cf. Matthew 5:13-16). He is very mindful of his presence online and types his words carefully. *"The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil"* (Proverbs 15:28). So please brethren, pay attention to the things you say (and share) on social media and avoid anything that suggests you approve of evil. *"Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these*

things ought not to be so" (James 3:10). In other words, **Think** before you post! The warning of eternal accountability for our words is just as relevant online as it is in person.

Conclusion

We reveal our heart with the things we say, type and text. Jesus said, *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies"* (Matthew 15:19). Filthy words reveal a carnal heart. So, if we find ourselves cussing when we get angry or we express things online that are impure, we should recognize our need for further spiritual development and ask God for help in overcoming this sin (cf. James 1:5-7). We need a heart transplant so that our words will come out pure.

Taken from Meditate on These Things

You Shall Be My Witnesses

"The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:1-3)

Upon reading these opening words of Acts, the natural question to ask is What is the "former account" Luke refers to? We generally understand that this refers to the Gospel of Luke; we also understand that Luke was the writer of both books. We also understand that the Gospel of Luke tells us about Jesus; Acts tells us about His people, the church. Volumes have been written about such matters; you could easily become a "specialist" in technical matters relating to both books.

Acts is an interesting book. It is filled with action, persecution, preaching, deceit, jailbreaks, shipwrecks, and pathos. Judaism sometimes and Christianity often, take center stage. Acts provokes lots of discussion about the church, the apostles, and the Holy Spirit. It has been used as a guide for fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ. Luke introduces us to interesting people - Saul of Tarsus, Peter, Philip and a myriad of antagonists. How can New Testament Christians not be drawn to the *"Hub of the Bible?"* (Book by James D. Bales). The spokes on the wagon wheel just out in all directions, taking us to very real people - people who knew and followed Jesus Christ, the very one of whom Luke wrote. Acts, like the

Gospel of Luke, is addressed to the "most excellent" Theophilus (**Luke 1:3**). Was he a highly placed Roman official? Was he the prototype of all who had an interest in hearing about Jesus? His name means "friend" or "lover of God." Whoever he was, Luke dedicates his book to him; such dedications were common in the first century. It is good that Luke tells the story of Jesus' followers. These followers coalesced around their risen Savior, anticipating the advent of the kingdom. The decision to follow Jesus would bring salvation; it would also bring persecution, a theme running through Acts. In a very real way, the book of Acts answers the question: Will the followers of the risen Christ continue in their faith and service to Him? There is evidence of success in their efforts. The unfolding of their story is what Luke writes about.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (**Acts 1:8**) Specifically, the Apostles of Christ were His witnesses; there were eyewitnesses of Jesus' resurrection. We see the risen Christ by the eye of faith. Still, though, we carry forth that same message as citizens in His kingdom. We carry forth that message, sometimes in the midst of persecution. We carry forth that message, buoyed by the early faith and success of our spiritual ancestors. If this is not true for you, then get busy reading Luke's letter to Theophilus.

Randy Harshbarger.

So, What Have We Learned About the Kingdom?

In our previous five articles about the Kingdom of Heaven we established its importance in the New Testament and the four requirements necessary to have a Kingdom: A King, Subjects, A Territory and A Law. We also established that each of these is described and defined in the New Testament.

The King is Jesus, **1 Timothy 6:15**.

The Subjects are Christians, **Colossians 1:13** and **Philippians 3:20f**.

The Territory is the Hearts of men who are subjects in the kingdom, **Luke 17:21** (see KJV).

And the Law is the Gospel, the *"perfect Law of Liberty"*, **James 1:25**.

Now, for a simple question. This question is so simple that most people will call it foolish, but it really isn't, as you will see. The question is: When did each

of these things come into existence?

Well, Jesus is eternal, **Micah 5:2** and **John 1:1-3**. But he was born under the Law (**Gal. 4:4**) Crucified by Pontus Pilate (**Matt. 27**), and declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, **Romans 1:4**. He existed in the first century. Christians were first made on the day of Pentecost in which three thousand were obedient to the commands of Peter in **Acts 2:37-41**. They existed in the first century.

Every human has a heart, or soul, to be ruled over so they existed in the first century.

And the Gospel was preached in all nations beginning at Jerusalem, **Acts 1:7f** and **Colossians 1:23**. That happened in the first century as well.

I **told** you the question was simple, didn't I? That's why it's so overlooked! The implication of the obvious answers to these points is also simple and yet incredibly profound. If each of the needed requirements of the Kingdom of God (Heaven) were in existence in the first century, and they obviously were; then didn't the Kingdom of God itself exist in the first century? It obviously had to be so! If it were not so what is yet required? Nothing!

The Kingdom of God is among us now and if you've obeyed the Gospel then, you're part of it!

Cleveland Reddinger

WHY I DON'T GO TO FOOTBALL GAMES!

Some time ago, a sister in Christ gave me a little list that I thought would be worth sharing with you. It's about football, or at least it claims to be. But, it's really about worship--and why some folks don't take part in it. It is about excuses--really weak excuses. To make these excuses about football games sounds absurd. But, when people make these same excuses about worship, they think these are really good reasons for staying away from God!

See what you think. Not!

Here are ten reasons why I don't go to football games:

1. The coach never came to visit me.
2. The seats were not very comfortable.
3. Every time I went, they asked me for money.
4. The referees made a decision I didn't agree with.
5. The people sitting next to me were not very friendly.
6. My parents forced me to go to games when I was young.
7. There were too many hypocrites who attended the ball game.

8. Some games went into overtime, so I was late getting back home.
9. I read a book on football, so I know more than the coaches, anyway.
10. I don't take my kids--so they can make up their own minds about sports.

-Have you heard excuses like these when people talk about why they don't attend worship? They sound pretty lame, don't they? It sounds like it is all about me and my comfort and what I want. These excuses forget about God! Did you also notice that each one is a little longer than the one before? And, after these are exhausted, folks will offer more excuses that are longer still!

It is very different than David's attitude in **Psalms 122:1** and **Psalms 128:1**.

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'"

"Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways."

What David writes is what real life and blessing is all about. And it is not a game.

Author Unknown

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

That you and I today are to keep the 10 Commandments.

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

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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 and Andy Robertson

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

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

Sunday Sermon: *Preaching the Whole Counsel of God*