

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 20, 2014

THE GOSPEL

(The power to save)

The Apostle Paul said in Romans 1:16 he was *"not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone, that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

As a result, men all over Johnson County should be happy to hear that Randy Harshbarger is coming to Lenexa to preach the gospel beginning Sunday, April 20, 2014.

Randy has been preaching the gospel for many years. He comes to us from Nacogdoches, Texas. He has extensive experience preaching in the States, but also has spent much time in Ethiopia teaching the lost and also training natives of the area to become preachers of the gospel.

All who come to know Randy will find him an affable man who enjoys being with people, but even especially discussing the things our Lord would have us to do in His service.

He will be at our disposal these few days he is in the area. If there are those who would desire to spend time in study, Randy will be available. If there are members at Lenexa who have friends who would be willing to study, again, Randy would love to make whatever contribution he could.

Let us offer one final encouragement to the membership at Lenexa to first of all ensure our own presence at each of these meetings, but also to invite our friends to come hear from God's word, the plan He has for the lives of those who love and serve Him.

Following is a schedule of the meeting including the times of each lesson and the titles planned:

STUDIES IN FIRST PETER

Strangers in the World

Sunday 9:30 AM

You Shall be my Witnesses 1:1-12

Sunday 10:20 AM

Called to be Different 1:13-25

Sunday 5:00 PM

Do I Want to Grow Up 2:1-12

Monday 7:00 PM

In His Steps 2:13-3:7

Tuesday 7:00 PM

The End is Near 4:7

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Christians, Satan and God 5:1-10

Rom. 10:12 *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek: for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich unto all that call upon him: 13 for, Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 and how shall they preach, except they be sent? even as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things!*

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me.*

THE MOTIVES OF FALSE TEACHERS

by Jim Stauffer

In **2 Peter 2:3** it is said of the false teachers who bring destructive heresies, they do so to make merchandise of those they teach. Their hope is to gain control in the sense of leadership. Once that control is gained, they can accomplish their own desires through those they lead.

There have always been those who seek for one reason or another to avoid obedience to God and to lead others to do the same.

Moses warned the people of such false prophets, describing them as dreamers that test our love for God by attempting to lead us away from Him to other people or things we may worship. In his day Moses commanded the people to put that prophet to death, *"because he hath spoken rebellion against Jehovah your God."* (**Deut. 13:1-5**)

Zerubbabel encountered enemies who presented themselves as friends who wanted to help rebuild God's Temple. (**Ezra 4:2ff**) Nehemiah experienced a false prophet sent from his enemies to cause him to cease his work out of fear for his life. (**Neh. 6:12-14**) You see there are many reasons men do not want to obey the commands of God and follow the path He has deemed best. Inevitably they all come down to personal gain or desire. Isaiah makes this point clear, **Is. 56:10** *His watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber. 11 Yea, the dogs are greedy, they can never have enough; and these are shepherds that cannot understand: they have all turned to their own way, each one to his gain, from every quarter.* Paul makes the same point to the Romans, **Rom. 16:17** *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent.*

The difficult part is recognizing them and then exposing them to others to prevent the loss of honest souls to their lies and distortions.

God in His wisdom has warned us this will not be easy. They will appear to be righteous. Jesus says there are *"false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravening wolves."* (**Mat. 7:15**) Paul says of the *"false apostles"* of his day, they are *"deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into apostles of Christ."* And this, he says is *"no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light."* (**2 Cor. 11:13-15**) Be sure to understand he is equating false teachers with Satan, the one they serve.

Jesus tells us how to recognize false teachers. It is a simple process. They are judged by their fruits. While it is true they will claim to do their works in the name of the Lord, He will recognize their fruit as evil. He will claim He never knew them. He will then condemn them

as workers of iniquity. (**Mat. 7:15-23**)

We, too, are responsible for testing the spirits to see if they are of God. John says there are many false prophets in the world and of necessity we must test each to see if they are true. (**1 John 4:1**) But we can only do this effectively if we know what the true revelation of the Holy Spirit is. Paul says part of the work of the church is to edify the saints or build them up. One of the specified reasons is, *"that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error."* (**Eph. 4:14**)

Why then should we be tolerant of men who teach far and wide those things that contradict the clear teaching of scripture? The religious denominations of our country and the world teach many different doctrines and yet want to claim they are all following Christ. Now Jesus says He is **the way, the truth and the life.** (**John 14:6**) He does not say **a** way, truth or life but **the**, meaning the only way, truth and life. He is very specific and this is what condemned the false teachers mentioned earlier in **Mat. 7:15-23**. They taught **a** message, not **the** message.

Some of these same denominations demonstrate their inconsistency with scripture by placing women in roles of leadership specifically in contradiction to biblical teaching. At the same time they use scripture to condemn those who accept the practice of homosexuality as acceptable to God. The obvious question is how can you accept one thing that opposes scripture and condemn another?

Paul has taught very specifically on both subjects. He tells us the *"head of every man is Christ and the head of the woman is the man and the head of Christ is God."* (**1 Cor. 11:3**) In the same epistle he condemns homosexuality as a sin of those who were not washed or justified in the name of the Lord. He then says they will not inherit the kingdom of God. (**1 Cor. 6:9-11**)

Now ask yourself how one can reject the teaching of **1 Cor. 11:3** and accept that of **1 Cor. 6:9-11**? The answer is in the prophecy of Isaiah. Each has turned to his own way. This inconsistency illustrates to us there is error being taught and people are accepting and following it.

Those who follow such teachers do so either out of ignorance of the scriptures or because it pleases them more than the word of God. It could be they have the *"itching ears"* Paul speaks of in **2 Tim. 4:3**. They have failed in their responsibility to *"test the spirits"* as John said. They have been *"carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men."*

It will serve us well to remember Jesus' words, *"But in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men."* (**Mat. 15:9**) Then in verse 13 after being told the Pharisees were offended by that statement, *"Every plant which my heavenly Father planted not shall be rooted up."*

One of the processes, faulty though it be for establishing the truth of an item for men is to repeat an error sufficiently for it to be accepted as fact. We have observed that in previous articles concerning such false concepts as macroevolution. The same unfounded claims have been made over and over by men until they are accepted by the general population as being true when in reality they have never been proven so.

Jesus warned that when everyone agrees with what you are saying, it is not a compliment. **Luke 6:26** *Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for in the same manner did their fathers to the false prophets.*

Let me suggest two things to all who read this. Do not take consolation in what you believe because the crowd goes along with it. Quite the contrary according to the Lord. Also, let it be known we will try our best, not only during this Gospel Meeting but at all times to speak only what the Lord has authorized through the Holy Spirit.

Bigger Than God

Dan S. Shipley

Nothing in this world is more important to our well-being in the next than having a right relationship with God. **Getting right** with God is the supreme and urgent need of every sinner and **staying right** with God is the most pressing need of every saint. Accordingly, whatever is allowed to come between one and his right relationship with God is extremely serious and needs to be recognized and treated accordingly. In terms of influence, that which hinders a man in serving God becomes —bigger than God Himself. When that hindrance is attributable to people it can only mean that certain individuals exert even a greater influence than God. Whether out of regard for man or a reaction against man, none is bigger than he who is allowed to come between one and his being right with God.

Take, for instance, the kind of allegiance to parents that hinders some in obeying the gospel. When honoring them becomes more important than honoring God and when loyalty to them means disloyalty to the Lord, then they are made bigger and more important than God Himself. It is not often that a choice has to be made between following God or parents, but when it does God says, he that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me (**Matt. 10:37**). No living and loving parent would ever think of coming between his child and God. Those who would allow a deceased parent to do so dishonor both God and parent. Any person, parent or otherwise, whose favor is more coveted than God's and who is able to influence more than God has to be the world's biggest man.

But such bigness may be accorded to enemies as well as kinsmen and friends. Such is the case when sinner or saint allows his personal feelings toward certain Christians to hinder his serving the Lord. How many non-Christians have blamed their plight on the hypocrite in the church? Without realizing it, they actually compliment the hypocrite by allowing him to have more influence on what they do and become than

God. They even allow the hypocrite to determine where they will spend eternity! No hypocrite deserves such influence!

Neither does the preacher or other Christian who is allowed to become a hindrance to one's following Christ. Not a few have quit the church over misunderstandings and conflicts with the brethren. Others have compromised their convictions and gone into liberalism over similar personal differences and feelings of being mistreated. Are our ties with God and truth so fragile and unimportant? Getting away from men must never be at the price of leaving God and truth, yet spite and pride have become the seed of apostasy for many a disgruntled brother. Its as though Jesus had not said, do good to them that hate you, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you (**Lk. 6:27,28**) or had not instructed us concerning sins between brethren (**Matt. 18:15-17**).

Allowing any man, whether friend or foe, to come between me and God is to make him bigger than he should be and is to acknowledge him as being more influential than God. May God save us from such big men and from the attitudes that make them big.

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

Patrick Donahue

The Calvinist will look at a passage that says God does something and assume that means man can have no part in it because God does it. For example they will ignore a hundred passages that teach man is involved in his salvation (most meet conditions – **Mark 16:16** e.g.) because they find a passage teaching God saves us (e.g., **Rom 8:9-10**).

The fallacy of their argument is easily shown by “the Lord's prayer” instruction for us to ask God to “give us this day our daily bread” (**Matt 6:11**). We all recognize from this verse that God gives the faithful Christian the necessities of life (**Matt 6:33**), and even the Calvinist recognizes that God provides us our food through our regular efforts, for example through our jobs. So the Calvinist can readily see in this case that just because one passage says God does something for us, that does not necessarily mean we don't also have a part to play in the matter.

The main lesson the Calvinist needs to learn is to take all of what the Bible says on a particular subject, instead of just the passages he thinks agree with his system and ignoring all others. I am sure if Abraham had used the Calvinistic method of interpreting what God said, because God had previously told Abraham he was to have many descendants through his son Isaac, Abraham would have disbelieved what God said when he told him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice and therefore disobeyed God's command. Instead Abraham chose to find a way that both instructions from God were true (**Heb 11:19**). Most importantly, Abraham believed and obeyed what God said regardless of his own human reasoning and preferences.

And if we do the same with salvation for example, we will believe both that Jesus died “for the remission of sins” (**Matt 26:28**) and that we must be baptized “for the remission of sins” (**Acts 2:38**). Both are true because God said both. We are not free to believe one and reject the other. God saves us through means – we have to meet his stipulated conditions.

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

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Check out the following websites

thelenexaedifier.com

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

J.R. DANIEL IS RECUPERATING AT HOME. LILLIE KEECH HAS RETURNED HOME AND PAT CLOTHIER CONTINUES HER CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIATION.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH RANDY HARSHBARGER BEGINS THIS SUNDAY. LET US SUPPORT IT.

OUR BIBLE CLASS IN ZECHARIAH WILL RESUME SUNDAY 4/27/14.



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