

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

April 13, 2014

RIGHTEOUS CONDUCT

(powered by love)

by Jim Stauffer

If you were to refer to the righteous conduct of a hypocrite, someone would gleefully remind you those terms when joined comprise an oxymoron. As one good ole boy said to this, “Don’t call me an ox and a moron.”

Well, the bad news is, many in society and yes even among brethren are guilty of hypocrisy when striving for righteousness.

Consider some of the hypocritical things that have and continue to take place in our society. Have you considered the founding document for our nation, the one that says all men are created equal, was written by a slave owner? What about Congress passing laws for the nation they are exempt from? On and on it goes. If you think about it there are many you could recall as well.

In all fairness, there are complexities to certain issues that can cause our conduct to appear to be hypocritical when it is indeed righteous. Just such a situation is seen in two passages by the Apostle Paul. He says in **Eph. 4:28**, *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need.* So, clearly a noble purpose in gainful employment is not only to provide for one’s own family, but to assist those in need. Yet earlier he told the Thessalonians, **2 Th. 3:10** *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, If any will not work, neither let him eat.*

Of course, when we take a close look at the passages it is clear Paul identifies those in Thessalonica as not being the needy of the passage in Ephesians. Instead they are men suffering from their own laziness and therefore in greater need of rebuke than someone feeding them and enabling their sinful conduct.

Jesus told the Pharisees of His day to love God above all and their neighbor as themselves. He said, *On these two commandments the whole law hangeth and the prophets. (Mat. 22:37-40)* When you consider the 10 commandments as the centerpiece of the Law of Moses, you realize every one of them emanates

from these two commandments Jesus identified.

This sheds light on the story of the rich ruler who came to Jesus seeking eternal life. (**Mat. 19:16-22**) In complete disclosure and exposure of his purpose we note that he said, “What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” Jesus told him to keep the commandments and cited several of them to which he replied, “All these things have I observed, what lack I yet?” When Jesus told him the one thing he lacked was to liquidate his wealth and give it to the poor, “he went away sorrowful.”

Now here is a perfect case of the hypocrisy so many practice in everyday life. He claimed to love his neighbor as himself. With divine knowledge of his heart, Jesus knew this was not so. Therefore His application of the law went right to the heart of the rich man’s problem. He loved his wealth more than he loved his neighbor. What he had thought was loving his neighbor was helping him when it was convenient.

Compassion takes no account of convenience. Convenience is really just selfish consideration when faced with someone you can serve. This selfish consideration was what led the priest and the Levite to pass by the wounded man on the road to Jericho. (**Lk. 10:25-37**)

The pertinent question for each of us is are we just like the rich ruler? Do we really practice compassion or are we only available for those in need when it is convenient?

As the man on TV says, “What’s in your wallet?” By that I mean does your spiritual wallet contain the compassion to truly love God first and your neighbor as yourself. That means do you treat others as you would yourself in the same situation?

In view of the two commands Jesus gives, do you enable the sinner, while denying the one who is genuinely needy? Are your actions guided by compassion rather than convenience? If not, you may be practicing the same hypocrisy as the rich ruler and not be aware. How can we be the light of the world and not whole heartedly follow the example and the teaching of our Savior? *If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. (Phil. 4:8)*

THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOME

by Kent Heaton

"One percent of the child's time is spent under the influence of the Sunday school; 7 percent under the influence of the public school; 92 percent under the influence of the home." (Albert S. Taylor) contents begin here. Again this is two columns.

Consider the amount of time a child watches television and weigh the influence - in the home - in front of the television. The results are staggering no doubt. The kind of adults our children will be is greatly determined by the amount of influence they have in their growing years. The church cannot bring children to Christ with only four hours (or less in many cases) a week no more than someone going to medical school four a week will make them a doctor. By the time they receive their degree in medicine, everything they have learned will be outdated.

The time spent in Bible class is very important! Yet, too many parents believe that time spent in Bible class is all that is needed. We moan that we are losing our young people. People say, "But I brought him to church all his life and now he wants nothing to do with the Lord." Can it be that the only time the child saw the Lord in his life was in church? The influence of teaching children about God is not accomplished fully in church Bible classes. If a parent is not taking time and opportunity to share the gospel with their children on a daily basis then why question the disposition of the grown child who cares nothing for God?

Parents must instill in their children every day the values established by God's word. Values of influence are established by the kind of movies we watch, shows we turn on, books we read and magazines we subscribe to.

Parents show their children God by their words and deeds of kindness. Children learn about the gospel when parents emphasize spiritual matters in their lives. The influence of God mothers and fathers is found when children are taught to dress modestly. Mothers and fathers are the influence that is first seen by the children and forms the basis of their own lives.

God's Enemies In Psalms 83

This psalm is the cry of God's persecuted people as they pray that He would not remain inactive against the attacks of the wicked. There is not any implication here that God was indifferent toward their plight. This expresses their desire for relief. Armed with the strength of arrogance and cunning, certain ones had risen up to destroy Israel and their purpose was, to make the name "Israel" extinct.

In every dispensation there have been those who not only rebel against God, but actively seek to destroy those who walk faithfully with God. Their purpose isn't just to ridicule or annoy, but to destroy (they get this from their leader! **(1 Pet. 5:8)**).

In the study of this Psalm, we can learn some of the characteristics of God's enemies. Notice:

1. God's enemies "make a tumult," v.2. Literally, this means they make a roaring. Luke illustrates this in the history he wrote in Acts. Repeatedly, militant unbelievers made a roaring or tumult over the proclamation of the gospel (**see Acts 19**). Today, on occasion, there is some protest, sound-bite or editorial lashing out the venom of Satan against those who are not threatened by political correctness, and who dare to repeat what God has said about the sins of our day. Some in the media want to create a tumult and paint people committed to biblical values as a bothersome, dangerous minority group, threatening the peace of universal New Age tolerance.

2. God's enemies lift up their head, v.2b. They raised themselves up in arrogance, displaying their menacing attitude without restraint. This kind of persecutor is well described in **Proverbs 21:24**, as "A proud and haughty man, 'Scoffer' is his name; he acts with arrogant pride." Jude describes those who were turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. He said, "... these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries," and they "... speak evil of whatever they do not know," (**vss. 8,10**).

3. God's enemies take "crafty counsel against" His people, v.3a. They are so determined to overthrow righteousness, they consult together and make plans to fulfill their wicked purposes. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed ...," (**Psa. 2:2**). In the events that led to Calvary, "...all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death," (**Matt. 27:1**).

4. God's enemies consult together, form a "confederacy," and work "with one another," vss. 3,5. The writer refers to a confederacy or conspiracy including Edom, the Ishmaelites, Moab, the Hagarenes, Gebel, Ammon, Amalek, Philistia, and Tyre (**vss. 6,7**). In Jesus' day, there was the deadly confederacy of chief priests, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees and even a traitorous disciple.

This is the way Satan works, even today. We are threatened by a combination of dangers: classic infidelity, worldliness, secular humanism, the New Age movement, denominational confusion, cults, gay rights, materialism, and our own indifference. Satan has forged all these weapons, but they work in

"confederacy" with one another to assault us and gain greater influence over those who are already lost.

It may not be an organized conspiracy that can be seen, or a networking of error that's overt. But these enemies enjoy power in their combined assault against God and His people.

5. God's enemies need to be humbled (**vss.13-18**). And we are certain they will be humbled, later if not sooner. In days of darkness and difficulty we can read the Scriptures and remember how God delivered the ungodly into punishment; and, we can read the Revelation given through John and know that the wicked will be overthrown eventually. "...The ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish," (**Psa. 1:5b,6; see also, 2 Pet. 2:4-9**).

Our God will "bless the righteous; with favor" and He "will surround" us "as with a shield," (**Psa. 5:12**). Remember what our Lord said: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also." (**John 15:18-20, KJV**).

by Warren E. Berkley

The Problem of Apathy

Problems facing the body of Christ are many and varied. The devil opposes us with persecutions, false doctrines, and all kinds of fleshly temptations. But one of his most successful devices is apathy - an attitude of indifference which afflicts Christians and eats away their zeal like a cancer. It is highly contagious and, if unchecked, is fatal to the souls of men and women. In many areas, it has now reached epidemic proportions.

Indifference was the problem with the church in Laodicea. To that dead congregation, Jesus said, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold or hot; I would that thou wert cold or hold. So, because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (**Rev. 3:15-16**). How many churches of Christ are in that same condition today?

Brethren, when we spend more time watching TV and playing ball than we do studying and teaching the word of God, are we not indifferent? When we find time to go to the movies and other places of entertainment, but not to visit the sick and erring, are we not indifferent? The time has come for us to wake up and get to work. Our indifference will send us to eternal hell.

- by Steve Cawthon

HAS GOD FAILED?

by Robert F. Turner

To ask the question is to answer it—if we refer to failure due to lack of power. All-powerful is an essential part of the nature of God in the true sense. In the same vein, deceit is no part of the true concept of God, hence, God cannot lie. Childish efforts to trap God in self-contradicting absurdities only show the weakness of the querist.

But God wills things that do not come to pass. In **1 Tim. 2:4** Paul says that God will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, — etc. (**Titus 2:11—12**). God wills something, makes it available to all men; but what He wills calls for an exercise of our will — and we do not always do what God wants us to do. Many are lost.

We are discussing a most profound subject — not just the nature of God, but also the nature of God's creatures, made in His own image. God willed that man should have a will and He respects our power of choice.

The will of Christ is contrasted with that of His Jewish brethren, in **Matt. 23:37**, — how often would I have gathered thy children . . . and ye would not. I would, ye would not. Jesus failed with these people — to their ultimate sorrow. Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. (**Vs. 38**)

God is — not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (**2 Pet. 3:9**) Here again, the will of God is denied by man's will God wants something men do not give Him. True repentance cannot be forced upon anyone; and men will remain stubborn, and perish, even while God wills it otherwise.

Certain Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him. (**Lu. 7:30**) God wanted them to accept John's preaching — they would not. Obedience, to be valid, and to glorify God, must be from the heart of man. To force such upon man would deny both the nature of God, and the nature of man as God made him. So, God sometimes fails with man — to man's ultimate sorrow and loss.

When certain Jews rejected the gospel of Christ Paul said, — seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. (**Acts 13:45-48**) With this for contrast, we should have no difficulty in seeing that certain Gentiles were ordained to eternal life because they willed to accept that same gospel. (**vs. 48**)

In all of this the sovereignty of God is established, rather than denied. It was God's will in the beginning that man should be made in His image — having a will. God fails with men on the same basis that He is incapable of lying. He would have to deny His very nature to do otherwise.

It is foolish indeed to continue to sin that grace may abound. God has provided salvation for all; but we must face our own responsibilities and obey Him. (**Rom. 6:1-5; 2 Thess. 1:8**)

Psa. 28:7 *Jehovah is my strength and my shield; My heart hath trusted in him, and I am helped: Therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; And with my song will I praise him.*

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;

1Pet. 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:

Psa. 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 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 the 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.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

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NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

JAN PATRICK, MARY CZIRR,
J.R. DANIEL, ALMA
BAUMGARTNER AND PAT
CLOTHIER. LILLIE KEECH IS IN
PROVIDENCE MEDICAL CENTER.

GOSPEL MEETING WITH RANDY
HARSHBARGER WILL BE APRIL
20-23. BE SURE SET THOSE
DATES ASIDE AND INVITE
YOUR FRIENDS.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY
AND WEDNESDAY IS CURRENTLY
IN ZECHARIAH AS WE TAKE THE
MINOR PROPHETS IN ORDER.



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins

Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10