

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 9, 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?*

**Editor's note: Matt has publicly announced he suffers from ALS. As he deals with the difficulties of this disease, he continues to contribute edification to those of us who will hear what he has to say.**

### Humility

**Matt Bassford**

My hands are not quite useless, but every day they get closer. My right hand is pretty well there already. I can still do some things with my left; controlling a mouse, for instance. However, even that is fading.

This leaves me completely dependent on the kindness of others. I cannot bring a cup or a bite of food to my own lips, so if I am to eat and drink, someone else must assist me. I can't wipe my own nose; I can't wipe other things. Without my caregivers, I wouldn't last a week.

It's not an easy place for me to be. Before I became ill, I prided myself on my self-reliance. I made Breakfast for the children and me every morning. I hardly ever hired someone to work on something in my house. I believed I could figure out and fix most anything. My job was to help others; it wasn't to be in need of help myself. I rejoiced in being an alpha male.

Boy, has God ever kicked my feet out from under me on that one! These days, I am such an alpha male that I have to sit there with snot trickling down my upper lip until someone can bring a tissue and rescue me. “I have no dignity left,” I told a friend recently.

Now that my nose is in the dirt, I don't much appreciate the view, but I have to admit that there's a lot to learn down here. It reminds me, in fact, of what has been one of my favorite passages for a long time, **Deuteronomy 8:3**. It reads, *“And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”*

Thanks to the temptation of Jesus, we are familiar with the last part of the verse, but the first part is equally powerful. God led the Israelites into the wilderness so that they would be hungry there. When He provided for them, He provided sustenance that was both sufficient and humbling. In the magnificent words of Moses, He gave them manna that they did not know, nor did their fathers know, that He might make them know. In the desert, He stripped away their illusions.

Of course, what was true in the wilderness was true in Canaan too. There, they might have grown wheat, grapes, and olives. There, the goodness of the land might deceive them into believing that they were responsible for their own prosperity. In fact, it is precisely this problem that Deuteronomy 8 addresses. Nonetheless, even in the promised land, man did not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

I am in the desert. There are no illusions here. I am forced to acknowledge my dependence on others and ultimately on God. Perhaps I am here because God knew that I needed to be driven to that knowledge. He provides for me, no doubt, but part of His provision is that deeply unpalatable lesson.

You may not be in the desert, but do not be deceived. You too do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. This is not the kind of sentiment that belongs on a verse-of-the-day calendar. It is not sweet. It is bitter. All of your cherished beliefs about how wonderful and capable you are, are actually lies.

In fact, you too are utterly dependent on God and His humbling, scouring, revealing love. Every bite of food you eat is placed in your mouth by God. Every trickle of snot from your nose is wiped away by God. Apart from Him, you can do nothing.

Whether we are in the desert or not, we must carry it with us. All of His gifts must be as manna to us, food that humbles even as it sustains. Even as we live and strive, we must place no hope in ourselves. We must place it all in God.

## The question is, who started it? *Chuck Bartlett*

Over the years, people have asked me religious questions that have come from them hearing things they haven't read in the Bible. Things like: What is Lent? What is Ash Wednesday? What is Easter? And the suchlike. When I answer the questions, I find the questions have one thing in common. They are things

that religious groups created and you do not read about in the Bible.

When you open your Bible, you will read about the death and resurrection of Jesus (**Matt. 27-28**). You will read about people putting on sackcloth and ashes to express mourning (**Es. 4:1**). We can also read about abstaining from certain foods under the Old Law (**Lev. 4**). However, you can read from Genesis to Revelation and you will NOT read anything about Lent, Ash Wednesday or Easter.

This begs the question, where did these things come from? The obvious answer is, the mind of man. The scriptures are inspired (**II Tim. 3:16**). So, when you hear about some religious practice not found in the Bible, you have to deduce that it came from the mind of man. Now some would argue and say, "No, it came from the church." That is really the same.

Different religious groups throughout history were spawned by some person or group of people wanting to create their own sect, while still claiming to follow the Lord. The early church of our Lord encountered this problem. There was a religious sect called the Nicolaitans. They had their own unique doctrines and had a number of followers. They were successful in having Christians follow their doctrine (**Rev. 2:15**).

Noting all of this, we can conclude that the creation of Lent, Ash Wednesday and Easter, came into existence, not because the Lord commanded it, but because someone introduced the concepts. Such would have to be called a tradition of men, as it was practiced over and over, and people soon were convinced that it was the doctrine of Christ, when it wasn't. Jesus spoke of things like that happening. He stated, "*And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men.*" (**Matt. 15:9**).

I have heard the statement from some, "Well, we have always done it." The fact is, no tradition of man can claim it has always been that way, because since it isn't in God's word, there had to be a first time it was introduced. Therefore, you cannot call something a tradition the first time it is done. But when it is practiced over and over, without objection, religious people are convinced it is the law of God.

We have only mentioned three such innovations, when in reality there are many things religious sects have created, then started binding them upon their members.

They do so by asserting that it is the will of God to abide by their teachings. This really gets to the heart of the problem. So many religious people are convinced that the “church” has the right to bind things upon the members. It doesn’t, because the church is to abide in the doctrine of Christ (**II Jn. 9**), not to create its own doctrines.

Let’s notice what happens when a local church decides to create something on their own. In **I Corinthians 11:17-34**, we find the church at Corinth decided to change the Lord’s Supper. They decided to turn it into a feast to satisfy their hunger. The apostle Paul had to remind them of what they were taught and what was practiced when he was with them. They had no right to try and change things, even if they agreed as a congregation.

The question comes to mind, what stops these groups from continually changing what they do now, to add more and more traditions? The answer is, nothing. That’s why nothing surprises me as to what groups are doing. But, for those who want to attend a church that is staying just with the Bible, I encourage you to find the church that is Christ’s in your area (**Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16**).

## No, We Are Not Infallible

An oft-repeated charge against members of the church of Christ is that we seem to think that we are infallible. Herein we intend to address ourselves to the validity or invalidity of such a charge with the aim of clearing up any mistaken impressions.

First of all, a fundamental principle upon which our examination must be based is the fact that NO MAN can truthfully claim infallibility! *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (**Rom. 3:23**). Since sin and infallibility cannot co-exist, we must conclude that all men are fallible including members of the church of Christ.

Secondly, I have never known of a member of the church who has claimed infallibility. I have known some few who ACTED as if they were perfect, and perhaps a few who thought they were. But the point is this: members of the church of Christ do not generally and publicly claim to be infallible humans.

How then did the charge originate? If we do not claim to be infallible, and in view of our constant references to such passages as **Rom. 3:23**, why do people think we claim perfection? Consider a few possible reasons.

(1) We believe in an infallible Christ. Unlike the modernists, we believe without any doubt that Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, that He died on the cross for our sins, that He arose from the dead, and that He now serves us in heaven [as High Priest of God]. We believe what Peter declared on Pentecost when he said: *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made this same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (**Acts 2:36**). We are also convinced that He *“was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”* (**Heb. 4:15**). Our Savior is a Perfect One!

(2) We believe in infallible authority. After Jesus was raised from the dead, He declared: *“All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth”* (**Matt. 28:18**). Later the apostle Paul wrote that God *“hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all”* (**Eph. 1:21-23**). So the authority upon which our religion is based is infallible. The blind unfounded expressions of human authority are not approved by a God Who gave all authority to His Son.

(3) We believe in only one infallible way to heaven. Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me”* (**John 14:6**). Thus it is our blessed belief that the way of Jesus is the only infallible way to glory. This means that we, with God, must reject the “many ways to heaven” concept, and do our best to encourage our religious neighbors to do the same.

No!! Members of the church of Christ are not infallible. But we believe in an infallible Savior Who has by His authority revealed through the New Testament the only infallible way to heaven. Some of us may fall from that way, **1 Cor. 10:12**, and we may not always follow the example of our perfect Savior, but we firmly believe that *“Ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power”* (**Col. 2:10**).

by Warren Berkley

**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, MARK WALKER, PAT MFCLOUD, JAN PATRICK IS AT NOTTINGHAM IN OLATHE, JORDAN SHOUSE AND FRED WALKER.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning  
**Prayer - Ron Peck**

Wednesday Evening - **Minor Prophets** - Jim Stauffer

Sunday Sermon: **See Meeting Schedule**



## **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