

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

John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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KNOW DEATH AND YOU WILL KNOW LIFE

Jim Stauffer

Death teaches us many lessons to be used in life. We know our opportunities in this life are limited by death itself. Death is the time when the soul of man leaves his body and returns to God who gave it. **(Eccl. 12:7)** In this condition the body no longer has life and cannot regain it. People have what they call bucket lists. A bucket list itself is an acknowledgement of the limited life each of us has in these earthly bodies.

The definitive nature of death makes us aware there will not be a time when we can go back and change the things we have done in life. We must live with the gnawing reminder that those wrongs cannot be undone and we will leave this earth without being able to change them.

At this point we find ourselves in another state of death. This death is spiritual and represents a separation of our relationship with God rather than a physical separation of the body and soul. **Is. 59:1** *Behold, Jehovah's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear.* Paul describes this condition as being dead in our sins. **(Eph. 2:1)**

The Great Redeemer has brought sunshine to an otherwise dreary picture by offering Himself on Calvary's cross for the sins of mankind allowing us forgiveness for those wrongs done in the past. Notice that forgiveness is attached to obedience. **Rom. 6:16** *Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?* A further commentary on that obedience is we no longer live according to our guidelines but according to His. **2 Cor. 5:14** *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and he died for all, that they that live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who for their sakes died and rose again.*

The value of this forgiveness of sins is that we no longer have to give an account of those evil things we have done in the past. Those things are forgiven so they will not be brought up in the judgment as they would have been without His redemption. **2 Cor. 5:10** *For we*

must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

There is now a clear contrast in the death of one who has appealed to God for redemption by obeying His commands and the one who never felt that was important and is depending upon good citizenship and neighborly kindness to please God. **Rev. 14:13** *And I heard a voice from heaven saying, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them.* Notice the promise in this text is to those **who die in the Lord.**

Let us take a brief look at what it means to be **in the Lord.** Paul explains the need for the Corinthians to abstain from immorality and instead glorify God in their bodies because they were bought with a price. **(1 Cor. 6:20)** He tells the Galatians that to be sons of God by faith we must put on Christ in baptism. **(Gal. 3:27)** In **Acts 2:38-47** we learn those who were saved were those who were baptized for the remission of their sins and then added to the church because they were saved. Then we see that Jesus purchased the church with His blood. **Acts 20:28** *Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit hath made you bishops, to feed the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood.* It is clear one needs to be a member of this body, the church Jesus purchased with His own blood and in order to do that one needs to become obedient to the command to be baptized for the remission of his past sins.

This is all we can do with the wrongs or sins of the past. But lest we be discouraged by our sin, we must keep in mind we are like all men in that regard. **Rom. 3:23** *for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;*

Death limits us in what we can do to make amends for our sin, but God has stepped in to rescue us from ourselves. As a result of his gracious act, no one has excuse for failing to acknowledge those things and make peace with God and regain the life we have through Him by simple obedience to His word. The real question as always is, do you believe His word?

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FIFTY SHADES OF GRAY: SKIP THIS MOVIE

R.J. Evans

The series of books (Fifty Shades of Gray), based on all the reviews given, is pornography, plain and simple. It is certainly not what Christians, who seek to keep their minds and hearts pure, would be reading. Now there is a movie coming out. Below is a warning, not by a gospel preacher or elder, but a psychiatrist. We are living in a time when ungodly changes are rapidly occurring in our present culture. Think of all the changes over the past 10 years! Who would have believed it! This week, the state of Alabama, of all places, started allowing same-sex marriages. This is a state that has always been referred to as the "buckle" of the Bible belt. Truly sad!

We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by the world and what is coming to the "silver screen". Valentines Day! A great date movie---don't be deceived, especially young people!

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness. Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20).

A Psychiatrist's Letter to Young People About 50 Shades of Grey

MIRIAM GROSSMAN, M.D.

There's nothing gray about Fifty Shades of Grey. It's all black.

I help people who are broken inside. I ask questions, and listen carefully to the answers.

One thing I've learned is that young people are utterly confused about love — finding it and keeping it. They make poor choices, and end up in lots of pain.

I don't want you to suffer like the people I see in my office, so I'm warning you about a new movie called Fifty Shades of Grey. Even if you don't see the film, its toxic message is seeping into our culture, and could plant dangerous ideas in your head.

Fifty Shades of Grey is being released for Valentine's Day, so you'll think it's a romance, but don't fall for it. The movie is actually about a sick, dangerous relationship filled with physical and emotional abuse. It seems glamorous, because the actors are gorgeous, have expensive cars and planes, and Beyonce is singing. You might conclude that Christian and Ana are cool, and that their relationship is acceptable.

Don't allow yourself to be manipulated! The people behind the movie just want your money; they have no concern whatsoever about you and your dreams.

Abuse is not glamorous or cool. It is never OK, under any circumstances.

This is what you need to know about Fifty Shades of Grey: as a child, Christian Grey was terribly neglected. He is confused about love because he never experienced the real thing. In his mind, love is tangled up with bad feelings like pain and embarrassment. Christian enjoys hurting women in bizarre ways. Anastasia is an immature girl who falls for Christian's looks and wealth, and foolishly goes along with his desires.

In the real world, this story would end badly, with

Christian in jail, and Ana in a shelter — or morgue. Or Christian would continue beating Ana, and she'd stay and suffer. Either way, their lives would most definitely not be a fairy tale. Trust me on this one.

As a doctor, I'm urging you: DON'T see Fifty Shades of Grey. Get informed, learn the facts, and explain to your friends why they shouldn't see it either.

Here are a few of the dangerous ideas promoted by Fifty Shades of Grey:

1. Girls want guys like Christian who order them around and get rough.

No! A psychologically healthy woman avoids pain. She wants to feel safe, respected and cared for by a man she can trust. She dreams about wedding gowns, not handcuffs.

2. Guys want a girl like Anastasia who is meek and insecure.

Wrong. A psychologically healthy man wants a woman who can stand up for herself. If he is out of line, he wants her to set him straight.

3. Anastasia exercises free choice when she consents to being hurt, so no one can judge her decision.

Flawed logic. Sure, Anastasia had free choice — and she chose poorly. A self-destructive decision is a bad decision.

4. Anastasia makes choices about Christian in a thoughtful and detached manner.

Doubtful. Christian constantly supplies Anastasia with alcohol, impairing her judgment. Also, Anastasia becomes sexually active with Christian — her first experience ever — soon after meeting him. Neuroscience suggests their intimacy could jump start her feelings of attachment and trust, before she's certain he deserved them. Sex is a powerful experience — particularly the first time. Finally, Christian manipulates Anastasia into signing an agreement prohibiting her from telling anyone that he is a long time abuser.

Alcohol, sex, manipulation — hardly the ingredients of a thoughtful, detached decision.

5. Christian's emotional problems are cured by Anastasia's love.

Only in a movie. In the real world, Christian wouldn't change to any significant degree. If Anastasia was fulfilled by helping emotionally disturbed people, she should have become a psychiatrist or social worker.

6. It's good to experiment with sexuality.

The bottom line: the ideas of Fifty Shades of Grey are dangerous, and can lead to confusion and poor decisions about love.

Maybe for adults in a healthy, long term, committed, monogamous relationship, AKA "marriage". Otherwise, you're at high risk for STDs, pregnancy, and sexual assault. It's wise to be very careful who you allow to get close to you, physically and emotionally, because just one encounter can throw you off track and change your life forever.

The bottom line: the ideas of Fifty Shades of Grey are dangerous, and can lead to confusion and poor decisions about love. There are vast differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships, but the movie blurs those differences, so you begin to wonder:

"What's healthy in a relationship? What's sick? There are so many shades of grey — I'm not sure."

Listen, it's your safety and future we're talking about here. There's no room for doubt: An intimate relationship that includes violence, consensual or not, is completely unacceptable.

This is black and white. There are no shades of grey here. Not even one.

A BELOVED SISTER HAS GONE ON

Many who receive this paper will know and remember Jim and Loretta Tapp, who were members of the Lenexa church of Christ for 36 years. Jim served as an elder for 25 of those years with Loretta faithfully serving both him and God as she walked by his side.

In 2007 Jim and Loretta moved to Lawrenceville, Ga. to be near their two daughters and grandchildren as they would live out the remaining years of retirement.

Many people both in and out of the church have been positively affected by the lives of these fine folks. Loretta will be missed by all who knew her and yet remembered fondly by those as well.

Abe Lincoln is credited with the sentiment that we are a compilation of the people we meet in this life. I hope those who have benefitted by knowing Jim and Loretta are aware of the impact they have made on their lives and will make a special effort to pass that on to others they encounter on this journey below.

I have included the obituary from the funeral home in Georgia for those who enjoy viewing the family relationships.

Loretta Faye Tapp age 78 of Lawrenceville, GA passed away Friday, March 6, 2015. She is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, James Tapp of Lawrenceville, GA; daughter and son-in-law, Marla and Allen Parker of Lawrenceville, GA; son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Kathy Tapp of Spring Hill, KS; and daughter and son-in-law, Mona and Andy Robertson of Dacula, GA; grandchildren, Lori Robertson, Lauren Tapp, Alex Parker, Jimmy Robertson, Jarod Tapp, Katie Robertson, Anna Parker, and Becky Robertson; brother-in-law, Joseph Colosetti of Union Town, OH; nephew, Gary Glenn and his wife Dee; niece, Beth Graal and her husband Rory; great-nephews, Jeff Glenn and his fiancé Ryan and Taylor Glenn and his wife Whitney; and great-niece, Toriane Graal and great-great niece, Hadley Glenn. She was preceded in death by her parents, Freeman and Nellie Wilford sisters, Frances Colosetti and Virginia Glenn.

Loretta was born in Murray, KY and lived in Akron, OH, where she earned her RN certificate. She moved to the Kansas City area, where she lived for more than 30 years. She continued her career in nursing for over 50 years. She was a lifelong and faithful member of the Church of Christ.

Funeral Services Honoring the Life of Loretta will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 2:00 PM at Tom M. Wages Lawrenceville Chapel with Justin Monts and James Stauffer officiating. Interment will follow at Gwinnett Memorial Park. The family will receive friends

on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 from 11AM until the time of services. Condolences may be sent to or viewed at www.wagesfuneralhome.com. Tom M. Wages Funeral Service LLC, "A Family Company" 120 Scenic Hwy Lawrenceville, GA 770-963-2411.

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

"We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel" (**Colossians 1:3-5**).

In order to please God we must love God. We probably think that loving God is something that is easy to do. After all, God is love, His Son died for us, we are the recipients of His grace and mercy; so, yes, we will love God; that is something we all can do. But is it? There are at least two problems associated with pleasing God. First, we have to make a choice to act, and think, and live as God wants us to. Paying lip service to this kind of life is easier than the actual, out-working of a life that pleases God. Second, the culture we live in can easily draw us away from a life that pleases God—that is, if we allow this to happen.

The tide of popular trends or public opinion can be strong. We are inundated by messages that constantly say that whatever lifestyle a person chooses to live is OK. This is nothing new. "*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*" (**Isaiah 5:20**). Add to this the "post modern" message that says there is no such thing as absolute truth, and you have the formula for "anything and everything goes!" This is the "new normal."

Making the choice to please God begins with seeking out God's will for our lives. We need to study our Bibles more. This is more than just "daily Bible reading." Serious, concentrated study is a good beginning place to regain our moral compass. Our passage from Colossians says that we recognize God as our Father and we recognize Jesus as Lord. Christians belong to God in a special way, in a special kind of relationship. This relationship naturally flows from our faith, hope, and love—a triad of qualities mentioned often by the Apostle Paul.

Faith, hope, and love are the sphere in which we live before the Lord. Faith and love spring from hope. In Colossians, faith is tied to knowledge; we must know God and His will for our lives; we have faith in Him and in the need to obey that will. The kind of love we have for each other encourages and helps protect us from the onslaughts of this alien culture we live in. Lives dominated by faith, hope, and love protect us from the cesspools of this world. Let us "walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Then we are "*strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy*" (**Col. 1:10-11**). Can you please God? Yes! But it is your choice.

Randy Harsbarger

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:

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING
IN YOUR PRAYERS: J.R. DANIEL,
MARY CZIRR, IRENE HURD AND JAN
PATRICK. GRANT CLOTHIER IS IN
OVERLAND PARK NURSING AND
REHAB CENTER.

JESSIE GIBSON IS IN OLATHE MED
CENTER AFTER SURGERY.

LORETTA TAPP PASSED AWAY FRIDAY
MORNING - FUNERAL TUESDAY

OUR CURRENT STUDIES ARE: SUNDAY
MORNING AND WEDNESDAY EVENING:
EVIDENCES

SERMON SUNDAY MORNING:
A JUDGING CONTEST



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