

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"

JULY 20, 2014

"FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS"

Jim Stauffer

I was reminded of this old hymn when I recently read an article in the newspaper by Tom Krause of Nixa, Mo. His comment was precipitated by discussions he had over the Common Core requirements of education in our land. He chose to recommend Common Core standards for life that should remedy the problem of education deficiencies. He had two major points he made.

The first, he said, was to be a good person. He described this good person as one who was, "helpful to others, respectful, kind, caring, tolerant, humble, gentle, forgiving, joyful, positive, passionate, and most important, reverent toward God."

If you do a word search on your computerized Bible program or in a concordance on each of these words or phrases, you will find them to be attributes of the disciples of Christ. More to the point, you will find these in the life Jesus lived and calls on us to follow. **Eph. 5:1** *Be ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for an odor of a sweet smell.*

The second area he addressed was personal responsibility. He said, "I want my child to learn that to be accepted one must plant the seeds of acceptance by accepting others. To be respected one must plant the seeds of respect by respecting others. To be happy one must plant the seeds of happiness by bringing happiness to others." One should never expect to reap what one has not planted. The Apostle Paul taught us the principle of sowing and reaping. **Gal. 6:7** *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life.*

His point is clear. In both of his premises for a good life the primary component is caring for others. Far too many evaluate the quality of their lives by what they can acquire in the way of assets or how much success they can achieve professionally. The lasting effect we can have while living on earth is not in how much we can take for ourselves, but rather how much we can give of ourselves to others. This principle often gets overlooked in difficult times.

Consider the life of the greatest man to grace this planet. It is summed up in the sacrificial effort described by the Apostle Paul in **Phil. 2:1-8**.

Consider all those attributes described by Mr. Krause and you realize they are summed up in the teaching and life of the Lord. No wonder the key element to which he refers is reverence toward God. God is the One mentoring us to be like His Son.

Just before He proved His point by going to the cross for the sins of all, Jesus said, **John 15:13** *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* Do we wish to follow His example? **Luke 6:35** *But love your enemies, and do them good, and lend, never despairing; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be sons of the Most High: for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil.* Of course, it requires a conversion from our selfish ways to living lives of love as He did. **1 John 4:11** *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* We must be born again; become a new creature; put off the old man and put on the new; crucifying our old man, the body of sin in baptism. (**John 3:3-5; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24; Rom. 6:6**)

If we wish to help Christ in His mission, "to seek and save the lost" (**Lk. 19:10**), we must live our lives sacrificially as He did. **2 Cor. 8:9** *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich.* We will then realize when Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive", He was not limiting that to financial benevolence.

The life of the disciple of Jesus Christ is more than the Pharisaical attitude of, "I am right because I have checked off every block in the list of things the Bible says to do." Rather it is the joy one receives when he has learned to give of himself to the Lord first and then to others, "as he has opportunity". (**Gal. 6:10**) It is only when we live this kind of life devoted to our Savior's teaching that we can truly "let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven." (**Mat. 5:16**)

Again, it begs the question, "How many of the problems of mankind and the nations of the world would disappear if everyone followed the "footprints of Jesus"?"

HOW WE LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Part One *by Dudley Ross Spears*

In this issue and subsequent editions we will present a Five part series of articles on How We Learn From The Bible by bro. Spears.

How we learn from the Bible is not as complex as some present it to be. No special classes, catechisms, orientation or human creeds are required. Paul wrote to the Ephesian church, *"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: how that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, hereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ).* - **Eph. 3:1-4.**

The mystery was revealed, made known or manifest. It was not hidden in cryptic messages that need special means of decoding. Timothy was a reader of the Old Testament and he knew what he read. He learned the message he studied - **2 Tim. 3:15-16.** Reading has to be done with a hunger and thirst after what is true and right -- never just to prove a point. Jesus chided Jews of his day for their faulty reading of scripture. They searched the scriptures but failed to understand what the scriptures meant - **John 5:39-40.** Such a thing is always dangerous.

How should we apply what we read? The will to obey or comply with what is read from holy writ gives assurance of knowing the truth. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" - **John 7:17.** The truth, once understood and obeyed brings freedom from sin - **John 8:32.**

Jesus commissioned his chosen ambassadors with the task of teaching or making disciples. Disciples are students who are taught. They are made by being taught the truth. Once a learner learns the truth and is baptized into the name of the divine Godhead, he still needs teaching. Thus Jesus told his apostles to make disciples (learners), baptizing them into the name of the sacred Three. The Lord gave his apostles the duty of "teaching them to observe all that I've commanded you. . ." - **Matt. 28:19-20.**

There are ways to learn what the Lord told his apostles to teach the church. One is reading, the other is hearing and another is putting what is learned into practice - **James 1:21-22.** We read not only what the apostles taught but also what they did -- and we imitate them. This was the method of Jesus - **Acts 1:1.** The apostles had the commission to set forth precedents that are to be imitated by the church - **Phil. 4:9; Heb. 13:7**

(assume this last reference to be the apostles who had spoken the word of God to them).

Jesus also said to his apostles, *"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"* - **Matt. 18:18.** The apostles, under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit, were to bind or loose as they were instructed. No man or set of men has that right. No mere human being has the right to bind anything the Lord and his apostles didn't bind, nor does anyone have the right to loose what they did not loose. The only legitimate and right binding done in the church is based on apostolic teaching and/or practice.

What precedents set forth by the apostles are binding on the church? More to follow.

God's Amazing Bible

How much do we take for granted? We take for granted freedom in this country, and the blood spilled to make that possible. We also take for granted the accessible nature of the Bible and our freedom to read it, believe it and practice it. Go to other countries and you will realize just how much we take for granted. But, our freedom gives us opportunity to learn the most amazing evidences for God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ being the Son of the Living God. There are many amazing things about the Bible, but one feature sets it high above all other religious books. We have the prophetic word, and we have that prophetic word made more sure and certain.

Consider the element of prophecy in the Bible, unmatched by any other religious book. Consider the Old Testament as the part that Jewish writers wrote hundreds of years before Jesus Christ was born. Then consider how many prophecies they wrote that described Him in amazing detail. Consider the odds of one man fulfilling just eight of those prophecies, to say nothing of the dozens and dozens of prophecies, types, and shadows of this Messiah and His kingdom fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Consider the following article:

The Mathematical Odds of Jesus Fulfilling Prophecy: The following probabilities are taken from Peter Stoner in *Science Speaks* (Moody Press, 1963) to show that coincidence is ruled out by the science of probability. Stoner says that by using the modern science of probability in reference to eight prophecies, 'we find

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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

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thelenexaedifier.com

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist/

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NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

J.R. DANIEL AND PAT CLOTHIER CONTINUE TO RECUPERATE AT HOME. LILLIE KEECH IS RECEIVING THERAPY AT THE PROVIDENCE REHAB CENTER. TAKE SOME TIME THIS WEEK TO GIVE AN ENCOURAGING CALL OR VISIT. PLEASE REMEMBER OUR BELOVED FRIEND, LORETTA TAPP IN YOUR PRAYERS AND THANK GOD FOR HIS MERCY UPON BOTH OUR FLESH AND SPIRITS.

WE ARE NOW STUDYING THE CHURCH (GIVING ANSWERS) ON SUNDAY AND THE PROPHET JEREMIAH ON WEDNESDAYS.



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