

LENEXA EDIFIER

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

October 31, 2021

PEACE, LOVE, ADMONITION AND OBEDIENCE

Jim Stauffer

"Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." (Col. 3:14-17)

If we but take a step back and look at ourselves and who we are and what we hope to achieve, we see the foundational concepts of discipleship and how they then are carried out in our lives.

Here the apostle tells us to put on the perfect bond of love. Scripture teaches us how to love by observing the conduct of God Himself. He sent Jesus to die for our sins that we might have our relationship with Him restored and this clearly demonstrates His love for us (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-11).

The resulting condition of that love and our acceptance of His offer is a restored relationship with God known as peace. The sin separating us from Him has been removed by the blood of Christ and we are now, again, at peace with God, having been called in one body, the body of Christ (Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22,23). It is this peace then, that Paul says is to be the ruler of our hearts, that is the arbiter or decision maker.

The resulting action dictated by this arbiter is to let the word of Christ dwell in us by leading us to teach and admonish one another. Now in this text Paul says that teaching and admonition is to take place by singing spiritual songs to one another with thankfulness in our hearts to God. After all, without God's action of love, there would be no peace in our hearts. What is particularly interesting to me is the method He chooses when singing to one another is

the way we are to communicate the messages of teaching and admonition. Now singing is not the only way we are to teach one another and we know that. But singing is an additional way we do. And it is born out of the love God showed for us in **1 John 4:9-11** that John says then causes us to love one another because He loved us all. I cannot speak for everyone and I am sure some love the teaching and admonition that comes from singing more than others, but it amazes me daily how much God knows about us, His creation by knowing the effect singing a message can have. The Psalms are the outstanding work of the Holy Spirit in demonstration of this type of communication and how it is effective with mankind.

Finally, in this text, we are instructed to allow, that is submit to the authority of Christ as we conduct ourselves here in the flesh. This is extremely important. We must grasp the concept of discipleship that the Master, Christ, is the example and therefore leads us both by His deeds but by His words of instruction. Paul says to the Philippians, *"Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"* (Phil. 1:27) This can only be done by teaching and doing what Jesus has authorized.

Brethren, we live in peace with Him because He redeemed us from our sin. That peaceful relationship is sustained when we obey His authoritative word.

A GOOD MAN

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way" (Psalm 37:23).

"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die" (Romans 5:7).

The U.S. Marines advertise that they are looking for a few good men. The nation needs good men. The church needs good men. The family needs good men.

In our districts and towns it is not so very difficult to know who the best ball players are, or the best speakers, or the best dressers. Many can quickly name the best card players or pool players or dancers. But what kind of standard shall we find to measure the best men?

In our modern culture I would be judged as impossibly out of touch, but I am confident that the Bible is the only yardstick that will serve in this quest. After all this is our only source for knowing God's view. The Bible tells us that: "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." This implies things that our standard must not be: "what does he know?" or "what is he worth?" or, "who were his father and grandfather?" or "what does he do?" or "is he clever?" or "is he popular?" Not even "is he a good ole boy?"

The standard must be: "what is he?"

Character makes the difference. Reputation is like a shadow, sometimes it precedes us; sometimes it follows us. Sometimes it is larger than we really are; sometimes it is smaller. Character is not something aside and apart from us. Like the kingdom of God, it lies within us. Character grows silently and imperceptibly in us. Each day we grow stronger or weaker in our inner selves.

Then, usually suddenly and surprisingly, moments come and situations arise which show precisely what we are. A crisis does not make a hero or a coward—it simply reveals him.

My mother used to say, "Pretty is as pretty does." I didn't think so when I was a boy, but I've learned that this is a true and wise maxim. It's also true that handsome is as handsome does. What a man is shows through what he does. A circumstance of hard rebuff or bitter disappointment will reveal the man.

It is not just the times of emergency that reveal the man. It is also the trifles that are indicative of the inner self. Does he seem to be honest every time? Is he truthful in the details? Is he dependable in the day-to-day living and relationships? Is his word his bond? Pope declared:

"Honor and fame from no condition rise,
Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

There are points at which any one of us as human beings fail. The flexibility of weakness may sometimes be safer than the brittleness of perfection.

Recall that day when God sent Samuel to pick a king from among the sons of Jesse. Elias, the eldest, came with kingly stature and noble bearing. Samuel said, "This is he." But the Lord said, "This is not he." And so also of each of the seven sons. At last the little lad, David, who was tending the sheep, was brought in. The Lord said, "This is he." And then God announced this truth:*"The Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."*

Man looks on the clothes, but the Lord looks on the character. Man is concerned with the skin, but the Lord with the soul. Man measures the height, the Lord the heart. Even the wise and faithful Samuel had to learn that real kingliness is of the soul. David was not a perfect man as we are all aware. But his heart was right and when he got off track his heart led him back.

The Lord is looking for a few good men. Or a bunch if He could find them; but they have always been in short supply. He's looking for men after His own heart.

Ken Green

TWO MEN CAN'T AGREE ON RELIGION

by Bill Hall

Two men are religious, and both seem to be sincere, but they never seem to agree on religious questions. A brief look at their applications of the Bible help to explain their problem.

The first man views the Bible as the complete and final answer to all religious questions pertaining to salvation. For him a clear statement from the Bible ends all controversy. His simple approach is well stated by a bumper sticker we have seen: "God said it; I believe it; that settles it." In fact, he would agree that God's word "settles it" whether he believes it or not.

The second man relies on several sources for his religious beliefs. He believes the Bible and many of his convictions are based on what the Bible says. But he also is convinced that he has been "led" into certain beliefs by the Lord. Some of those beliefs he could not defend by the Bible, and in fact some of them seem to contradict the Bible, but he is sure that they are true, for the Lord would not have so "led" him had they not been true. One man frankly said to this writer, "I read the Bible, but I mostly just depend on the Spirit to lead me in what I believe." He has also

had his beliefs verified by knowledgeable preachers, who might not be right in everything, but would hardly be wrong on any serious question of truth.

The first man reads the Bible seeking for answers from God. **The second man** reads the Bible for the same reason, but his perception is affectedly what he has been “led to believe.” He has difficulty being objective, and, in fact, he might hold to what he has been “led to believe” ahead of plain teaching of scripture. He frankly finds his likeness in the man of **Colossians 2:18,19** who takes *his stand on visions he has seen* and is *not holding fast to the head* (NASV). His religious practices may be different from the man described in Colossians, but his approach to authority in religion is the same.

We do not hesitate to side with the first man in his approach. God indeed “leads” us into truth, but He does so through His inspired word. Consider the following passages: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* (Psalm 119:105). *Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth* (John 17:17). *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work* (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

The two men of our article will come to remarkable agreement when they both approach the scriptures as the final word from God, but not until then. Religious differences are not the product of scripture. But of varying attitudes toward what constitutes final authority in religion. True unity is desirable, and it can be enjoyed by those who humbly submit to God’s word and will.

The Final Requirement

In our previous articles we established the crucial nature of the Kingdom of God. After all: Jesus said, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”* (Mark 1:15); Phillip preached the Kingdom to the Samaritans, *“But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.”* (Acts 8:12); and Paul proclaimed the Kingdom even while in chains, *“And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.”* (Acts 28:30f).

We have established the need of a **King** for a kingdom to exist and have seen that this king is Jesus, **1 Timothy 6:13-16**. We have established the need for **Subjects** for a kingdom to exist and have seen that these subjects are Christians, **Colossians 1:13**. We have established the need for a **Territory** in which a kingdom is to exist. This territory is the human heart, **Luke 17:21 and Mark 12:29f**. I then asked last week: What lack I yet?

The answer is that we need a system of behavior by which to live and operate, a **Law**. In the Kingdom of God (Heaven) that is given to us by the Gospel of Jesus Christ contained in the entire New Testament. It is a standard of behavior that is sufficiently different from that of the world that it transforms its adherents completely, **Romans 12:1,2**. This transformation will elicit ridicule, **1 Peter 4:4**. Ridicule will lead to hatred, **John 15:18-25**. Hatred will lead to persecution, **2 Timothy 3:12**. It is not the broad and easy way of the world but the narrow and difficult path of following Jesus, **Matthew 7:13f** and few people choose it, but it is a worthwhile choice. We become better men and women because of the road we chose. It is, in spite of everything, a joyful path. We have a hope the world can never truly understand, **1 Thessalonians 4:13ff**.

Next week we will look at the point of all that we have said so far.

Cleveland Reddinger

Drinking from My Saucer by John Paul Moore

I’ve never made a fortune and it’s probably too late now.
But I don’t worry about that much, I’m happy anyhow.

And as I go along life’s way, I’m reaping better than I sowed.
I’m drinking from my saucer, ‘Cause my cup has overflowed.

I don’t have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going’s tough.
But I’ve got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He’s bestowed.
I’m drinking from my saucer, ‘Cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.

But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.

So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.

I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.

Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

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.

The kingdom of God came during the generation who lived at the time of Christ (Mark 9:1).

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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Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

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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, J R Bronger, Gerry Sandusky and Cleveland Reddinger.

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

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

Sunday Sermon: *Circumcision and The Covenant*