

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"*

**MAY 10, 2015**

## IF YOU KNEW IT WAS THE TRUTH, WOULD YOU LISTEN?

### **GOSPEL MEETING**

**With Leon Goff**

**May 17-20**

**7845 Cottonwood Drive**

**Lenexa, Kansas**

**Dates and Topics:**

**Sunday 9:30 AM**

**Lessons From the Prodigal for the Family**

**Sunday 10:20 AM**

**The Joy of Being a Christian**

**Sunday 5:00 PM**

**Suffering, Why and How**

**Monday 7:00 PM**

**Conversion of the Samaritans**

**Tuesday 7:00 PM**

**Searching for the Church Jesus Built**

**Wednesday 7:00 PM**

**Which Heart Do You Have**

We should ask ourselves if we truly believe the Bible. The lessons bro. Goff will present are from the Holy Scriptures which according to the apostle Paul are the revelation of the mind of God as delivered by the Holy Spirit. **(1 Cor. 2:9-13)**

Jesus answered the question of Pilate with words that could indict us all. Pilate had asked if Jesus was indeed a king. Jesus answered him by saying, **John 18:37 .....Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.**

The question then facing each of us is are we of the truth. Will we hear His voice? Jesus' purpose in being on the earth was to deliver the truth. He lived and taught the truth, then died and was raised from the grave to serve as the integral part of the truth God sent to set man free. **John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.** It is only through the truth of God man can become sanctified. **John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth.** Jesus is not only representative of this truth, He is indeed the One in whom we must have faith to receive justification. **(Rom. 3:24-26)**

This faith we must have is just as singular and rigid as truth itself. Jude admonishes us **to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 3)** This tells us clearly the truth Jesus came to bear witness unto is the message we must believe in to have the faith once for all delivered.

Now we can see this truth and faith are not things one can attain to without deliberation and intent. We cannot decide in our own minds to be a "good citizen" and let that stand as our commitment to the truth of Jesus Christ. While a Christian must be a good citizen, he must be one who aspires to the very message Christ sent in both His life and death.

The church at Lenexa has made a decision to present a series of lessons that teach and promote the very truth Jesus taught.

Both the members of the church and the members of the community who learn of this effort, will be challenged to listen to and heed the words that are spoken by bro. Goff in these lessons.

For one to do that he must commit to attending these meetings to hear the word of the Lord.

# God's Pattern

Patterns are an important part of our lives in many ways. When a contractor builds a house, he follows a pattern known as a "blueprint." When a mechanic repairs your car, he uses a pattern known as an auto repair manual. When a mother sews a dress for her small daughter, she follows a "dress pattern." And when your favorite cake is made, the cook followed a pattern called a "recipe."

In each case there is a standard pattern to be followed to achieve the desired results or the correct end product. The pattern must be followed or the end product will not be faithful to the original pattern and the results could be disastrous. The house not built to pattern may leak or worse, it may collapse; the car not repaired by the manual may run like a "lemon" or not run at all; the dress not made by the pattern may look more like a clown outfit; and the cake not made by the recipe could wind up unfit for the family dog. Many people who have the common sense to recognize the need to faithfully follow patterns in their everyday lives, fail to recognize the most important pattern of all . . . the Bible. God has always provided a pattern for His people to serve as a guide to worship and service acceptable to Him.

In the Old Testament, God led the children of Israel out of the slavery of Egypt down to the foot of Mt. Sinai. There God called Moses up the mountain and gave him a "pattern" of laws and a "pattern" for a place of worship for the Jews. As God gave Moses this divine pattern, He also gave a warning: *"According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so ye shall make it"* (Ex. 25:9). And He repeated this warning: *"And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shown thee in the mount"* (Ex. 25:40).

Following God's pattern, the Jews constructed the tabernacle, a tent, and fashioned all the articles for worship to be placed within and without the tabernacle, the brazen altar, the laver, the golden candlestick, and table of shewbread, the altar of incense and the ark of the covenant. For over 500 years the tabernacle served as the place of worship for the Jews.

Not all the Jews heeded God's warning through Moses to follow His pattern. Two priests determined to disregard God's pattern of worship and follow their own worship. Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron *"offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not"* (Lev. 10:1). The consequences of violating God's divine order were immediate and dire, *"And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord"* (Lev. 10:2). God's drastic punishment of these two men was for our benefit to teach us to treat His pattern with respect and obedience.

When David became king of the Jews, he planned to build a permanent place of worship, a temple, in the city of Jerusalem. While David was not allowed by the Lord to actually build the temple, David did make all the plans and preparations for the construction of the temple which he passed on to his son Solomon to complete. As David

commissioned Solomon to build the temple, he explained the source of the blueprints, *"All this,"* said David, *"the Lord made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern"* (1 Chron. 28:19). David urged Solomon to follow God's pattern in the commands of His Law as well as building His temple.

Despite God's warnings, again the Jews failed to faithfully respect and keep God's pattern. Towards the end of his life Solomon drifted away from God and His commandments. Following Solomon under the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, more Jewish kings were unfaithful rather than faithful to the Lord. Because of the apostasy of the Jews, God allowed them to be taken into captivity and the temple to be destroyed.

While in captivity in Babylon, God sent a special vision of the temple to the prophet Ezekiel. In the vision Ezekiel saw a man with a measuring rod measuring God's temple and all the articles in it. Why? What was the meaning of the vision? *"Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern"* (Ez. 43:10).

Just as God gave the Jews a pattern through Moses and David, He has given us a pattern of work and worship through Christ and His apostles. The Old Testament, the tabernacle and the temple were only *"a copy and a shadow of heavenly things"* that are now provided for us by Christ under the New Testament.

The pattern Christians have to follow is complete and sufficient. It is complete as it has *"given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness"* (2 Pet. 1:3). It is sufficient as it *"is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works"* (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

As God warned the Jews not to violate or tamper with His pattern, He warns us also.

1. We must obey God's pattern. It is necessary to obey *"that form (pattern) of doctrine which was first delivered to you"* (Rom. 6:17). To fail to obey His pattern leads to sin and spiritual death (Rom. 6:18-23).

2. We must walk by God's pattern. The inspired apostles, led by the Holy Spirit are an "example" or pattern for us to learn from, imitate and walk after (Phil. 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:9).

3. We must keep God's pattern. *"Hold fast the form (pattern) of sound words, which thou hast heard of me. . ."* Paul instructed (2 Tim. 1: 13).

4. We must make all things by God's pattern. As Moses was warned to follow the pattern of God in all things, so God warns us in the New Testament *"... for 'See,' sayeth He, 'that thou make all things according to the pattern . . .'"* (Heb. 8:5).

Will you heed the warning?

**By Wayne Greeson-- Via Guardian of Truth,  
March 19, 1987**

## BLACK JESUS

How many of you parents know that at night the

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children's channel called Cartoon Network transforms into the Adult Swim Channel? A channel that broadcasts such "satirical sewage" as repeats of Seth MacFarlane's "Family Guy" and "American Dad" cartoons! How many parents know this? And how many of us know that these shows rarely miss an opportunity to mock, lampoon and blaspheme Christianity?

In the second quarter of 2014, this tripe on Adult Swim made it the No. 1 television network on basic cable for adults 18-24, 18-34 and 18-49, and also for males in those age brackets. Its mockery has made fans.

Now, Adult Swim is airing a live-action satire called "Black Jesus." This is a show that portrays a contemporary Jesus who is black. It seems that in our overly race-conscious culture that the skin pigmentation of Jesus is more important than His message.

The historical Jesus was neither Arian nor African. He was a Middle East Jew (**John 4:9**) and He would have had the physical characteristics of any typical Middle eastern Jew of His day. However, the color of Jesus skin is not why I am outraged at the "Black Jesus" satire. Nor is it the subject of this article.

"Black Jesus" is a program where the sinless (**Hebrews 4:15**) and all-powerful Son of God (**Matthew 14:33**) is transformed into a black man who cusses like a sailor and smokes marijuana in the mean streets of Compton, California. There is absolutely NOTHING redeemable about such blasphemous satire. Parents do you know what your children are watching on television? Sure the show airs at 11:00 PM after most children are in bed, but there is the DVR.

The producers intend for the show to be provocative and offensive. Writer and producer Aaron McGruder has preached that it's "important to offend, but equally important to offend for the right reasons." But where is the "right reason" to have Jesus Christ curse and fight and smoke pot? The only reason to picture Jesus this way is to denigrate Him and to mock His death and His message. There's no serious reason to portray Jesus persuading his disciples to help Him turn a vacant lot into a garden so they can grow their own marijuana.

Believers should be outraged! However, many Christians do not even know what is happening in the culture war that is waging for the hearts and souls of our young. Sadly we tend to reside in a bubble where we think the most serious battle we have as Christians is trying to convince young people to come to worship on Sunday. Parents better wake up and enter the conflict; elders and preachers better learn about the most modern weapons in Satan's arsenal (**Ephesians 6:16**).

And, as we might expect, "Black Jesus" has its defenders. USA Today columnist DeWayne Wickham for example claimed, "A show that connects Jesus to young people—even one such as 'Black Jesus'—might help reverse their movement away from organized religion." This statement is one of the most intellectually dishonest and destructive that could ever be made!

Consider some "tweets" from viewers. "A fictional person can be any color you choose." "Still deciding what I think of #BlackJesus. But I do know all the haters w/ their rules, dogma, & cries of blasphemy sound like

Pharisees." "The best test of whether you've become a Pharisee is where u place your outrage. You mad abt breaking religious rules? #Pharisee #BlackJesus" "If you're offended at #BlackJesus, you have domesticated the Bible and Christianity too much with ideology. #theologyisfun"

The "Catholic League" (an organization that serves as a "watchdog" for the Catholic Church to expose religious bigotry against Catholicism in the media) said this through the group's president, Bill Donahue: "(Jesus) is irreverent, and can be downright crude, but he also has many redeeming qualities." Redeeming qualities? I often feel that I am living in some parallel universe where irreverence and crude suddenly have redeeming qualities. Oh, wait, I am! "*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**).

Donahue continued with his tepid endorsement of "Black Jesus." "The Jesus character parks illegally, curses, smokes pot, drinks, and hits on women. At one point he is depicted as the get-away driver for a drug deal gone wrong; he is eventually robbed and gets busted . . . but he is also forgiving, kind, respectful, and condemns violence."

So there you have it, so long as "Jesus" is forgiving, kind, respectful, and condemns violence, he can commit robbery, lust for a woman, drink and smoke pot. Again I say: This is blasphemy!

Jesus Christ was pure, sinless and void of lustful thoughts while He walked this earth. He died a sacrificial death to redeem lost humanity. "*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*" (**Isaiah 53:5**). Furthermore, Jesus is the divine Son of God and this is the truth we must believe and confess. "*That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*" (**Romans 10:9-10**).

The true story of Jesus is in the Bible and it is through and by the Bible that we develop our faith (**Romans 10:17**). Profane television programming originating in the bowels of atheists will not and cannot assist anyone to come to a saving faith. It will do just the opposite! Remember the warning given by Paul in **Galatians 1:8**, "*But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.*"

"Black Jesus" is an accursed message intended to turn the hearts of young people away from Jesus not point people to Him. Do not fall for the devil's ploy that says: "At least it gets people thinking about Jesus." No it doesn't! It gets people thinking about a false christ—a christ that is not God and certainly not savior. The truth is, it causes viewers to be led AWAY from the Christ of the Bible. It is as Jesus said: "*They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.*"

**by J.R. Bronger, preachertrainingclasses.com**



**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](http://thelenexaedifier.com)

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

## **NEWS AND NOTES:**

**SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

IRENE HURD, MARY CZIRR AND  
JAN PATRICK. GRANT CLOTHIER  
AND JESSIE GIBSON ARE  
RECOVERING AT HOME. J.R.  
DANIEL IS AT SWEET LIFE  
ASSISTED LIVING, 12000 LAMAR,  
OVERLAND PARK.

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:  
GOD'S WORLD OR SATAN'S?



## ***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