

# THE LEXIA EDIFIER

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

**MAY 12, 2013**

## **GOSPEL PREACHING! WHY?**

**Jim Stauffer**

**Gospel Meeting May 12-15**

**Speaker: Lynn Huggins**

**Topics and Times:**

**Sun. 9:30 AM**

**Jesus Speaking to the Modern World**

**Sun. 10:20 AM**

**Brotherly Kindness**

**Sun. 5 PM**

**Worship Weariness**

**Mon. 7:30 PM**

**What Does it Mean to Believe in Jesus?**

**Tues. 7:30 PM**

**What Must I Do to be Saved?**

**Wed. 7:30 PM**

**Help for Troubled Marriages**

The Apostle Paul told the Roman brethren he was ready to give his all to preach the gospel at Rome. **Rom. 1:15** *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

Why did the gospel need to be preached and why was he so fired up to do it?

The primary reason is obvious in the verses above. He said, "it is the power of God for salvation."

Any situation where all is lost, causes one to accept the means of salvation no matter what it is. A drowning man does not reject a rope thrown to him. A dying man does not reject a life saving surgery. Makes sense doesn't it?

Why then when Jesus says we are in bondage to sin, do we fail to see the need for salvation. **John 8:32** *and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* 33 *They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"* Jesus answered them, **John 8:34** *"Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin."*

Sin leads to bondage and all have sinned. **Rom. 3:23** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* Jesus says without the gospel we will die in our sins. **John 8:24** *I have told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die*

*in your sins.* And now Paul tells us the power in the gospel when preached to mankind provides the salvation from those very sins we all have committed.

Seems to me those who reject the gospel are spurning a rope thrown to a drowning man. That rope is available in Lenexa, Kansas, May 12-15.

## Conflicts in Calvinism

*Jim Stauffer*

The doctrine of Calvinism teaches as one of its tenets, Unconditional Election. Based upon their position that all men are born totally depraved and devoid of any and all ability to do any good toward their salvation, they conclude all men are incapable of believing in Jesus and deciding to follow Him.

If you are a disciple of Jesus, it was not your decision but that of God. He planted the faith in your heart because He decided before the creation to save you specifically.

The following quote from **The Five Points of Calvinism, Steele, Thomas and Quinn**, explains the Calvinist's position on Unconditional Election. *The doctrine of election declares that God, before the foundation of the world, chose certain individuals from among the fallen members of Adam's race to be objects of His underserved favor. These, and these only, He purposed to save. God could have chosen to save all men (for He had the power and authority to do so) or He could have chosen to save none (for He was under no obligation to show mercy to any) but He did neither. Instead, He chose to save some and to exclude others. His eternal choice of particular sinners for salvation was not based upon any foreseen act or response on the part of those selected, but was based solely on His own good pleasure and sovereign will. Thus, election was not determined by or conditioned upon, anything that men would do, but resulted entirely from God's self-determined purpose.*

*Those who were not chosen for salvation were passed by and left to their own evil devices and choices. It is not within the creature's jurisdiction to call into question the justice of the Creator for not choosing everyone for salvation. It is enough to know that the Judge of the earth has done right. It should,*

*however, be kept in mind that if God had not graciously chosen a people for Himself and sovereignly determined to provide salvation for them and apply it to them, none would be saved. The fact that He did this for some, to the exclusion of others, is in no way unfair to the latter group, unless of course one maintains that God was under obligation to provide salvation for sinners - a position which the Bible utterly rejects.*

This is completely contrary to the revelation of God. Jesus sent His disciples out to *preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but, he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.* **(Mark 16:15,16)**

From the very beginning salvation was conditional. It was based on faith plus obedience. On the day the church Jesus died to build was established, Peter taught this principle clearly to those who inquired about salvation. **Acts 2:38** *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* This is followed by verse **41**, *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.* This corresponds perfectly with the statement of the Apostle John. **John 1:12** *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.* It is clear the gospel is the message of God to man and it has always been the responsibility of each and every man to choose to believe in and serve God. Paul said, **Rom. 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* (emp. js) It is abundantly clear he taught that everyone has the opportunity to believe in God and Christ.

It is interesting that Jesus made this comment regarding the works of God. **John 6:28** *Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?"* **29** *Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."*

Now, to the point of fairness in Unconditional Election consider the words of the Apostle Peter as he preached to the house

of Cornelius. **Acts 10:34** *So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.* Again, notice his use of the term, anyone.

Unconditional Election clearly respects one person above another. Yes, it is true, no man deserves salvation. We all agree on that point. It is also true that choosing one man over another regardless of any characteristic or performance is the perfect description of respecting one person above another. Do we not conclude when a businessman promotes his son over the other employees with more experience, talent and production that he is a respecter of persons? That is what nepotism is.

*There is none righteous, no not one. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:10,23)* While this is very true, God has treated us all equally by promising, *Whosoever shall call upon the name of he Lord shall be saved. (Rom. 10:13)* We all have the same opportunity.

Those who believe in Unconditional Election love to cite, **Eph. 1:4** *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love.* Isolated, this verse might give some the impression God selected us unconditionally before creation. But when one looks further into the Scripture he sees this explained more clearly in **2Th. 2:13**. *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.* It is easily seen from this passage and others we have already cited, the choosing occurs by way of the gospel which Paul says is available to all who believe in Christ.

The choosing God made before the foundations of the world was that, *Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* He then authorized His disciples to preach this gospel to every creature. Why? Because everyone is given to opportunity to be saved by believing in Christ.

## SELFLESS ENCOURAGEMENT

**Jim Stauffer**

**Phil. 2:1** *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

These verses are a prelude to verses 5-8 that tell us about the great sacrifice Christ made in giving up heaven to come to earth and die for the sins of mankind.

It is truly amazing what happens in our lives when we practice what our Lord did in giving Himself for us. It takes a certain "bigness" in a person to care enough for another to concern himself with their plight.

One of the most natural things for the child of God to do is recognize the difficulties his brother faces daily. And yet we are often so absorbed in our own problems we forget to concern ourselves with others.

Our goal in life is to serve the Lord and encourage others to do the same in the interest of our eternal reward in heaven. There is a toughness involved in the endurance necessary for the Christian.

*Bob Zuppke, a famous football coach, once asked the question, "What makes a man fight?" He answered his own question by saying, "Two forces are at war in every fighter, the ego and a goal. An overdose of self-love, coddling of the ego, makes bums of men who ought to be champions. Forgetfulness of self, complete absorption in the goal, often makes champions out of bums."*

**Charles Allen**

The Christian must fight the good fight of faith. In order to do this, we must forget about self, concentrate on the goal of pleasing the Lord and encouraging our brethren to do the same.

*Edith lived in a world bounded on the north, south, east, and west by Edith.*

**Martha Ostenso**

**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, Wendy Taylor** and **Byron Taylor**. **Grant Clothier's** surgery was successful. Remember him as he recovers.

**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:  
The Lenexa Church of Christ  
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**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

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