

Romans 14:19 - ...Let us pursue the things which make for peace & the things by which one may edify another

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

December 15, 2013

thelenexaedifier.com

lenexachurchofchrist.org

PRODUCED BY:
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WHERE DO YOU STAND?

by *Jim Stauffer*

Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:20 am
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:00 pm

From many sources today we hear men who claim religious leaders are no longer standing by the tried and true teachings of Scripture.

Many are alarmed by modernists who deny the virgin birth of Jesus and the verbal inspiration of the Scripture. They pledge reverence for God, Christ and the Holy Word. This is as it should be.

It is amazing how we always view ourselves on solid ground and see others as having departed from the truth. Many are worried about the lack of respect for God's word by others when they themselves are guilty of violating the same principle.

They will say one is saved by "faith only" when the Bible clearly refutes this. **(Mk. 16:15,16; Jas. 2:24)**

They will say baptism is not necessary for the remission of sins and salvation but Scripture says it is. **(Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21)**

They will argue vehemently the concept of Calvinism that God chooses individually who is to be saved and once that person is chosen, he cannot be lost. But the Bible does not teach this at all. **(Rom. 6:16; Gal. 5:4)**

Well, you get the point. The level of egregiousness in departing from the authority of the Scriptures is not what brings condemnation.

Any conduct outside the authority of Scripture leaves us without Christ. **(2 John 9)**

How do we overcome this tendency of human nature? We must resist that nature by pledging to do all that we can not to fall short of or go beyond what He has authorized.

Years ago when men were attempting to seek the truth as they rebelled against the Roman Church, there were two general approaches to the changes they sought. Ulrich Swingli, a Swiss reformer, claimed one needed to have authorization from the word of God for his religious activities. Martin Luther, on the other hand, claimed the religious right to anything not expressly condemned by Scripture.

It is not surprising that each of us must make the same choices today. Will you claim the right to your own authority in religion as Luther and the Pharisees of Jesus' day? **(Matt. 15:9)** Or will you speak and act only as the Scripture authorizes as Peter says we should. **(1 Pet. 4:11)**

You see, we are back to the decision we spoke of earlier. We choose the object of our service **(Rom. 6:16)** by determining the authority for our actions.

If it is of men it will come to nothing. If it is of God, we cannot overcome it. **(Acts 5:38,39)**



Third Class

Recently, I received a third-class letter marked URGENT. Somehow, I doubted that it was. My doubts were confirmed when I opened the envelope to find an amateurish effort at personalizing a mimeographed letter. Needless to say, this letter was immediately deposited in file 13 — but I couldn't help thinking about how that envelope had revealed so much about its contents. To me, it said, what's third-class on the outside is not likely to be first-class on the inside, and what's urgent on the inside won't be found going around in third-class trappings. It occurred to me that what was true of mail can also be true of Christians -- especially since there is a sense in which Christians are letters, known and read of all men (**2 Cor. 3:2**).

For this reason (and others), the Christian should be possessed with an abiding sense of urgency that is in keeping with the nature of his calling. He, of all people, ought to be ever conscious of the brevity and the uncertainty of life, the preciousness of souls, the certainty and consequences of judgment and the power of the gospel to save the lost. In becoming a Christian, one identifies himself with vital and urgent issues. To those among whom he is known and read he is saying, in effect, I intend to actively follow Christ; I am seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. His life-letter reads URGENT and he lives what he claims by constantly redeeming the time in faithful and dedicated service to his Lord (**Eph. 5:16**). No, urgent mail doesn't go third class —neither do urgent Christians!

However, the life of the unfaithful is known and read as being something less than urgent. An outspoken atheist is credited with making this statement in regard to the urgent cause of complacent Christians: *Did I firmly believe, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influence destiny in*

another, religion would mean everything to me. I would cast away earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as follies, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. Religion would be my first waking thought and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I should labour in its cause alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering... I would strive to look upon eternity alone, and on souls around me, soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable....

This atheist could see what many refuse to see; viz., that many professed Christians are giving third-class handling to what they claim is the most urgent cause in the world. They say that man's soul is his most valuable possession, but live as if pleasures, money or employment were more important. They say the whole world needs the gospel, but will not take it to their next-door neighbor. They say men ought to practice such things as love, patience and forgiveness, but they say and do not—they say URGENT but act third class and sluggish (**Heb. 6:12**).

As a letter known and read of men, make sure URGENT, STEDFAST and EARNEST are in context!

Dan S. Shipley

“THEY SAY”

We have all heard someone use this expression to substantiate a claim. We might have used it ourselves at one time or another. Paul goes right to the heart of why some are so willing to accept such weak evidence to support a position. It is what they want to hear. **2 Tim. 4:3** *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.*

Have you ever wondered why someone has fallen for a scam that you could easily recognize?

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

It was because they were told exactly what they wanted to hear. This is often true of those who fall for false teaching. It is pleasant to hear. Those who spread such error are said by Paul to serve their own bellies and not God. **(Rom. 16:18)** Paul says if you want to believe it badly enough, someone will come along and teach it to you. **(2 Thess. 2:11,12)**

Some are deceived because of ignorance. I don't use this word to insult, but to bring attention to a deficiency that could cost one his soul. Paul explained to the Greeks in Athens, ignorance of the God of the Universe was no longer an acceptable excuse for not worshipping Him. **(Acts 17:30)** He said the reason many Jews did not accept Christ was due to their ignorance. **(Rom. 10:1-3)**

Some, then are a bit timid about confronting error that brethren have accepted. Paul was not. He makes an irresistible argument to the Galatians about confronting their acceptance of a perversion of the gospel. **(Ga. 1:6-9)** He asked them a very simple question. **Gal. 4:16** *Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?*

Now, ask yourself what your response to the truth will be. Will you be offended when someone points out the error in your religion? Or will you, like Paul indicates, be happy someone offered you the opportunity to correct error in your life.

Examine your reasons for what you believe. Then objectively search the Scriptures to see what God has said on the matter. **(Acts 17:11)**

A Circular Rectangle

A circular rectangle. Now, that has a nice scholarly ring to it. It is even simple enough to say. Try to draw one! Circle describes something absolutely different from the term rectangle. The result of joining the words together is an impossible contradiction of terms. It is gibberish.

But so much for geometry and verbal gymnastics.

A young brother — just home from the University — in an air of superior scholarship announces, I believe the Genesis account, but I also believe the theory of evolution. Hmmm. The Bible teaches God formed man from dust **(Gen. 2:7)** and later fashioned the woman from a rib taken from Adams side **(Gen. 2:21,22)**. The theory of evolution claims man has evolved from some ape-like animal over a period of millions of years. This young brother believes BOTH the Bible and the evolution of the species? I am confused; is that a circle or a rectangle?

Another brother freely quotes, We speak where the Bible speaks and we are silent where it is silent. I thought I understood him until he explained a current practice with Oh, we do many things for which we have no scripture. Another brother smiles and confidently nods his head. We do not need authority for everything we do. I am having trouble drawing this one. Should I use a compass or a straight-edge? But brethren are patient with me and continue to explain. You see, it does not really matter how you get the job done, just as long as you do it. That is what counts. And that is the same fellow who said to me earlier, We do Bible things in Bible ways and call Bible Things by Bible names. Is that an optical illusion or does that rectangle actually have curved sides?

Obviously it is not as difficult to find and repeat a good principle as it is to apply it consistently in both speech and life. Also, it does not take a genius to say an impossible thing nor a fool to be inconsistent. Average folk like us easily do both.

Robert F. Turner

Is. 1:18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

News & Notes

by Jim Stauffer

Eph. 2:19-21 “So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 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 1:1-6 “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; but his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 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. The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the wicked shall perish.”

Let us remember the instruction of our Lord by visiting in whatever way we can, **Jan Patrick, Alma Baumgartner, Mary Czirr, Terry Czirr,** and **Candiss Cason. J.R. Daniel** has been moved to Indian Creek Health Center. **Lillie Keech** has returned home from the hospital. **Jeannie Tyson,** the daughter of **Grant Clothier** had back surgery at the Shawnee Mission Hospital.

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**).

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Jim Stauffer

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

- **HEAR** the gospel, **Romans 10:17**
- **BELIEVE** in Jesus Christ, **Hebrews 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**

