

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 17, 2016

Am I doing my job?

Jim Stauffer

Ruth 1:16 *But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." 18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.* This quotation is often used in reference to spousal loyalty pledged during the wedding ceremony. Of course, that is not its original context but the principle expresses the concept of loyalty to one's assigned or accepted role in life. Ruth accepted the role of caring for and seeing to the welfare of her mother-in-law. Even to the point of sacrificing what most would accept as her God given right to pursue first and foremost her own welfare and happiness.

Some of the greatest achievements and happiness have been accomplished when people have accepted their role within the big picture and gone about performing the tasks attendant to that role with all their heart and soul.

Just this week I became aware of a lady who is making a monumental sacrifice to fulfill the role in life she has chosen. She was brought to America by her daughter for dialysis as she suffers from kidney disease. She needs regular dialysis or a transplant for any long term survival. While receiving treatment here, she heard and read about the discontent of the LGBT community over laws being passed to demand transgenders use the bathrooms designated for those of their original gender. She was very repulsed by the thought that people were not content with who they were and spent such effort to change what God had created. She decided two things. First, this is not a good place for her to live. And she must return home to prepare meals and keep house for her husband. Her daughter is both heart broken and encouraged. Heart broken because her mother may not live much

longer, but encouraged by her mother's resolve to fulfill her role as her father's wife regardless of the sacrifice demanded.

We have designated the WWII generation as our nations Greatest Generation as told by Tom Brokaw. They embodied the concept of fulfilling responsibilities. That is why we are a free people today. We must not short circuit their sacrifices to make our nation great by selfishly trying to reap benefits where we have not first sown the labor of service.

Greatness in people has always resided in the will to toil at the task called for in their assigned role. Greatness has never been about grabbing the brass ring. The brass ring is just a symbol of the success one achieves by performing his expected duties.

Both the Manager and General Manager of last year's World Champion Kansas City Royals stated they had no need for elaborate, loud celebrations when their team won it all. It was the pure satisfaction they had performed their duties successfully that rewarded them with the contentment of a job well done. This feeling, they said, was greater than all the praise of others, loud celebration, etc. that could ever take place.

The Bible describes God's people as servants. Moses referred to himself as the servant of God (**Gen. 18:3**). Paul says every man makes a choice between serving sin or righteousness. **Rom. 6:16** *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.* We can achieve no higher position in the Kingdom of Heaven than that of servant. Yet, within that role resides the greatest joy

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and contentment available in life. Paul said, **Phil. 4:11** *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.* This principle espoused in scripture is the basis for Moses' decision to serve God rather than his own pleasure.

Heb. 11:24 *By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.*

We as His children are to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. We can only provide those things for the world if we hold fast to the service we have chosen in Him.

Garage Sale Grace And Flea Market Salvation

Allan Turner

The obvious question is, "What in the world do garage sales and flea markets have to do with grace?" The obvious answer ought to be, "Absolutely nothing!" But such is not the case. Many people today are in search of a bargain even in the religious realm.

The overwhelming success of garage sales and flea markets in today's society demonstrates that many are interested in a bargain. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, many seem to approach the subject of grace with the same bargain hunting frame of mind. They want to obtain the benefits of grace, but they want to do so as cheaply as possible. In truth, their question is: "How little must I give before I can possess it?"

Grace Is Free But Not Cheap

In **Ephesians 2:8,9** and **Romans 5:15-18**, we find that salvation is by God's grace and cannot be merited by any work which man can perform. But for someone to think the benefits of grace can be had at bargain basement prices is a serious mistake and only serves to demonstrate how that individual has completely misunderstood the subject of grace. The unmerited and gracious gift of God's Son for the redemption of fallen man was not something that was deserved by any thing man has done or ever could do. It comes as a free gift from God and is completely unmerited by man, but this is not to say it is not without great cost on the part of both God and man. Does this all seem confusing to you? Are you wondering how something can be free yet costly? Then maybe you are confusing the physical and spiritual realms. Let's spend some time considering the cost of God's grace.

What It Cost God

Our God and Heavenly Father gave His *"only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved"* (**John 3:16,17**). The Father gave His Son and the Son gave His life; but

there is more. The relationship the Father and Son had enjoyed throughout eternity (**John 1:1**) was disrupted (**Philippians 2:5-8**) so that man could be justified (**Romans 3:26**). When one begins to contemplate the great sacrifice of both the Father and the Son, one is simply overwhelmed by the great cost of this thing called grace.

What It Costs Man

One gets an insight into what the "free gift" of salvation costs man when, in **Matthew 13:44,45**, our Lord said: *"Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and seeketh all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."* To receive the benefits of grace, one must be willing to give all that one has, i.e., *"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me"* (**Matthew 16:24**). In other words, in order to receive the benefits of God's grace, the Lord requires a complete sacrifice of our lives to Him (**Romans 12:1,2**). The blood-bought are aware of the marvelous price God paid so that He could bestow His grace upon them (**I Corinthians 6:19,20**), and know they are under obligation to the Giver of this grace to walk in the footsteps of Jesus (**I Peter 2:21-23**). When one truly understands the great value of grace, he will give all that he has to possess it, knowing that there is no way he could ever really pay for it. It is within this context that the Lord said: *"Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light"* (**Matthew 11:29,30**). He is not saying there is no work (i.e., righteousness) to be performed, but that when compared with the benefits to be received such righteousness is easy and light. In other words, *"I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us"* (**Romans 8:18**).

Cheap Prices

When grace is reduced to a doctrine, principle, or system it is cheapened, and those who engage in such endeavors demonstrate a real lack of understanding about this subject. The religious world is full of flea market salvation and garage sale grace. Belief in God (viz., mental assent), we are told by some, is all that is necessary for one to receive the remission of his sins. The benefits of grace can be possessed, they say, without repentance, baptism, and a continual *"walking in the light."*

Furthermore, these "faith only" advocates tell us that once one has received the blessings of God's grace and been saved from his past sins he can never fall from such grace so as to be lost. In addition to being a clear contradiction of Scripture (**cf. Galatians 5:4**), such

teaching cheapens grace and ultimately makes it nothing more than a cloak for evil-doing.

There are those who call themselves Christians today who have no concept of discipleship. They wish to join themselves to local churches of Christ but they do not intend to submit to church discipline. To those like this, the apostle Paul wrote: *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (Galatians 6:7-9).

That which has cost God so much cannot be cheap for us. It must be seen as the priceless gift it is. Although we give all we have to possess it, it is ours because God gave it to us. Let us always be determined to keep grace in its proper perspective, remembering what it cost our Heavenly Father and His only begotten Son. Let us be determined never to reduce grace to simply a theological system to be memorized. Let us teach that grace must be accepted on God's terms and not man's. In so doing, we will never become involved in that which is worthless, namely, bargain basement salvation!

How Much Time Is Left?

A man's house was burning. At the first sign of smoke he had rushed out to buy a fire extinguisher. Before he returned, the roof and walls had collapsed, destroying all his furnishings.

A man's doctor warned him of a bad heart condition. From the doctor's office he went immediately to the insurance salesman, but he was refused in his attempts to provide financial protection for his wife and children.

A man was endowed by God with a strong, healthy body. Because his appetite was stronger than his moral convictions, he squandered his powers until dissipation brought him to weakness. Then disease struck and without a normal reserve of strength, he could not be cured by the surgeon of what would ordinarily have been a minor ailment.

A man had a Bible, knew the church was interested in him, had friends who regularly encouraged him to live more with God. With consistency, he made reasons not to, while his conscience grew fainter, and the black wrong and white right faded into medium gray. When the critical temptation came, he was only faintly aware of it, and certainly he had no moral reserve to resist it.

David said it this way: *"For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You*

may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him" (Psalm f2:6). Jesus said the same thing in describing the five foolish virgins (Matt. 25:1-1f).

When the operation begins, it is too late to take vitamin pills. When the battle begins, it's too late to train the troops. When the flood waters rise, it's too late to find a rock foundation. When Satan attacks, they can only resist who have put on their armor.

Memorize that verse now; when you need it, you won't have time. Worship God this Lord's Day; when you need that strength, you won't have time. Repent of that sin now; when Christ comes, you won't have time. Renew your broken connection with the Lord now; at your funeral, you won't have time. Become a Christian now; in the judgment day you won't have time. Don't be almost persuaded, but lost -- obey the Lord and be saved!

by James Cooper

ITS NOT SAFE BEING IGNORANT

A story was told to me that supposedly, was true of a man who had driven around in his car for over a week only to discover a rattlesnake had gotten into his car and was hiding under the seat. Luckily the snake was discovered and all ended well. All the time he was unaware he and his family were in grave danger of being bitten. Obviously the man was upset, but only after the snake was discovered!

This was a physical danger, but spiritual ignorance can be just as deadly. In **Acts 17:23** Paul told the Athenians even though they were religious people, they were worshipping God in ignorance. He told the **Ephesians (Eph.4:18)** their ignorance had alienated them from God. In the seventh chapter of Matthew, Jesus warned false prophets would come claiming to be from him. He said in the **21st verse**, *'not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my father.'* He goes on to say, in the judgment there will be those who thought they were worshipping God in an acceptable manner, but weren't. Their ignorance of God and his laws had cost them their lives. The tragedy of all of this is, they could have learned, but preferred to remain the way they were, loving their traditions better than God's word. One is not born knowing what to do in order to be saved nor can one's feelings or emotions be relied upon. Christianity is a taught religion. And ignorant people simply cannot worship God while remaining so, but must be properly taught. The good news is God has made his word so plain anyone who wishes to learn may do so.

By J.D.Williams

*There'll be no primaries in heaven
Where men seek to be appointed
For God has eternally chosen
His Son to be The Anointed
Grant Clothier*

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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NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS: MARY CZIRR, JAN PATRICK, GRANT CLOTHIER AND J.R. DANIEL. PAT GAINES - POSSIBLE BACK SURGERY BOTH DERRICK GAINES AND THE SISTER-IN-LAW OF WENDY TAYLOR RECUPERATING FROM TRANSPLANTS.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY - THE BOOK OF ACTS - BYRON TAYLOR. WEDNESDAY - THE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION - JIM STAUFFER.

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: SALVATION IS IN THE GOSPEL



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