

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.

January

24

2016

GOD OPPOSES SIN, DO WE?

Jim Stauffer

It seems man is fully capable of recognizing his enemies. Clearly those who do things either not in our best interest or things that harm us are identified as such. God recognizes sin and the sinner and considers them to be the prisons and actions of enemies to His cause. If we are to claim allegiance to God we must agree with His position on sin.

I remember an old saying uttered for its humorous value, "All fishermen are liars except me and thee, and I'm not too sure about thee." I now wonder if the same could be spoken about those who, like God, hate sin. We see a world where many compromise daily with the temptations proffered by Satan. It seems even those who do not yield to the temptation often refuse to take an outspoken position against it.

Has religion become negotiable? While the word religious is usually associated with the spiritual relationship of mortal to deity, it does have a generic meaning. This meaning is then applied to our spiritual relationship with God. One of its definitions is, "Having thorough and genuine fidelity; strict in performance; conscientious; a *religious* loyalty." Now if we apply the word religious to our relationship with God almighty, does this definition fit? Remember God hates sin and wickedness, **Psa. 45:7** *Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated wickedness: Therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee With the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*

The examples of faithful men in the Bible are those who hated sin, even when they found themselves guilty of it. **2 Sam. 12:9** *Wherefore hast thou despised the word of Jehovah, to do that which is evil in his sight? thou hast smitten Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.*

2 Sam. 12:13 *And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against Jehovah. And Nathan said unto David, Jehovah also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.* Consider the reaction of Joseph to the temptation placed before him by Potiphar's wife. **Gen. 39:9** *he is not greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his*

wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Yet, as we observe the lives of those who we consider "religious" before God, we often see this willingness to compromise with Satan, *the prince of the powers of the air.* (**Eph. 2:2**) For instance men seem to enjoy being in the presence of temptation rather than resisting it. Many of the examples I will cite have been commented on for many years now. We have been continually warned of Satan's plots. They are just becoming more and more egregious. It is a given that most of the movies produced for television or the theater are filled with immoral language, conduct and scenes intended to appeal to sensual desires. But just in case you opt for a program that is appropriate you will see commercials selling sensuality just like the aforementioned movies.

It is not just sensuality that is running amuck, it is also greed and hatred for others. Consider the words of the wise man, **Prov. 6:16** *There are six things which Jehovah hateth; Yea, seven which are an abomination unto him: 17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood; 18 A heart that deviseth wicked purposes, Feet that are swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that uttereth lies, And he that soweth discord among brethren.* Every day men are encouraged to take every advantage in business dealings to come out ahead. It is no wonder then that one spreads or enhances a rumor about another to gain the promotion at work. Or someone actually places another's life in danger to help himself advance his career. People regularly orchestrate events that harm others while helping self. No doubt fraud and lying have become commonplace in business and government in an attempt to achieve. We even see in the church from time to time those who would, *sow discord among the brethren*, for a variety of reasons.

Have we devolved in our relationship to God as the Pharisees did? Are we at the point with religion that we could be described as *like unto whited sepulchers?* Are

continued on page 2

we only concerned with the appearance we present to others? Maybe as the wise man says we are actually envious of the earthly gain of those who have openly rejected God. **Prov. 23:17** *Let not thy heart envy sinners; But be thou in the fear of Jehovah all the day long:*

Or are we truly religious in our relationship to God? Do we have a "thorough and genuine fidelity"; are we "conscientious"; do we have a "religious loyalty"? If so, we will be found worthy to *inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world* (**Mat. 25:34**) We will be those who *hearth these words of mine and doth them shall be likened unto a wise man who built his house upon the rock* (**Mat. 7:24**) If so, it will be truly said of us as the writer of Hebrews spoke, **Heb. 12:1** *Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.* We will not have to hear Him say, *I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity* (**Mat. 7:23**)

Genesis 1: Literal Days or Long Ages?

The 'Day/Age' Theory argues that each of the days in **Genesis 1** were actually long ages of time. This, of course, is an attempt to harmonize Biblical teaching of a young earth with the false claims of some scientists who claim our earth and universe are billions of years old. Here are some simple affirmative arguments to prove that the days of creation in **Genesis 1** were literal 24 hour days rather than long ages of time:

1) God defined His own terms in **Genesis 1:5**. *"And God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."* A period of light followed by a period of darkness constituted a day. Unless someone wants to argue that it stayed light for long periods and then stayed dark for long periods (which, of course, poses huge difficulties), we will have to stand upon this clear statement and conclude that the days really were literal 24 hour days. Furthermore, **Genesis 1:14-18** mentions the sun and moon and stars, and says they were made to be *"for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years."* If we are to believe that the days were actually long ages of time, then what were the seasons and years?

2) **Romans 1:20** says, *"Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made"* (NIV). This verse claims that someone has been here to see and understand God's power ever since the creation of the world. This poses no problem to those of us who believe that man was created within the same actual week that everything else was created. But, those who want to believe that

each day represents a long "age" have a problem. If man was created eons after the other elements of creation were formed, then this makes no sense. This line of reasoning is confirmed by Jesus' own statement in **Mark 10:6**. *"From the beginning of the creation God made them male and female."* The day/age theory places man at the end of millions or billions of years of geologic time. In light of these verses, it cannot be true. 3) If the days were actually long "ages", then we have the wrong chronological order of events. For instance, plants were created on day three, but insects were not created until day five or six. But many plants depend on insects for cross-pollination, etc. How did plants survive for long "ages" without their needed counterparts in the insect world? Other similar problems of chronological order exist that strongly argue against the day/age theory.

We know that this day/age theory is commonly held by many who teach the false doctrine of theistic evolution. It is not true, and is actually an unnecessary attempt to compromise the truths taught in the Bible with the unproven claims of some scientists. They teach that we live in an ancient universe, while in actuality we live in a relatively young universe that was created in six literal days by our omnipotent God.

by Greg Gwin

Titles For Preachers?

Concerning the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said: *"5. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, 6. And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, 7. And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. 8. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. 9. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. 10. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ."* (**Matthew 23:5-10**). The scribes and Pharisees loved to wear titles of distinction and honor, much like men today. The reason they (the scribes and Pharisees) desired these titles was because they were sorely lacking in humility. Jesus continued: *"11. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."* (**vss 11,12**) In view of these verses we may conclude that those today in the religious world who love to wear titles of honor and distinction are also lacking in humility.

In our day and time there are those who pride themselves in being called "Doctor". Some preachers are shamefully advertised as "Dr.----- of the Church of Christ". In the academic world they may be doctors or professors, but as preachers of the New Testament, they are not! Such is comparable to one in the first

century desiring to wear the title of "Rabbi," and falls under the same condemnation. The wearing of titles in the religious world is utterly foreign to the spirit of Christ and is a clear violation of the principle discussed in **Matthew 23:1-12**.

Preachers of the Gospel must ever keep in mind that our purpose in preaching is not to call attention to ourselves, but to Christ Jesus the Lord. We are just fortunate to be His servants (**2 Corinthians 4:5**). It is said of John the Baptist that when the people heard him, *they followed Jesus (John 1:36-37)*. This must be the aim/purpose of every preacher- *to get the people to follow Jesus and not self!*

By Tim Arthur

"This Is Good"

An African king had a close friend with whom he grew up. The friend had a habit of looking at every situation that ever occurred in his life (positive or negative) and remarking, "This is good!"

One day the king and his friend were out on a hunting expedition. The friend would load and prepare the guns for the king. The friend had apparently done something wrong in preparing one of the guns, for after taking the gun from his friend, the king fired it and his thumb was blown off.

Examining the situation the friend remarked as usual, "This is good!" To which the king replied, "No, this is not good!" and proceeded to send his friend to jail.

About a year later, the king was hunting in an area that he should have known to stay clear of. Cannibals captured him and took him to their village. They tied his hands, stacked some wood, set up a stake, and bound him to the stake.

As they came near to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing a thumb. Being superstitious, they never ate anyone that was less than whole. So untying the king, they sent him on his way.

As he returned home, he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb and felt remorse for his treatment of his friend. He went immediately to the jail to speak with his friend. "You were right" he said, "It was good that my thumb was blown off." And he proceeded to tell the friend all that had just happened. "And so I am very sorry for sending you to jail for so long. It was bad for me to do this."

"No," his friend replied, "this is good!" "What do you mean, 'this is good'! How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?" "If I had not been in jail, I would have been with you."

Author Unknown

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28)

"It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes" (Ps 119:71)

Taken from kirkwoodcoc.org

Where Would You Be if _____ Had Never Happened to You?

Somerset Maugham, the English writer, once wrote a story about a janitor at St. Peter's Church in London. One day a young vicar discovered that the janitor was illiterate and fired him. Jobless, the man invested his meager savings in a tiny shop, where he prospered, bought another, expanded, and ended up with a chain of stores worth several hundred thousand dollars. One day the man's banker said, "You've done well for an illiterate, but where would you be if you could read and write?" "Well," replied the man, "I'd be janitor of St. Peter's Church in Neville Square."

(From Bits and Pieces, June 24, 1993, p. 23).

Many times in life the things that appear at first to be misfortune wind up bringing us success or blessing in our lives. This is illustrated many times in the Bible.

If Joseph had never been sold into slavery, falsely accused and then imprisoned, would he ever have been elevated to a position in Egypt that allowed him to preserve his family?

Where would Daniel have been if he hadn't been taken into Babylonian captivity? Would he have had the opportunity to bring honor to the God of heaven before foreign kings?

Where would Zaccheus have been if he were taller?

Would the blind man in **John 9** ever have become a believer in Jesus if he had not been "born blind"?

What if the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment to be healed had not suffered a "flow of blood" for 12 years? Would her faith have been as strong?

Would the centurion have come to Jesus if his son were not paralyzed and dreadfully tormented?

(Matthew 8:6).

When the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, he was in Roman prison. But he was able to see the good that had come from his circumstances. *"But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ" (Philippians 1:12-13).*

If we will but take the time to look at our lives, we'll often find what Paul found. Misfortune and adversity have resulted in positive outcomes. *"Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalms 37:5).*

-Steve Klein via The Bulletin of the Church of Christ at New Georgia, April 1, 2007 (copied from The Sincere Milk of The Word by Michael Hickox)

Rom. 8:18 *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward.*

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:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING
IN YOUR PRAYERS: J.R. DANIEL,
GRANT CLOTHIER, JAN PATRICK AND
STEVE WIMP.

MARY CZIRR IS UNDER HOSPICE
CARE.

OUR CURRENT STUDIES ARE: SUNDAY
MORNING: THE BOOK OF ACTS -
BYRON TAYLOR AND WEDNESDAY
EVENING: THE SCHEME OF
REDEMPTION - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: THERE'S
A GREAT DAY COMING!



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