

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"*

March 26, 2023

## "HEAR YE HIM"

by Jim Stauffer

*"While he was yet speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."* (Matthew 17:5)

This text provides the answer God gave from heaven when mankind in the person of the apostle Peter thought his idea would be pertinent in the midst of a miraculous lesson being taught.

Difficulties listening to God rather than man goes back a long way in our history. Certainly Adam and Eve listened to the thoughts of Satan and viewed them as greater than the words God had spoken. Noah preached of the impending judgment upon mankind as the wrath of God would bring the great flood on the earth, yet no one listened to God's word then either. The children of Israel pleaded with Moses to receive the words of God and then relay them to the people to avoid hearing His powerful voice speak directly to them at Mount Sinai.

It seems there is always some aversion to hearing God's message. And it appears it is because there are responsibilities that prevent us from doing what we choose.

In our formative years there were always layers of authority that determined what voice we listened to and obeyed. There were our parents, the school administrators and yes even officers of the law. Each had their own specific area of life in which their authority was supreme. In our home our father was the final arbiter of what was right or wrong for us to do. What was enlightening was how he determined those things. He first consulted God's word in the planning and organization of our lives. But while God was the supreme authority, he recognized authority that God has given to man and we were expected to respect it

also.

He taught us that very form of reasoning and even was clear in teaching us that if those in authority in civil matters in life ever called upon us to violate what God demanded of us, we were to listen to God as the supreme authority.

Now most brethren and even folks who have no relationship with God understand the hierarchy. But that authority is often disregarded at any level, civil, criminal or spiritual when it calls for us to deny ourselves and obey the authority.

The discipline required to obey the Lord in **Matthew 16:24,25** is very difficult to achieve if indeed we are not desirous of *"winning the race"* (**1 Cor. 9:24-27**) Until we can truly desire that which is spiritual above that which is earthly, fleshly and of course temporal, we cannot be consistent in hearing the message of God.

The only way we will hear Him instead of the voices speaking to our fleshly interests is when we truly begin to long for and look to those things above rather than those things here below (**Colossians 3:1-4**).

One final point and plea to you who would truly seek the Lord and His interests. There are going to be many opportunities to worship with brethren near you as gospel meetings come along this time of year. Avail yourself of such a spiritual feast as will be offered in each of those occasions. Discipline yourself for the spiritual exercise demanded to strengthen and sustain your soul.

If you truly love the Lord your God will all your heart and soul and mind, this will be your pleasure.

## Listen!

**Mark McCrary**

Interpersonal relationships are crucial to us as human beings. One of the first statements of God regarding us was, *"It is not good that man should be alone"* (**Genesis 2:18**). But, sometimes relationships, as important as they are, are challenging to maintain—even among Christians. There are times when brothers and sisters in Christ don't get along with one another.

One of the greatest skills necessary in those moments is the very one that is often not found: the ability to actually listen to others in conflict. So often, we formulate preconceived ideas about what someone thinks, what their motivations are, what they are really getting at; then, our reactions are based not on what they are saying or doing, but on our preconceptions of what they are thinking and meaning. As a result, communication stops, and conflict arises. This happens in homes, in churches, in businesses—everywhere there are people.

What can we do about this?

*"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God"* (**James 1:19-20**).

Within the context, James is likely addressing our need to listen to God and His instructions to us, but it certainly also has great application in our relationships with one another. How much we would be helped if we slowed down and just listened! Not formulated rebuttal! Not vent all my frustrations! Not psychoanalyze my opponent at the moment! Not even view the one with whom I am in conflict as my opponent! Saber rattling really does little good in such moments other than encourage the one with whom we disagree to rattle their back at us. Here's a crazy idea: simply listen. Take it in. Seek to understand. Not necessarily agree; just understand.

Something radical might happen if we would only do this. We might find we don't disagree. At the least, perhaps we would find we are a lot closer to them than we think. God urged Israel in **Isaiah 1:18**, *"Come, let us reason together."* May God help us to have the same attitudes as husband and wives, parents and children, elders and congregations, and brothers and sisters in Christ.

What a wonderful resolution it would be to listen and

think about what others are saying more. What a wonderful resolution it would be to stop shaking our fists so much and open our ears more. We would likely find that God's ways are actually better than man's wrath at bringing about peace.

*~via Growing In Godliness; Louisville, Kentucky*

## Living in the Danger Zone

As our generally ungodly society progressively worsens, it should be no surprise' to see individuals who wear the name "Christian" also heading in this direction. Some have the attitude "how close can I get to sin without sinning? Just how much can I get away with? How little can I do and be pleasing to God?" Thus, being influenced by the world, they are living in the danger zone. The eternal welfare of their soul is jeopardized. May I suggest some areas where the influence of the world is great and a word of caution is needed.

(1) Evil companions. Paul forewarned in **1 Corinthians 15:33**, *"Do not be deceived: bad company corrupts good morals."* The people Paul had in mind may not have been "absolute filth." Maybe his warning simply had to do with spending too much time with folks who have no redeeming spiritual qualities or Godward inclinations. Being distracted from our spiritual warfare allows Satan an opportunity to take advantage of us. He will use anything or anybody he can to accomplish his purposes. Letting others determine your behavior or do your thinking for you is quite perilous spiritually. If you're in need of some good companionship, and we all are, why not spend your time with brothers and sisters in the Lord?

(2) Media indulgence. The information we filter through our mind undoubtedly affects the way we think and behave. To continually fill our minds with the world's philosophy is quite harmful whether by television, radio, movies or magazines. Seeing or hearing that which is immoral filth has no redeeming value. Also, we must be careful not to take a lighthearted or tolerant attitude toward sin when we witness it.

(3) Immodesty. It's hard to feel comfortable when you "stick out like a sore thumb" in a crowd, but the Christian must, if the majority does evil. Regardless of the world's standard of dress, Christians must adorn

themselves in a manner which reflects the proper attitude of heart. **(1 Tim. 2:9,10)** The sacrifice of comfort and peer acceptance is a small price to pay in glorifying God. Beware of the dangers associated with immodest dress, evil influence, lust, sexual promiscuity, etc.

(4) "And things like these." **(cf. Gal. 5:19-21)** Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, narcotics, modern forms of dance. Being engaged in these practices cannot strengthen us spiritually. They will only weaken us. Any small participation in or even too much association with these practices hurls one into the danger zone spiritually.

Beware of living in the Danger Zone! *"Abstain from every form of evil."* **(1 Thess. 5:22)**

*by Tony Mauck*

## Evacuation Order

*Jared Hagan*

Do you ever wonder about the people who won't leave? It always seems to happen. A natural disaster is occurring and mandatory evacuations are sent out, but some people just won't leave. They hold out hope that the hurricane won't be as bad as the experts warn. They think that maybe they can protect their house from the oncoming fire. Whatever their thinking, they are often wrong. Lives are lost as a result, not to mention rescuers risking their own lives to save those people.

Why wouldn't they just leave and be safe? I suppose they don't believe the warnings. I suppose they are attached to their stuff and unwilling to risk losing it (not that they can really protect their homes and stuff in a large natural disaster). I suppose that they don't want the hassle of evacuation. After all, the roads quickly get overwhelmed and escape is tediously slow. Why bother, right?

But after the disaster is over, I have heard many people, after being rescued, comment that they shouldn't have stayed.

I don't know about you, but I always find myself nodding along with them. "Yep. You should have left." And I confess to thinking the people a bit foolish. They were warned. They should have known better.

Do you agree?

If so, perhaps you should consider the warning that John

gives us about this world. *"The world is passing away"* **(1 John 2:17)**. This world is doomed. We've been warned by the foremost expert: God. He isn't guessing.

The world is doomed. All of the material things of this world will be destroyed. But not just that. John adds, *"And also its lusts"* **(1 John 2:17)**. All of the worldly desires are doomed too.

*"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up"* **(2 Peter 3:10)**.

This world is facing a disaster unlike anything it has ever seen before. It will truly be the end. It could happen at any moment. And God has—in a way—sent out an evacuation order. Flee from the lusts of the world **(1 Peter 2:11)**. Dedicate yourself to spiritual holy conduct which will last rather than focusing on worldly things that won't **(2 Peter 3:11-13)**.

Have you obeyed the order? Or do you find yourself making the same mistakes as those people we spoke about earlier? Do you act like the world is doomed or have you attached yourself and your heart to everything the world has to offer? Maybe we don't think the end will really come, so we go on living a life focused on physical things and following worldly lusts. Maybe we don't want to give up the things of this world. Maybe we think that doing so would be too painful and too much of a hassle.

It is so easy to sit in judgment of those on television who've had to be rescued because of their stubborn foolishness. But maybe they are just a reflection of ourselves. In their case, at least some of them survived. Those who don't heed God's warning won't be so fortunate.

*~via Northside church of Christ; Colorado Springs, Colorado. Taken from the Market Street Messenger*

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*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.*

**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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## 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 MCLOUD, JAN PATRICK IS AT NOTTINGHAM IN OLATHE. JORDAN SHOUSE AND FRED WALKER.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning

**James** - Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening **Joshua,**

**Judges, Ruth** Bill Miller

Sunday Sermon: **From  
Condemnation to  
Sanctification**



## **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