

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 12, 2015

CONFRONTING FALSE DOCTRINE (1)

Jim Stauffer

The task of calling on false teachers to justify their message in the light of God's word is difficult and often thankless. Many will consider you heartless and without soul when you confront someone who is presenting a social panacea as the gospel of Christ. How much of the work in pulpits in our country today is trying to solve the social issues of everyday life rather than dealing with the spiritual deficiencies of individuals?

Every false doctrine taught has its roots in the heart of some man and not God. We have an elderly brother at Lenexa who is currently shut in due to debilitating age. Another brother and I visit with him weekly and he often asks the same question regarding those who teach one can be saved without biblical baptism, that is immersion for the remission of sins. His question is, "If the Apostle Peter told those folks in Acts 2 to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins, who changed the rules and when did they change them?" I always chuckle a bit because he knows the answer but has a dogged attachment to the truth of scripture and will not let it go. The truth is man decided it was inconvenient and found an easier way than God requires. The problem with that is, God grants forgiveness so He sets the rules and they are unchangeable if we wish to receive the benefit He offers.

The first hurdle we must overcome then, is to be willing to endure the criticism we will receive for not accepting what the world wants. John tells us how to view the world and what its effect on us will be. **1 John 2:15** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.* Are you willing to switch your love from the Father to the world? The lust of the flesh is not always as apparent as when we view fornication or violence against another. It can be hidden in the pride of the heart of a man. That man can so desire the fame and comforts the world has to offer he is driven by that desire rather than by God's word.

This man has become a friend of the world. He has switched his love from God to the world. **James 4:4** *Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God.* The seriousness of this offense is made clear by the choice of strong words James makes.

It is clear then, the first thing we must recognize is the absolute verity of God's word. **John 17:17** *Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth.* If the religious people of our country were as offended when God's word is violated as they are when the Constitution of the United States is abridged, we would be on the road to unity in Christ rather than this sort of unity of spiritual diversity that is being recommended.

2 John 9 *Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son.* There is no room for alteration in the instruction God gives to man, nor has there ever been. **Deut. 4:2** *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God which I command you. Rev. 22:18* *I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: 19 and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book.* When you open your Bible to read, know that you are reading the revelation of the mind of God by way of the Spirit of God. **(1 Cor. 2:9-13)** While it is admirable to become well acquainted with His word, yes, even to the point of being able to quote it, do not allow familiarity to become contempt.

Please know that Jesus Christ had a reason to warn the multitude during His Sermon on the Mount against *false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.* He tells all men we will know them by their fruits. This is followed by the criteria He offers to judge their fruits. That criteria is the

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will of His Father that is revealed by the Holy Spirit previously mentioned here. Many, He says, will present the image of speaking and acting in the name of or by His authority, but He will condemn them as workers of iniquity because they pretend they are doing His will but indeed are not. We are to know them by their fruits and to accomplish that we must compare their words and actions to His.

As we stated, it will not be an easy thing to do because these wolves in sheep's clothing are successful in causing many to believe they are indeed sheep.

The Family Meal

By L.A. Stauffer

Much has been said in our times by psychiatrists and family experts about bonding between parents and children. Fathers and mothers are told to hold, hug, rock, and talk with their children in the very first hours and days of their lives. This, it is believed and strongly affirmed, will create healthy family relationships and build self-esteem in the children. How much of this is measurable by true scientific research may be questionable, but it surely makes good common sense.

A sense of being loved and respected is important to a healthy mind and to feelings of self-worth. Why would not the handling of children and words of endearment early on mold a wholesome attitude in offspring toward themselves and their parents? And what is also clear is that such relationships must continue on throughout childhood and adolescence right into adulthood. The bonding is ongoing when there is togetherness and unity—when the family shares in work, play, problem-solving, Bible study, prayer, and a host of activities.

It is a great time for visiting with one another: talking about Dad's day at work, about mom's labors in the home, about the kid's activities at school. It might include talking about a math problem, a funny joke, a favorite teacher, a political issue, an outstanding sports feat, a moral dilemma, an encouraging friend, an anticipated career—whatever. The important point is that families spend time together and show an interest in one another and one another's lives.

A great time to do this is at the dinner table when the whole family assembles for the evening meal. The only problem is that there is no family meal any longer. The first problem is that Mom is no longer in the home to fix meals. With the extra money she makes outside the home they can grab on the way home some McDonalds, a pizza, or a few tacos. And a second problem: they take their meals to the living room and gather around the TV to watch a cartoon or a recorded sit-com.

And there goes what could be the most important hour of the day. The family meal, brethren, if I may say it without being sacrilegious, ought to be the "altar" around which the parents and children assemble each day to display their love, honor, and interest in and toward one another. It should be a "sacred" time—a time set apart for commitment and dedication to the needs and interest of each individual family member. Someone said: "The

family that eats together stays together."

Paul Harvey, many years ago, reported on the lack of crime in Chinatown—an area in Chicago. He had gone to Chinatown to speak to public officials and other important figures about the profound respect children had toward their parents and concluded that one reason for the low crime rate was that children had a wholesome dread of bringing reproach on their families. But why did they esteem their families so highly? Harvey's conclusion, after much research and many questions, was that the family meal was sacred to the Chinese; it was inviolable—a ritual in which every family member must share.

A "worthy woman," according to Proverbs 31, *"looks well to the ways of her household...she rises also while it is yet night, and gives food to her household"* (vv 15, 27).

Worthy wives and mothers take seriously the role of cooking for their husbands and children. When they do they can set a time daily for a family gathering in which the members of the family share their lives, blend their hearts, and bond their souls in oneness and love. Oh what wonders this one simple, ancient practice could work in a nation that is divided and falling apart at the seams. The family meal, brethren: remember it and restore it in your home!

Taken from Preacher Training Classes website, preachertrainingclasses.com

UNANSWERED PRAYERS

When I think of prayer, I think of it as the very essence of the Christian's relationship to God. It is our link of communication with Him, as the New Testament is His link of communication with us. I, therefore, regard prayer as a sacred, individual right and privilege.

Because of this view of mine, I have always been hesitant to say much about the Christian and his prayers. We must teach what the Bible teaches about prayer, leaving the application of that message to each Christian. I try to do that.

Jesus taught that men ought always to pray (**Lk. 18:1**). Paul said that we should pray without ceasing (**1 Thess. 5:17**). James taught us to pray for one another (**Jas. 5:16**). In the application of these instructions, there are certain things that we must keep in mind. We must prepare our minds to pray by setting aside worldly cares and concerns. We address the prayer to God who is our Father. We are not praying that our will might be done, but that God's will be done (**1 Jn. 5:14**). We are to pray in faith that God will do as his word says he will do (**Jas. 1:6-7**). Scriptural prayers are offered with humility, in the name of Christ, that is, by his authority and unto his glory (**Jn. 14:13; Col. 3:17**).

When Paul wrote to Timothy (**1 Tim. 2:1**), he told him that he should offer supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks for all men. "Supplications" are our requests regarding our needs. "Prayers" are any discourse with God, which would include petitions, praise and thanksgiving. "Intercessions" are our pleas to God on behalf of others. "Thanksgiving" obviously

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expresses our thanks for the multitude of blessings, both physical and spiritual, which we enjoy in this life. When we offer our prayers, we always want to remember to be thankful for the multitude of blessings God has bestowed upon us. Christians are saved by the grace of God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and through compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in the New Testament. Someone was concerned enough about us to tell us of the love of God and show us the things that we need to do to be saved. Certainly Christians are thankful for this blessing. But, we are also given great privileges, opportunities and comforts that are physical in their nature and it would be an act of utter ingratitude if we were not thankful for these physical blessings as well.

Intercessions, our prayers for others, will include petitions unto God in behalf of many. We intercede for our brethren, our family, our enemies, our rulers, the sick, those who are lost and for elders, deacons and preachers (**Phil. 1:9; Matt. 5:44; 1 Tim. 2:2; Rom. 10:1; Jas. 5:13; 2 Thess. 3:1-2**). Many prayers are prayers of intercession.

I believe in the power of prayer (**Jas. 5:16**). I, therefore, would encourage and admonish all of God's people to be regular and fervent in prayer. For some reason, God appointed that we should tell him of our petitions for others, and express to him our gratitude. I could reason that, being God, he knows our petitions and our thanksgivings. But my "reasonings" do not constitute the rules governing prayer. Thus, we must simply do what he told us to do -- pray!

Something interesting happened the other day. I was listening to the radio and I heard a new song by a country singer. I have thought about a line or two in the song ever since. I doubt that it was his purpose to make it so, but it contained a powerful message. I was so impressed with it that I have planned this article for two weeks. The line said, "Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers." Think about that a moment.

Suppose a person prayed for wealth. If he got the wealth in answer to his prayer, would he be able to handle the changes it would work in his life? Have you noted some of the problems people have had who have won great lottery prizes? Some of them are in prison for writing "hot checks." Great temptation would come to the wealthy. Could you keep your faith intact in the face of these temptations? "Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers!"

Or, consider the prayers that we offer for people who are very old or sick. We often pray that they would enjoy greater length of life. But, old age and sickness can be a great burden, not just for those who suffer these things, but for their loved ones as well. Suppose a family member is suffering from cancer. He grows weaker daily, and his pain is immense. Not wanting to give up our loved one, we pray that he might live awhile longer. If the prayer is answered, he has more days of weakness and pain.

"Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers!" There are times when we think we know best. Based on that assumption, we petition the throne of God for the things we desire. However, we are aware that we

certainly do not always know what is best. That God does know is the essence of our trust in him. When we offer our prayers according to his will, we are not only asking as the Bible teaches us to ask, but we are also asking that his will override ours in the provision of what is best. This is the simple process of, in our minds, granting to God his inherent supremacy in deciding what is best for all concerned. Most of us, if honest, will readily confess that his will is better than ours anyway. Our prayers will always reflect that truth. Continue to pray to God. Let him answer your prayers. But, be prepared when he does not answer as you ask.

By Lewis Willis - in Guardian of Truth; April 4, 1991;

THE GOSPEL CALLS YOU

The gospel of Christ is powerful because it is the Word of God and of His beloved Son. It is the truth that sanctifies, it is words of eternal life. If we will receive with meekness the divine revelation, it is able to save our souls (**Jas. 1:21; Rom. 1:16**).

The Lord Jesus Christ sent out His apostles to preach the gospel and make disciples. *"How shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard?"* (**Rom. 10:14**). *"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"* (**10:15**). The doctrine of Christ is designed to prick hearts and to lead men to conversion. It invites all to learn and to follow Jesus (**Matt. 11:28,29**).

Christians in Thessalonica had turned from idols to serve the one true God, waiting for His Son to return because Jesus delivers from the wrath to come (**1 Thes. 1:9,10**). Having received the Word of the Lord themselves, they in turn sounded forth that same Word in every place (**1:8**). Convicted that the gospel was truly the Word of God (**2:13**), they spread the good news of the Savior.

The gospel is the means by which God uses to call men unto salvation for the obtaining of glory (**2 Thes. 2:14**). The apostle Paul beseeched Christians *"to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called"* (**Eph. 4:1**). How were the Ephesians called unto Christ? Paul traveled to Ephesus and preached the gospel to the city (**Acts 19**). Many believed and became disciples of Christ.

"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe" (**1 Cor. 1:18,21**). Jesus announced, *"The truth shall make you free"* (**Jno. 8:32**). The Word of God is the truth (**17:17**). The faith and hope of the saints in Colosse was the result of them hearing *"the Word of the truth of the gospel"* (**Col. 1:5**). God calls by the gospel all sinners to be saved through His Son Jesus Christ and not by any other means.

By David Bunting, in Northfield Boulevard Notable Notes Sept. 4, 2011

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:

IRENE HURD, MARY CZIRR, JAN PATRICK AND GRANT CLOTHIER. JESSIE GIBSON IS AT HOEGER HOUSE RECUPRATING. J.R. DANIEL IS IN O.P. REGIONAL WITH PNEUMONIA. MEREDITH DANIEL IS HOME RECOVERING FROM A FALL.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY IS THE STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JOHN - WITH RON PECK. WEDNESDAY OUR STUDY IS THE SUBJECT OF PREMILLENNIALISM.

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: VISITING SPEAKER - ERIC PARKER FROM LOUISVILLE, KY.



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