

THE LEXIA EDIFIER

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

MARCH 24, 2013

WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE TO BE RIGHTEOUS?

Jim Stauffer

Matt. 5:6 *Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

We understand the instinct created in the animal world including mankind to respond to hunger and thirst. It is our primary concern to sustain life.

People hunger and thirst for many things. Some for education. They will spend countless hours in reading and studying to satisfy that desire. Some hunger and thirst for power or wealth or any one of many things we could mention. The point is when people truly hunger and thirst for something it takes priority in their lives They put forth the necessary effort to gain that they seek.

Jesus says if our hunger is for righteousness we will be filled with it.

Paul explains righteousness, its source and its results to us in just a couple of passages we will view. **Rom. 3:24** *being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 whom God set forth to be a propitiation, through faith, in his blood, to show his righteousness*

because of the passing over of the sins done aforetime, in the forbearance of God; 26 for the showing, I say, of his righteousness at this present season: that he might himself be just, and the justifier of him that hath faith in Jesus.

In this text Paul says we are justified by redemption and that redemption is in Christ. To be justified means to be made right after being wrong. It simply in biblical terms means our sins are forgiven. He further states this happens through faith in Christ's blood and that this blood was shed for man because of the grace of God. Therefore, we conclude our righteousness comes about by the grace of God and through our faith. **Eph. 2:8** *for by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not of works, that no man should glory.*

In another text Paul explains the results of our righteousness. **2 Cor. 5:17** *Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new. 18 But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the*

the ministry of reconciliation; 19 to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Those whose sins are forgiven, the righteous, are reconciled to God. **2 Cor.**

5:21 *Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him.* We are once again at peace with God just as we were before our sins separated us from Him. **(Isa. 59:1,2)**

Now let us quickly tie all this together. God has extended His grace to all men. **Titus 2:11** *For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men.* When those men hunger and thirst after righteousness they can be filled with it if they have faith in the blood of Christ. James teaches us that the man of faith does exactly what God commands of him. **James 2:21** *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect; 23 and the scripture was fulfilled which saith, And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God.*

The answer to our question must then be given by each of us. How much would we give to be righteous? Do we hunger and thirst after it?

Now that we understand righteousness is the condition of one whose sins are forgiven and that a man of faith will do what God commands him to do, those who hunger for righteousness will do what God commands them.

Mark 16:16 *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.*

Acts 2:38 *And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Rom. 10:9 *because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved: 10 for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Now you can answer the question either by your actions or inaction. What say you? Will you believe, repent, confess and be baptized?

WHAT IS TRUTH?

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TRUTH.

Only the truth can make men free. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" Jno. 8:32. Error will only further enslave, but truth makes men free! THE WISE MAN SAID, "Buy the truth and sell it not" Prov. 23:23. Truth is supreme in its value. We can afford to pay whatever it costs and when once we possess it, we cannot afford to take any price for it. The importance and necessity of it should be always exalted in our hearts.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR TRUTH.

It can be replaced only with error. Nothing else is "just as good as truth." Yet even in spiritual matters that concern the soul, we are often told that we should accept a substitute for the truth for something else is just as good.

TRUTH IS ALWAYS CONSISTENT.

It is never out of harmony with truth. There is no contradiction in truth. Whenever an apparent contradiction seems to exist, it is because we do not know the whole truth. There are two correct answers to the same problem or question. When there is a variance, both cannot be right.

TRUTH IS ALWAYS NARROW.

Every kind of truth is narrow. Mathematical truth is narrow. Two and two make exactly four - no more, no less, and whoever says they make anything else is wrong. There are thousands of numbers that two and two do not make (error is broad) and only one that they do make - truth is narrow.

SCIENTIFIC TRUTH IS NARROW.

Under ordinary conditions at the sea level, water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit, just that, no more, no less. There are thousands of temperatures at which water does not freeze. Suppose a man should say: "I am very broad in my scientific beliefs. I am not one of your scientific bigots who insist that water freezes at just 32 degrees, and that all who think differently are wrong. No, I admit that water freezes at 20,25,30,32,38, and 40 degrees, and

at any other temperature he believes water freezes. I am broad in my science." What would we think of such a man?

HISTORICAL TRUTH IS NARROW.

A given event took place in one particular way. There are thousands of ways in which it did not take place. It is the business of a jury to so consider the testimonies of the witnesses, each giving his impression, that they can determine just how the event did take place. Suppose a professed historian should say: "I have very broad views of history. I abominate the narrow bigotry which says that a given event took place in only one particular way and that whoever says differently is wrong. I believe that the event took place in a hundred ways, and just so a man is sincere, it does not matter how he believes it took place."

GEOGRAPHICAL TRUTH IS NARROW.

There is but one right direction to London from where the reader sits, while there are thousands of wrong directions. If you point toward London, you must point in one definite direction. If you point in either of a thousand other directions, you are not pointing toward London. Suppose a man should say: "I am not one of your geographical bigots, who say that there is only one right direction towards London, from where he stands, while all who point in any other direction are wrong. No, indeed, I am broad in my views of geography, and any way a man chooses to start is the right way to London, if only he is honest; and whichever way he starts, he will get to London just the same." What should intelligent people think of such an attitude?

HOW DOES IT COME TO PASS that what is recognized as the most arrogant nonsense in all other realms, is greedily swallowed when it come to the realm of religion, where truth is most important? Whether a man be right or wrong in mathematics, in science, in history, in geography etc., is of comparatively small importance, but his character and his eternal destiny depend upon his being right in religion. Only the truth has the power to make men free from spiritual bondage.

WHILE TRUTH IS NARROW, it does not follow that anything is truth because it is narrow. One would be just as narrow if he affirmed that two and two make five and nothing else, as to say

two and two make four. We may be narrow and still be wrong. Narrowness alone does not establish the truth. But if we are broad in what we believe to be truth, we are certain to be wrong. Truth is narrow, and hence belief of the truth must be narrow.

by- Roy Cogdill

Much is said about preaching the truth in love, and so it should be preached. But in love of what? The preacher should so love the truth that he will not sacrifice any of it nor pervert it, and he should so love people that he will not withhold from them even an unpleasant truth. He that does either of these things loves neither the truth nor the people. We frequently fool ourselves; we think we do thus and so to spare the feeling of others, when it is our own feelings that prompt us. *"Preach the word, be urgent in season, out of season, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."*

R.L. Whiteside,

The Kingdom of Promise and Prophecy

A Very Faithful Woman

An elderly lady was well-known for her faith in the Lord and her boldness in speaking of it. Next door to her lived an atheist and they often discussed her faith in God as she would openly praise the Lord in his presence. He would reply, "There ain't no Lord!"

Hard times set in for the lady and she prayed for God to send her assistance. She explained to the neighbor she was specifically praying for groceries as she had little to eat.

The next morning she went out to her front porch and lo and behold, there was a large bag of groceries. She shouted PRAISE THE LORD! You have answered my prayer.

About that time her neighbor jumped from behind a bush and said, "Aha! I told you there was no Lord. I bought those groceries, God didn't."

With that, the lady began to jump up and down clapping her hands in joy and said, PRAISE THE LORD! He not only sent me the groceries I prayed for, but he made the servant of the devil pay for and deliver them.

1 Th. 5:24 *Faithful is he that calleth you, who will also do it.*

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, 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.

News and Notes: Let us remember the instruction of our Lord by visiting in whatever way we can, **Mary Czirr, Terry Czirr, Candiss Cason, Irene Hurd, Wendy Taylor and Jan Patrick.**

Matt. 25:40 *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.*

**This bulletin produced by:
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We recommend to you the following websites:

***facebook.comlenexachurchofchrist/
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 7:00 PM

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)**

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)**

What must one do to be saved?

Hear the gospel -

Romans 10:17

Believe in Christ -

Heb. 11:6

Repent of sin - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord -

Romans 10:9,10

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