

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.

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HONORING HIS NAME

Jim Stauffer

Honor may be nebulous as we try to attach its meaning equally to all people. It is becoming less and less emphasized in many families even though you still see great disappointment when children fail to achieve what their parents deem to be an honorable outcome in a given situation.

The truth is most families have at the very least their own definition of honor. Examples of this would be criminal gangs or mobsters. Even though their activities are illegal and unjust, they hold their members to a particular set of standards. Therefore, whether we are members of a traditional family or one of these groups who operate as families, failure to meet the standards are met with appropriate disappointment.

Col. 3:17 *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* God has set a standard of integrity for us. Jesus lived a sinless life as an example for all to follow (**Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:21ff**). He gave His life on Calvary for the sins of man (**Mat. 20:28; 26:28**). For this purpose He came into the world (**Mat. 1:21**). The result of His life, death and resurrection was to defeat Satan and win our freedom from the bondage of sin (**Heb. 2:14,15**). The result of this was His ascension to the right hand of God as His Anointed (**Acts 2:36**). He is both Lord and Christ. He has all authority in heaven and on earth (**Mat. 28:18**).

Man must choose to live by the standards of the Lord and Christ or remain loyal to the influence of Satan.

Paul was a chosen vessel to bear the name of the Lord and suffer for it (**Acts 9:15,29; 21:13**). He tells us we have the choice before us and will ultimately choose to serve *either sin which leads to death or obedience which leads to righteousness.*

(Rom. 6:15) He further states Christians are those who call on His name for salvation (**1 Cor. 1:2**). We confess Him as Lord and then live our lives standing up for Him and His honor (**Rom. 10:9; Mat. 10:32,33**). Those who choose not to will be denied by Him in that final day (**2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:31**). It is a fairly simple equation. He is the Lord. He has the power to save. We choose either to live for His name and be saved or to live for ourselves and be condemned (**Mat. 16:24-26**).

Jesus has done His part in the salvation of man. It is now up to us. Of course the initial choice to submit to Him is essential but as **Col. 3:17** indicates it is not momentary action. It is a chosen life. We decide to honor His name in all we do.

To do everything that we do in the name of the Lord Jesus is always to speak and act in complete submission to Jesus as our Lord. All that we say and do must always be said and done in full recognition of who He is in His person (i.e., acknowledging that He who was "God manifest in the flesh" is our Prophet, Priest, and King) and in full submission to His authority. As followers of Jesus Christ we are to honor and magnify Him in all that we say or do. This means that we submit to Him as our Lord in everything. We cannot bestow a higher honor on Him than to be in complete subjection to Him. (Truth Commentary, Colossians; Weaver; page 547)

His name is the name that all will ultimately acknowledge, **Phil. 2:9** *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Why not make the choice now, while we have opportunity and can profit rather than suffer?

Ordained To Eternal Life

Sean P. Cavender

A common proof-text that many Calvinists will use to assert the doctrine of unconditional election, or God's predetermined choice of those individuals who will be saved (and conversely, those who would be damned) is Acts 13:48. The text reads, *"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."*

The word "ordained" means "to place in order, arrange," signifies "to appoint," (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words). The word was often used in the context of arranging a meeting place, or arranging a group of people, like an army.

The passage is not teaching the doctrine of unconditional election as some suppose. The passage is not teaching an effectual calling of God, giving those that were chosen, a measure of faith to believe in the gospel. Kittel correctly summarizes the passage: "Christians are ordained to eternal life in Acts 13:48; conferring of status rather than foreordination is the point."

What Acts 13:48 teaches us is that all those who believe are ordained to eternal life. In fact, that is the construction of the original Greek text. Belief is the condition that would ordain us to everlasting life. But what must we believe? The gospel of salvation (Ephesians 1:13). And then we are added to the arranged body of Christ, the church (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 1:20-23).

Our Attitude in Trials

"If you are coming into this room with sorrow or to feel sorry for my wounds, go elsewhere. The wounds I received, I got in a job I love, doing it for people I love, supporting the freedom of a country I deeply love. I am incredibly tough and will make a full recovery... This room you are about to enter is a room of fun, optimism, and intense rapid regrowth. If you are not prepared for that, GO ELSEWHERE."

These words were penned by Lt Jason Redman, Navy SEAL, and hung on the door to the hospital room where he lay recovering from multiple body and facial wounds received from heavy machine gun and small arms fire in an enemy ambush in Iraq. For a couple of days after the attack, he struggled with his emotions. However, he soon decided.

Since that attack in 2007, Redman has undergone 37 surgeries, but through it all, he is said to have maintained a sense of enthusiasm, energy, and optimism.

Lt. Redman's disposition should cause each of us to reflect on how we as Christians respond to the difficulties we encounter. The trials and tribulations of life are not at all unusual, and Christians are certainly not immune to them. Think about the challenges involved as one faces a severe illness, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, a home destroyed by a tornado. And don't forget the heartache caused by a spouse or a child leaving the Lord. In addition to the physical, mental, and emotional effects of difficult trials, there can be a spiritual effect as well.

When a brother or sister is undergoing severe trials, what is your response? You could go your own merry way thinking how glad you are that this isn't happening to you. You could ignore the situation since you're sure someone else will help. You could share with them a depressing story about how your Aunt Bessie Sue unsuccessfully faced a similar burden. You could tell them to let you know if there is anything that they need...knowing all the while that most people seldom seem to take you up on that offer. You could tell them you will pray for them...but then perhaps even forget to do so. Or...you could give the gift of yourself. They will know you are there for them when they see it in your actions. Spend time with them. Hold their hand. Provide a shoulder to lean on. Offer an encouraging word, a sympathetic ear. Pray together with them – let them hear you. Let them know that you have confidence in their ability to get through this burden with the help of the Lord and their brethren. Talk of the encouragement they have been to you throughout the years. Let them know how their example in this time of trial is an aid to their fellow Christians.

And how about when facing difficult trials yourself? While life can be hard, God has given you everything you need to successfully navigate its trials. He has promised that He will supply your every need - just as He has furnished the needs of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. He has given you the privilege of approaching His throne in prayer knowing that He will answer you. He offers you the peace that passes all understanding. He has given you brothers and sisters in Christ to help and strengthen you.

Take the focus off yourself and your troubles for a moment and look ahead. Realize that through a faithful response to your trials, you will grow stronger in the faith. Think about how your brethren could be strengthened through seeing your example. Recognize that your attitude and approach to your problems can cause others to ask the reason for the hope that lies within you and perhaps even be

influenced to come to Christ because of your example. Consider the lesson God taught Elijah when he was facing trials in **1 Kings 19** – God is on His throne, and He is in control. Get up and get busy! There's work to do!

By Terry Bennett

The Truth About Prohibition

We often hear it said, "You can't legislate morality."

As an example they say, "Look how Prohibition failed."

You need to know . . .

Through the years, there has been a useful body of pertinent research done by well-recognized historians on the general background of Prohibition.

For example, Bernard Weisberger, a nationally-recognized historian who writes a current-events column ("In the News") for the popular historical journal *American Heritage*, recently addressed the widespread (mis)conception that Prohibition "didn't work."

Among the facts cited by Weisberger are: "Prohibition did reduce drinking.

The average annual per capita consumption of alcohol by Americans of drinking age - that is, the total alcoholic content of all the beer, wine, and distilled spirits they consumed - stood at 2.60 gallons" in 1910. In 1934, after more than a decade of prohibition, Weisberger reports the per capita average of 0.97 gallons.

"Census Bureau studies show that the death rate from chronic or acute alcoholism fell from 7.3 per 100,000 in 1907 to 2.5 in 1932, Prohibition's last year. Deaths from cirrhosis of the liver, one cause of which is alcohol abuse, dropped from 14.8 per 100,000 in 1907 to 7.1 in 1920 and never rose above 7.5 during the 1920's. Economic studies estimated that savings and spending on household necessities increased among working-class families during the period, possibly from money that once went to drink." These are not the propaganda of some biased zealot, but the factual report of a nationally known historian. Furthermore, Weisberger reports that one reason why Prohibition may be commonly thought so unsuccessful is that even the above improvements were achieved with a minimum of enforcement.

He continues:

"Drinking might have been cut back even further if more resources had been devoted to enforcement. In 1922 Congress gave the Prohibition Bureau only \$6.75 million for a force of 3,060 employees (including clerical workers) to hunt for violators in thousands of urban neighborhoods, remote hollows, border crossings, and coastal inlets. State

legislators were equally sparing: in 1926 state legislatures all together spent \$698,855 for Prohibition work, approximately one-eighth of what they spent on enforcing fish-and-game laws. Even so, by 1929 the feds alone had arrested more than half a million violators.

"Nor is this "new" information; a 1968 article by historian of science John C. Burnham of Ohio State University in the *Journal of Social History* revealed even more data along the lines Weisberger adduces. To imply that attempts to restrict alcohol sales can't be effective ignores the available evidence. Professor Norman H. Clark's 1976 study, *Deliver Us From Evil*, makes a persuasive case that during Prohibition, arrests for drunkenness and alcohol-related crimes declined markedly.

Of course, a much earlier author reminds us across the ages that "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (**Prov. 20:1**). - **by Steve Wolfgang, THE BEACON - Electronic Edition – 11/17/15**

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth, His coat. When he was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the centerpiece of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life.

(slightly altered from "One Solitary Life," by James Allan Francis [1864-1928], via Bartleby.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

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Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

NEWS AND NOTES:

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

MARY CZIRR IS UNDER HOSPICE CARE.

DERRICK GAINES, THE SON OF JAN PATRICK IS CONTINUING TO IMPROVE AT HOME AS IS THE SISTER-IN-LAW OF WENDY TAYLOR.

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

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: PEER PRESSURE



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