



THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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

December

6

2015

YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

Jim Stauffer

We sing a hymn with this title. It reminds us yielding is sin. Not just a mistake but sin that separates us from God. (Isa. 59:1,2) James reinforces this when he tells us, *but each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust when it is conceived beareth sin: and then sin when it is full-grown bringeth forth death.* (Jas. 1:14,15) We are also reminded in the song that winning an individual battle with temptation will make us stronger the next time it appears. The song states one of our greatest weaknesses in times of temptation are companions who would encourage us to sin. We are then reassured God has a crown of life awaiting us if we can through our faith overcome temptation and thus be victorious over the world. (1 John 5:4)

What then are the ingredients that lead to success in resisting temptation? Look at our Lord and learn from Him. When He was tempted in the wilderness (Mat. 4:1-11), He resisted each of the Devil's offers with the words, *it is written*, as He quoted the words of God identifying the temptation as opposed to God's will. Jesus clearly desired the things His Father held dear. Similar to the exhortation Paul gave to the Philippian; *whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things.* (Phil. 4:8) Learning to think like the Father comes from a study of His word and allowing it to dwell in our hearts. (Rom. 8:9-11 cf. 1 John 2:15-17) This also equips us with appropriate answers to temptation such as the Lord used.

Moses demonstrated a similar ability to choose wisely when faced with temptation. Heb. 11:24 *By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he looked unto the recompense of reward.* He declined all the material advantages of being raised in the house of Pharaoh because he recognized the

superior value of the reward God would give. Notice the passage acknowledges sin offers temporary pleasure and riches afford joy here on earth. It simply states Moses was able to look beyond that to an even greater reward for pleasing the One who had even greater authority than Pharaoh. We see and appreciate this forward kind of thinking even in earthly life. There are those who disdain the personal sacrifice necessary to save for their future and open it now on things they desire in the moment. They pay dearly for this down the road when in their advancing years they must continue to work to overcome such short sightedness. Such foolishness in our spiritual lives will leave us wanting in the judgment (2 Cor. 5:10).

When Christians have issues with resisting temptation it tells us they do not hold God's word as dearly as needed as did the Lord. It indicates they are *....blind and cannot see afar off and have forgotten they were purged from their old sins* (2 Pet. 1:9), as Moses could. This is because they have not been *..... converted and become as little children.* (Mat. 18:3) Their hearts have not regained the purity of the sinless. There has been insufficient change in their hearts as should be when one becomes a new creature. 2 Cor. 5:17 *Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new.* They are struggling to put off the old man of sin and put on the new that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth. (Eph. 4:22-24)

I once heard an executive with a large company make the following statement concerning evaluating the future performance of an employee by looking at his past. He said, *No one changes who he really is without either a frontal lobotomy or a religious conversion.* Granted he crafted his statement to include some levity, but his point was we are who we are until some powerful event alters our thought process entirely. The gospel of Christ received into the heart of man will accomplish that very thing.

Christ told Nicodemus how this was to be accomplished in our lives. We must be born of the water and the Spirit. When we are, a new life has begun. Until

we begin that new life we will struggle to resist temptation.

Have you been born again? Have you been born of the water and Spirit as the Lord taught? We must be if we are to successfully resist temptation.

THE VOICE OF A GOD NOT OF A MAN

"So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, 'The voice of a god and not of a man!'" Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died" (Acts 12:21-23).

Peter was now at large; Herod was still in charge. Seeking to escape the unpleasantness of living in Jerusalem, the ruler traveled to Caesarea, the provincial capital. A dispute about the acquisition of needed food stuffs resulted in a meeting between Herod and his neighbors from Tyre and Sidon (sea coast cities). Enlisting the help of Herod's personal aide, Blastus, the parties in the dispute came before the king. Herod arrives; predictably, the people cry: *"The voice of a god and not of a man!"*

Josephus' Antiquities XIX adds some detail to Luke's account. Josephus tells us that the sun glistened brightly on Herod's silver robe. The people shout in deference to Herod. The king accepted their worship; they said and he let them say: *"You are a god, not a man!"* It is one thing to be flattered without asking for such; it is another thing to accept accolades that can only rightly belong to Almighty God. Luke says: *"He did not give glory to God."* Then: *"An angel of the Lord struck him ...and he was eaten by worms and died."* Josephus tells us that Herod developed a great pain in his stomach; he was then carried to his palace and died five days later.

When men and women, regardless of whom they might be (presidents, the Supreme Court, public opinion) usurp the honor that is due to God, judgment is certain. How sad that we will not let God be God; we will not recognize that we are clay in the hands of the potter. In Herod's case, judgment was sudden. Whether the Lord comes soon or lingers, judgment is sure. Herod appeared before his subjects *"on a set day."* Another set day is coming and all will stand before the judge of all the earth.

Israel of old *"rose early ... offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play" (Exodus 32:6).* The golden calf was a poor substitute for God. Our culture does the

same. We substitute our will for God's will. We believe that whatever makes us happy is God's will (if one even seeks any justification). The line between right and wrong is blurred, not by God, but by those who *"have idols in their hearts" (Ezekiel 14:4).*

Herod in his arrogance believed he was above all. Herod the tyrant and murderer was dead. *But the word of God grew and multiplied (Acts 12:24).* Is there a lesson for us today? Herod goes on a rampage, killing James, seeking Peter's life, persecuting the church. Yet, God is more powerful; God is able to triumph over all human powers and governments. While the persecution of these early Christians certainly was not pleasant (an understatement), in the end the empires and pronouncements of men will crumble. The kingdom of God will stand, but only when we listen to God and not to man.

Randy Harshbarger

The Problem With Emotions

Do you feel good about yourself? Your relationship with God? Do you feel good about those with whom you have spiritual fellowship? Do you have joy without measure? A peace which passes understanding? Does a smile invariably crease your face when you contemplate your eternal welfare? It does? Good!...Now for the most important question. Upon what do you base all of these positive emotions?

Hopefully, you have a ready answer to this last question. The proper answer would be, "From a study of God's word, I recognize that I have been obedient to His will, and am a partaker of the blessings that are reserved for His children." Now, you might not word it in exactly the same way, but the point is that your good feelings, your emotions, are based upon an intellectual recognition. You know you have been obedient to God. You know that God has promised blessings to those who are obedient. You know that God keeps His promises. Therefore you are happy. However, many experience that same happiness without that intellectual foundation.

Emotions are peculiar in that respect. You can be happy, sad, peaceful, worried, etc., without a proper foundation. A mother can be worried about the safety of her child, when in reality the child is perfectly safe. A city can sleep peacefully in the supposed safety of its beds, not knowing an earthquake is imminent. A follower of Mohammed can glory in his certainty of an eternal reward, not knowing that salvation is to be found only through Jesus (**cf. John 14:6**). An emotion is valid only if it is based on fact. Worry is appropriate only if there is the potential of harm; a feeling of peacefulness only if there is actual safety; spiritual joy only if a relationship with God actually exists.

Herein resides the problem with the emotionalism prevalent among religious people today. Too many believe themselves saved, not because they have the

facts, but rather because they feel good about themselves. We see that it would be unreasonable for a mother to fret about the safety of her child when she sees and knows her child is safe. Why is it so many can not see how unreasonable it is to base their salvation upon a "feeling in my heart."

There is a popular notion that the facts don't matter. That we should stop emphasizing the scripture, and just love one another. That we should emphasize the Man instead of the plan. That it does not matter what you believe, so long as you are sincere. This is simply not so.

I feel good about myself and my eternal destiny because I have obeyed the gospel of Christ. I have heard the saving gospel, and have believed it (**John 3:16**). I have repented of my sins, and have been baptized to have them washed away (**Acts 2:38**). I have confessed and am willing to confess the Lordship of Jesus before men (**Romans 10:9-10**). As such, I know that I have the hope of heaven. I worship and work with Christians who follow God's word in matters of worship, work, and daily living. We have a "thus saith the Lord" for all of our practices, and are willing always to defend what we teach and do for God.

Are you happy? It is an important question. But the second is equally important. WHY? Upon what do you base that happiness? Think about it.

by Stan Cox

Bible Classes - What Can I Do?

Perhaps not all of us can teach a class, but there are a number of ways in which we can help those who do teach and make our Bible classes of greater profit. Here is a list of some things you can do:

BRING YOUR CHILDREN (Don't just send them). With things the way they are in the world today, your children need all the help they can get — especially spiritual help. There is no better place for them than the Bible classes.

BRING/ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO ATTEND. Use your half-empty automobile to bring others (children or adults) to our Bible studies. We cannot expect others to come unless we first invite and encourage them. Remember, we have classes for all ages.

PARENTS, HELP YOUR CHILDREN WITH THEIR BIBLE LESSONS. No doubt you are concerned about whether your children complete their school homework assignments. Are you as concerned about their Bible lessons? Do you know what they are studying? Do you ever discuss the Bible with them? Encourage your child to prepare the lesson if one has been assigned.

PARENTS, ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER HOW HE/SHE IS DOING IN THE CLASS. Perhaps there are some things you could do to help. Are you as concerned

about your children's spiritual progress as you are his/her secular education?

OFFER A FEW WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOUR TEACHER (or to the teacher of your child). By so doing, you will not only let teachers know that you care, but will bolster their confidence and inspire them to greater efforts.

STUDY, STUDY, STUDY! You can attend every class that meets, but unless you study (preferably, both before and after) it will be of little benefit. There are too many who let the teacher do all of the studying. Do you suppose that might be one reason why there are not more who are able to teach?

PARTICIPATE IN THE CLASS DISCUSSIONS. When you study your lesson and become enthusiastic about it you will find it difficult not to participate. Participation is a sure sign that the learning process is in motion.

VOLUNTEER TO TEACH. Good teachers for Bible classes are always in demand. Let someone know if you desire to be of help.

PRAY FOR THE TEACHERS AND THE RECEPTION OF THE LESSONS.

ATTEND EVERY BIBLE STUDY. These periods of study will make both you and the congregation stronger. We all need to continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord (**2 Pet. 3:18**). Can you think of a better or more important way to spend an hour? Above all, don't let their labor be in vain. Do all that you can as a student of the Word and as a servant of the Lord

by Bob Dickey

Baptism and Blood

The blood of Jesus saves us from our sins: the blood was "*shed for many for the remission of sins*" (**Matthew 26:28**). What does baptism have to do with the blood?

Peter preached, "*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*" (**Acts 2:38**). Note that the expression "*for remission of sins*" is the same as in **Matthew 26:28**. Jesus shed His blood for the remission of sins. How can both be true?

The answer is in **Romans 6:3-4**: "*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*" This tells us that when we are baptized into Christ we are baptized into His death. We contact Christ's blood when we obey the gospel and are baptized into Christ.

What saves us? The blood of Jesus. How do we avail ourselves of the blood? Through baptism into Christ. Is baptism a work of our own merit? No. We simply must submit to the will of God. Now, how can anyone deny the necessity of baptism?

by T. Doy Moyer

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

Check out the following websites

thelenexaedifier.com

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist/

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS:
GRANT CLOTHIER AND J.R.
DANIEL, MARY CZIRR, EULA
HARRIS AND JAN PATRICK.

STEVE WIMP CONTINUES HIS
RECOVERY AT HOME

BIBLE CLASSES: SUNDAY AND
WEDNESDAY - THE SCHEME OF
REDEMPTION - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: A LOOK AT
UNITY



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