

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

April 2, 2023

## GOSPEL MEETING APRIL 9-12 with Kenny Chumbley

### Studies Vital to the Disciple of Christ

Sunday 9:30 AM

*The Garden of Eden*

Sunday 10:20 AM

*The Death of Christ*

Sunday 5 PM

*The Resurrection of Christ*

Monday 7 PM

*The Problem of Suffering*

Tuesday 7 PM

*The Glory of God*

Wednesday 7 PM

*What Happens When We Die?*

### The Pros and Cons of Evangelism

*Jim Stauffer*

Just what is good and what is bad about evangelism? Far too many have come to associate evangelism with hucksters who ply folks for money or favor in some way that will benefit the Evangelist.

Evangelism as authorized in the Scriptures is as far removed from that as can be. The Evangelist described in the New Testament is an office that is for the purpose of edifying the saints. *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;* (Ephesians 4:11–12)

Timothy was a young evangelist taught by the apostle Paul. To better understand the role of this Evangelist, first

consider Who he is teaching folks about and what that One stood for. When Jesus was challenged about being a king by Pilate, He said, *Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”* (John 18:36–37) It is only fair we examine what Jesus said and did while on the earth and what He commissioned His disciples to communicate to the world after He had returned to heaven.

He told them to, *And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.* (Mark 16:15–16)

When Paul an apostle is teaching Timothy to carry that message on he says to him first, *I solemnly 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, exhort, with great patience and instruction.* (2 Timothy 4:1–2) He followed that with the admonition to fulfill his responsibilities as an evangelist. That is one who communicates the message of salvation to the world, *But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.* (2 Timothy 4:5) Kenny Chumbley will be doing that at Lenexa on the dates indicated above. Please come and hear what he will teach from the word of God, the truth.

## Don't Believe Everything You Read *Chuck Bartlett*

It wasn't too long ago that we studied in our Acts class, the life of Saul of Tarsus (also known as Paul the apostle). In that study we learned how Saul left Judaism and began preaching the gospel (**Acts 9**). During Paul's missionary journeys, when people were being converted to Christ, local churches were established (**Acts 15:36**).

Now, if you were part of Judaism when Saul was, and you found out he left and started following the very things he once spoke against (**Acts 9:1-2**), what would you say about him? Unless you were willing to leave Judaism yourself, you wouldn't have much good to say. As a matter of fact, you would do what you could to discredit him. After all, you are not going to tell people, "Saul found the truth and left us."

What if the internet existed back then? Imagine the websites you could find that promoted Judaism and what they had to say against Saul. You would hear what a false teacher he was. There would be all kinds of false accusations floating around the internet just like were spoken back in his day; saying Paul taught things not lawful for us (**Acts 16:21**), that he attempted to profane the temple (**Acts 24:6**), and that he spoke against the law and Caesar (**Acts 25:8**).

All the things that were against Paul were just not true, but there are people that will be quick to believe lies; especially if it has something to do with what one believes. If all these things were circulated over the internet, all Paul could have said was – **don't believe everything you read!**

The reason for saying all that about Saul/Paul, has to do with what people write on the internet today. When you google, "the beginning of the church of Christ", you will read over and over that Alexander Campbell started the church. The fact that this man left the Baptist church and his father, Thomas Campbell, left the Presbyterian church, you can only imagine what those religious groups would say about these men.

These men wanted to cast off the shackles of denominationalism, but it's doubtful they had the support from those whom they separated from. Were

those sects going to say, "Those Campbells left because they found the truth."? Of course not. Just like the apostle Paul did not start his own church, because he left Judaism, it would be wrong to assume the Campbell's started their own church.

I am not suggesting people cannot be guilty of leaving a denomination, to go start another denomination; this happened in the past and continues to happen today. However, know that people, just like Paul, can leave a false group and begin following the Lord. In so doing, when they teach the truth, people can be converted to Christ (**Acts 9:19-20; 18:1-8**). When that happens, local churches can be established. Whose church, is it? It better be the church Christ built with His own blood, of whom only the Lord adds people to (**Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Acts 2:47**). This can only be done if **ONLY** the doctrine of Christ is taught and Christ is the head (**II Jn. 9; Col. 1:18**).

People might find in history where individuals were called Campbellites, and such would be wrong. Mind you, we can open up our Bibles and see where converts called themselves after Paul (**I Cor. 1:12**). Whether someone labelled others Paulites, or called themselves Paulites, Paul pointed out that would be wrong (**I Cor. 1:13**). When someone accuses me of being a Campbellite, I just pass it off realizing they have no idea what they are talking about. Mind you, it would be hard to pass it off if the church I attend is called the Campbellite church.

In a world with so much false information floating around on the internet, we need to encourage people to open their Bibles to verify what they read. There is confusion, but with help, that can be cleared up. Let's compare what we have discussed, with certain men that actually started denominations.

Since we mentioned earlier in this article about the Presbyterian and Baptist church, let's look at their founders. In the year 1536 AD, John Calvin began the Presbyterian church. Then in 1607, John Smythe started the Baptist church. Now, did these men get back to the gospel and encourage people to simply be Christians, as you read about in the New Testament and become part of the Lord's church? If they did, something went way wrong. Why? The first thing we ask is, what were Presbyterians before 1536 AD? What were Baptists prior to 1607 AD? And, where do you read about those churches in the Bible?

The fact is, those religious groups were started by man, meaning they are man-made religions. It is true they taught some truth, but they also mixed in many of their own doctrines. Time and space prevent us from exposing many of their false doctrines. Just keeping this simple, we need to see that Paul did not start his own sect. Christ already established His church. This is why Paul called them churches of Christ (**Rom. 16:16**).

Could a church of Christ become a man-made church? Of course. You might have a scriptural name, but then teach man-made doctrines. For example, the Church of Christ of latter-day saints (Mormons), was started in 1830 AD by Joseph Smith. Again, the Lord's church was started in approx. 33 AD. Any group having it's beginning after 33 AD, is not the church that belongs to Christ.

When you read the New Testament, you find letters written to churches of our Lord that were doing things wrong and they needed to repent (**Rev. 2-3**). Remember, you can have a scriptural name, but Christ has ALL the authority and all His doctrine must be followed (**II Jn. 9**). But when you don't have a scriptural name, you know something is wrong from the start – think about it!

## Attitudes Toward Preaching

*"Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him" (Lk. 8: 18).*

The Savior used these words to instruct His disciples concerning their reception of the truth. In order to accept His words and conform their lives to His teaching, His followers would have to possess the proper attitude. Moses had prophesied of Christ: *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall come to pass that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people" (Acts 3:22,23)*. With respect to the seriousness of that statement, each person should re-examine his attitude toward the preaching of the gospel.

The book of Acts contains examples of various attitudes men manifest toward the truth of God. As these attitudes are examined, let each reader conduct an honest self-examination to determine his own attitude.

### Indifference

Many people display the outward appearance of indifference. Gallio, a Grecian deputy, is an example of such a deplorable attitude (**Acts 18**). When the Jews had kidnapped Paul, forced him to court against his

wishes and made false accusations against him, Gallio refused to sit in judgment over the case. Then the Greeks brought the chief ruler of the synagogue and physically beat him in the presence of Gallio. The inspired record says: *"And Gallio cared for none of those things" (v. 17)*.

All too often we come in contact with this type of individual -- too busy, too important, or too bored to be bothered with religion. Indifference is a most unfortunate response to the word of God.

### Ridicule

Almost every Christian has run into this attitude. "Religion is just for children and old ladies." "Only a sissy would be a Christian." There are numerous manifestations of ridicule. As Paul was preaching to King Agrippa and Bernice (**Acts 26**), Festus interrupted to inform the inspired apostle that he was crazy. *"Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!" (v. 24)* Many believe that when Agrippa said, *"You almost persuade me to become a Christian" (v. 28)*, the words were not spoken from a sincere heart, but rather with ridicule or sarcasm. Such may have been the case.

Ridicule is often used as a cover-up for ignorance. Rather than admit a lack of knowledge, a sarcastic remark seems a convenient response.

### Closed Mind

The Jews constantly exhibited this attitude, The envious Jews of Thessalonica are an excellent example (**Acts 17**). Rather than hear simple truths of God's word, they started a riot and attempted to kill Paul and Silas. Not even willing to listen to the apostle's doctrine, they closed their minds. Jesus expressed the situation this way: *"For the heart of this people has grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their heart and turn, So that I should heal them" (Mt. 13:15)*.

### Open Mind

In contrast to those mentioned above, there are some honest and sincere people who will receive the gospel, examine it, and then obey it. The Jews of Berea were such people (**Acts 17**). *"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (v. 11)*. All should manifest this attitude. This is the person that Christians must always be looking for.

How is your attitude?

*by Roger Hillis*

**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

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

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**Check out the following websites**

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

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

### Elders:

Ron Peck  
Jim Stauffer

### Deacons:

Bill Miller  
Troy Armstrong

## NEWS AND NOTES:

### THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD, WAYNE MOODY, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, KEN KLING, MARK WALKER, PAT MFCLOUD, JAN PATRICK IS AT NOTTINGHAM IN OLATHE. JORDAN SHOUSE AND FRED A WALKER.

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

Wednesday Evening **Joshua, Judges, Ruth** Bill Miller

Sunday Sermon: **Counting the Cost**



## **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