

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

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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“The Nurture and Admonition”

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

Eph. 6:4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* This coincides with the instruction for every dispensation of God’s word. He said of Abraham, **Gen. 18:19** *For I have known him, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of Jehovah, to do righteousness and justice; to the end that Jehovah may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.* This paternal responsibility was considered part and parcel of the man through whom God would send the blessing of salvation through Christ. **(Gen. 22:18)**

Later, when Moses was instructing the people of God, training children in the ways of God was considered vital to their way of life.

Deut. 6:6 *And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart; 7 and - thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

Here we are at a time of year when parents

are scouring the marketplace in search of the appropriate gifts for their children, when all along the greatest gift we could ever give them is access to the gift of salvation. **(Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8,9)**

It seems a common practice of brethren to expect their children to absorb the teaching of God by some sort of osmosis. They seem to think just taking them to worship 2 or 3 times per week should do the trick. It simply does not work that way and the results of congregations across the country will verify this. Abraham was able to command his household to keep the way of Jehovah. This does not mean “order” them to do such. It means to teach it so that it will be on their heart as Moses said. It should take such a high priority that we meditate on it and discuss it when we “sit”, when we “walk”, when we “lie down” or when we “rise up” It is the greatest gift we can give.

The problem, at least as I have observed, is it comes after secular education (our newest idol) and after hobbies and recreation, and after career planning, etc. And, of course, if we are not careful, it is crowded out of the daily routine

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altogether.

Nearly anyone who has worshipped with a congregation for any length of time can look back and count the children of the families of that local work and lament the number who never obeyed the gospel. Or many who did wandered from the Lord in their adult lives. When we do this we tend to count the numbers and wonder how many additions would have been necessary for the building to house them. Or how many new congregations might have been spawned in the area. If we had been more determined in this area and thus more successful, how much greater would the influence of the church be in the community?

A final note of sadness over our failure to "bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the lord", is the scarcity of men qualified to lead churches as elders. How many congregations go wanting in this area simply because we are not producing disciples from our own families?

Let me encourage the young parents and parents to be to reverse this trend. Trust in the Lord in this matter and come to realize, if you rear your children to seek Him and His kingdom, they will never fail in this life or the next. **(Mat. 6:33)**

CALLOUSED BY THE CULTURE

"It doesn't fit my hand!" That was the excuse an old friend would always offer whenever there was a job that required a shovel, rake, or hoe. Well, in reality, such tools don't fit anyone's hand. The evidence of this fact is seen in the soreness and blisters that appear when these implements are first employed. But, if you stick with it, you can get over the irritation. In fact, seasoned workers develop callouses from their prolonged exposure. They no longer feel the pain. Callouses, you see, result in a reduced sensitivity to the things that would normally cause an unpleasant reaction.

There is a spiritual parallel to the scenario we have just described. However, in this realm it is a hurtful rather than helpful phenomenon. It goes like this: A Christian is in repeated contact with the elements of this world. The immorality, violence, vulgarity, immodesty, sensuality and wickedness of society are an affront to his spiritual sensitivities. He is troubled by what he sees -- it hurts him. But, little by little, he begins to grow hardened to this irritation. Oh, yes, he still recognizes sin, but somehow it just does not torture him quite so much when he sees it. At first, for instance, he would turn off a TV program in disgust when sex or bad language was aired. But now, because of his prolonged exposure to such things, he can sit right through it -- taking it all in -- and in the process growing even more calloused to the wickedness he sees. Gradually, he demonstrates less and less discretion about the things he sees and hears, about the places he goes, the things he does, the way he talks, the clothes he wears. You see, his very spiritual being has been altered. He has become calloused by the evil culture.

In Sodom, Lot was "oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men" and he was "tormented day after day with their lawless deeds" **(2 Pet. 2:7,8)**. But, he stayed on -- year after year -- until, finally, he suffered the loss of everything. We can ill afford to follow his sad example. Let us all remain sensitive to the evils around us, and join the Psalmist in saying: "From thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way" **(Ps. 119:104)**.

by Greg Gwin

A Godly Man in Wicked Surroundings

Elijah was a man who reached true greatness in the Lord's service. He was always ready to go where God would send him **(I Kings 18:1; 19:15)**

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to pray whenever prayer was needed (**1 Kings 17:20, 21; 18:36, 37**), and to confront evil whenever confrontation was necessary (**1 Kings 18:17-24; 21:17-19**). He was translated without seeing death, and he, along with Moses, was chosen to appear with the Lord on the mount of transfiguration.

The remarkable thing about Elijah is that he attained this greatness while living in a wicked and hostile environment. Had he lived in Judah during the righteous reign of Hezekiah or Josiah, we might not be surprised at Elijah's attainments. But he lived instead in Israel during the wicked reign of Ahab. He was subjected to the cruel intents of Jezebel. He was under constant harassment and threat of death. He became so discouraged at one point that he asked to die, but he never denied his God.

In this wicked environment Elijah was able to influence others. The widow of Zarephath was blessed through Elijah (**1 Kings 17:8-24**). The multitudes on Mount Carmel were led to cry, "The Lord, He is God!" through his courageous efforts (**1 Kings 18:39**). Elisha, his successor, must have been greatly influenced by him. And even Ahab was brought to humility on one occasion, clothing himself in sackcloth as a result of Elijah's rebuke (**1 Kings 21:27-29**). The message of Elijah is clear. You can live a godly life and influence others for good in a wicked and hostile environment.

When one hears the excuses people make today, it is obvious that Elijah's message is badly needed in this generation. People excuse their failure to teach others the gospel with, "People are so prejudiced around here they just won't listen"; when the truth is, little effort has been made. If they are approached about their ungodly conduct, they explain that "You just don't know how terrible the people are that I have to work

around every day". If their children go astray their explanation is, "Our children are faced with pressures that we didn't have growing up". Such statements, repeated often enough, become to many a "license" to do wrong and a salve to soothe their troubled consciences.

We must throw aside our excuses and make up our minds to do right. Elijah could serve God in wicked surroundings. And so can we.

by Bill Hall

Can We Learn? Can We Change?

by Jim Stauffer

By viewing the two previous articles one can understand the task we face in preserving the purity of our own souls and thus influencing those around us, while not an easy task is certainly attainable. **Phil. 4:13** *I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me.*

While it will surely take a commitment on our part, it will be worth it in the end. We must understand the importance of good examples in the life of people. Each of us can remember men and women who conducted themselves with faith and discipline in life before us and served as an encouragement in our own development as disciples of the Lord. Paul says, **1 Cor. 11:1** *Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

The next thought we need to consider is what kind of example we are setting in our lives. The church made up of brethren we love and care for will be directly affected by how our lives are lived. As those who served as our examples, we will serve others, good or bad. Jesus said, **John 13:15** *For I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you.*

We must remember, we are Christians and should be the best we can be.

When Enrico Caruso was called on to perform at a charity the committee advised him it would be satisfactory if he performed such numbers that would require little effort on his part since his presence alone would command a large crowd. He drew himself up and replied, "Gentlemen, Caruso never does less than his best."

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.”

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.”

Cause for rejoicing:

The baptism, Thursday evening of **Vicky Johnson**. Be sure to visit with her Sunday and help her feel welcome to the Lenexa congegation.

Let us remember the instruction of our Lord by visiting in whatever way we can, **Jan Patrick, Alma Baumgartner, Mary Czirr, Terry Czirr, Candiss Cason** and **Lillie Keech. J.R. Daniel** remains at Indian Creek Care Center at 103rd and Metcalf for therapy.

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.

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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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**

