

THE LEXXA EDIFIER

ROMANS 14:19Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

NOVEMBER 4, 2012

THE TRUST THAT TAKES GOD SERIOUSLY GARY HENRY

*“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith” (**Hebrews 11:7**).*

NOAH TRUSTED GOD ENOUGH TO TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY, AND HE TOOK HIM SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO OBEY HIS INSTRUCTIONS. The particular kind of righteousness that Noah demonstrated is the only kind that God has ever accepted from human beings: “the righteousness which is according to faith.” And the distinguishing characteristic of this type of righteousness is not that it de-emphasizes obedience but that it produces an obedience based on TRUST.

We can tell to what extent we trust God by looking at how much risk we’re willing to take in order to obey Him, particularly in situations where God’s instructions go against our instincts. In this respect, there is a difference between “faith” and “trust.” Many people say they have faith, but not many are willing to put their trust where their faith is. James Dobson has illustrated it this way: “Faith in God is like believing a man can walk over Niagara Falls on a tightrope while pushing a wheelbarrow. Trust in God is like getting into the wheelbarrow!” The “righteousness which is according to faith” is a scary thing. It requires that we cling to God ALONE and let go of any OTHER means of support or security or safety. It isn’t easy to “get into the wheelbarrow,” and for all those who say they’ve done it, very few actually have. It takes humble, courageous TRUST to let go of all our self-sufficient safety ropes and let God determine the means by which we’ll get to the other side. It just seems so often that God’s plans for our righteousness involve the possibility of dangerous (and perhaps even embarrassing) consequences!

But if we’re willing to trust God, faith can open a door that must otherwise remain forever closed. Do we wish to PLEASE Him? Then faith — the radical trust that will take God seriously and obey Him readily — is the only key that will open that desirable door: *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (**Hebrews 11:6**).*

*“The Spirit-filled life is no mystery revealed to a select few, no goal difficult of attainment. To trust and to obey is the substance of the whole matter” (**Victor Raymond**).*

I hope we can see the necessary connection between the trust borne out of faith illustrated by bro. Henry and the patience we must have to be disciples of Christ in the following article.

PATIENCE, A VIRTUE NECESSARY FOR DISCIPLESHIP

The problems created for the people living in the Northeast are monumental. The situation they face and the detailed coverage of their response to it brings this subject to mind. A disclaimer must be given at the outset. I have never suffered through what they are now. The application of this message is not intended for them, but rather their situation calls to our attention our lack of patience in situations much less stressful.

The Bible teaches us through the lives of its characters the kind of patience we are to “add to our self-control”. We see Job as a righteous man vexed by the evil conniving of Satan to the point he thought death would be better. **(Job 3:11)** But he ultimately prevailed through his patience.

How many times have we taken a trip that had as many catastrophes as Paul’s trip to Rome? **(Acts 27&28)**

When have we been treated as harshly and with such injustice as our Lord during His life, trial and crucifixion?

If we were to calmly replay these and other stories to ourselves when faced with trials, how would we ever justify “losing our patience.”

Instead of these things we suffer from illnesses for a few days until the medicine takes effect. We have a mechanical breakdown on a trip and have to call for help from our cell phones and then wait in the comfort of our automobiles until it arrives. Our greatest injustice is living under the authority of leaders who are wasteful and use tax money to reward special interests that personally benefit them. Our greatest inconvenience is often a few hours without television or internet connection.

Is it any wonder other nations still consider us to be the Ugly American? We are upset when things do not go smoothly because with modern conveniences they almost always do.

We appear to others just as the “spoiled brat” who throws a tantrum each time he does not get his way.

This is not what Christ had in mind when He outlined the attributes of His disciples; *poor in spirit, they that mourn, meek, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, willing to suffer persecution for righteousness’ sake*; all this in order to be “the light of the world” and “the salt of the earth.” **(Matthew 5:3-16)**

Brethren, simply put, if we are not these things we cannot be His disciples. **(Luke 14:25-27)**

Repeating the following poem due to the damage of Hurricane Sandy is too appropriate to ignore

There’ll be no hurricanes in heaven
The winds will blow gently all day
For He Who has calmed troubled waters
Will care for us during our stay

Grant Clothier

News and Notes: As we have in the past let us continue to give attention to the needs of those who are sick physically or spiritually. Those who are physically in need of our prayers are **Jan Patrick, Terry Czirr, Mary Czirr, Candiss Cason and Gladys Martinez.**

Brady Sutton, the brother of **Mary Czirr** and uncle of **Linda Foster**, passed away this past week. Our sympathies go out to Mary and Linda and the entire family.

Another Biblical Argument Against Calvinism ***Patrick Donahue***

The Calvinist will look at a passage that says God does something and assume that means man can have no part in it because God does it. For example they will ignore a hundred passages that teach man is involved in his salvation (must meet conditions – **Mark 16:16** e.g.) because they find a passage teaching God saves us (e.g., **Rom 8:9-10.**)

The fallacy of their argument is easily shown by “the Lord’s prayer” instruction for us to ask God to “give us this day our daily bread” (**Matt 6:11**). We all recognize from this verse that God gives the faithful Christian the necessities of life (**Matt 6:33**), and even the Calvinist recognizes that God provides us our food through our regular efforts, for example through our jobs. So the Calvinist can readily see in this case that just because one passage says God does something for us, that does not necessarily mean we don’t also have a part to play in the matter.

The main lesson the Calvinist needs to learn is to take all of what the Bible says on a particular subject, instead of just the passages he thinks agree with his system and ignoring all others. I am sure if Abraham had used the Calvinistic method of interpreting what God said, because God had previously told Abraham he was to have many descendants through his son Isaac, Abraham would have disbelieved what God said when he told him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice and therefore disobeyed God’s command. Instead Abraham chose to find a way that both instructions from God were true (**Heb 11:19**). Most importantly, Abraham believed and obeyed what God said regardless of his own human reasoning and preferences.

And if we do the same with salvation for example, we will believe both that Jesus died “for the remission of sins” (**Matt 26:28**) and that we must be baptized “for the remission of sins” (**Acts 2:38**). Both are true because God said both. We are not free to believe one and reject the other. God saves us through means – we have to meet his stipulated conditions.

Commitment

A certain dog had always boasted of his ability as a runner. Then one day a rabbit that he was chasing got away. This brought a lot of ridicule from the other dogs because of his previous boasting. His explanation; “You must remember that the rabbit was running for his life, while I was only running for my dinner.”

Brethren, we are to be committed to the Lord to the point we will sacrifice our will in this life for His sake in order to find eternal life in the hereafter. (Matthew 16:24-26)

Eph. 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, **20** being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; **21** in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

1 Pet. 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psalms 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 the 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 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.

**This bulletin produced by:
The Lenexa Church of Christ
7845 Cottonwood Dr
Lenexa, Kansas 66216
913-764-9170**

The Church at Lenexa is a congregation of brethren who have been "justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (**Romans 3:24**)

What must one do to be saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17
Believe in Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

We recommend to you the following websites:

***facebook.com/lenexachurchofchrist/
thelenexaedifier.com
lenexachurchofchrist.org***

Our Meeting Times are:

Sunday Bible Classes: 9:30 AM
Worship Services 10:20 AM&5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:00PM

As a result of this justification we have been "delivered out of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (**Colossians 1;13,14**)

We therefore respect the inspired word of God that will completely furnish us unto every good work by speaking only as the oracles of God. (**2 Timothy 3:16,17; 1 Peter 4:11**)

Repent of sin - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be baptized for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38