

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 1, 2016

A GOSPEL MEETING IS SCHEDULED

Jim Stauffer

The Lenexa church of Christ at 7845 Cottonwood Dr. Lenexa, Kansas has scheduled a special series of lessons to be presented by Mike O'Neal of Wichita, Kansas. Following are the dates and times of these lessons that are set apart as God Centered and not Man Focused:

The dates will be May 8th (Sunday) through May 11th (Wednesday).

Sunday 9:30 AM - GOD CENTERED BIBLE

Sunday 10:20 AM - GOD CENTERED LIFE

Sunday 5:00 PM - GOD CENTERED SERVICE

Monday 7:00 PM - GOD CENTERED FAMILY

Tuesday 7:00 PM - GOD CENTERED TESTING

Wednesday 7:00 PM - GOD CENTERED RESULTS

When the word of God is taught there is a responsibility on both the part of the speaker and those who are the intended recipients of the words. We then as members of the church at Lenexa have a responsibility. When Jesus was on what is referred to as the Mount of Transfiguration and Peter made his irreverent offer to build tabernacles to Moses, Elijah and Christ, God spoke from heaven and said, **Matt. 17:5**

..... *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."* The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews said, **Heb. 1:1** *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

Almost to a person those who believe Jesus is the Son of God claim to listen to Him as the spokesman for God. Yet, often when we have the opportunity to actually hear what He had to say, we choose to do something else. We pass on that opportunity to spend time hearing the message Christ has sent by way of the Holy Spirit through apostles and prophets.

This may well be because we do not stop to think these words in our Bibles are the words given to these men *as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

(2 Pet. 1:21) We must remember the words spoken by all those guided by the Holy Spirit are indeed the words of our Lord. He clearly taught His disciples the Holy Spirit would *teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have told you.* **(John 14:26)**

Jesus gives a comprehensive statement regarding the work of the Holy Spirit in revealing His message through the apostles. **John 16:13** *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.* What we have in our Bibles is exactly what Jesus wanted us to be taught. It is indeed all of the truth and the revealed mind of God as Paul states in **1 Cor. 2:9-13.**

You see, God has done His part in supplying us with all the information we need to become His children by way of a new and spiritual birth **(John 3:3-5; 1 John 3:1).** The rest is up to us. Do we truly desire to know His will or are we just keeping up appearances by saying so.

To the members of the Lenexa church of Christ, we must each and every one determine to support this effort to present God's Word to the community or we have not remained steadfast in our service to the Lord.

To the members of the community, it will be a testimony to your desire to know more fully what God has spoken to you through His Son.

One of the greatest individual efforts we can each make to further the success of such an effort is to fervently pray for its success. One of the things we know about prayer is we must first believe God will grant what we are praying for. If we do believe, we will work to see that it is successful. We will do what we can.

We will attend it ourselves.

We will specifically invite others to attend.

We will offer the assistance any may need to attend.

We will spread the news of the meeting far and wide.

We will do what we can to encourage the speaker.

When Miracles Ceased

by W. Curtis Porter

There is no question in the minds of Bible believing people relative to the working of miracles in the first century of this age. Miraculously endowed men spoke with tongues, healed the sick, cast out devils, took up serpents and raised the dead. And today there are many religious people who claim to be able to work the same miracles that are recorded in the New Testament. Yet the New Testament definitely states that such miraculous works were to come to an end.

To get the significance of the divine statement it is well to keep in mind that miraculous gifts were given *“in part”*. Oftentimes one man would possess one gift, another some other gift, and still another an entirely different one. Thus there was a distribution of such gifts — they were given in part. This is clearly shown in **1 Cor. 12:8-11** — *“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*

No one man in the church at Corinth possessed all of these gifts, but they were given in part — distributed *“to every man severally”* as the Spirit willed.

This distribution of such miraculous gifts led Paul in verses 28 and 29 of the same chapter to ask: *“Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”* These questions are rhetorical interrogations. They were not asked for the purpose of obtaining information but for the purpose of emphasizing a truth. In all such questions, an affirmative interrogation demands a negative answer, and a negative interrogation demands an affirmative answer. These questions given by Paul are of an affirmative nature and require a negative answer. The question, *“Are all apostles?”* simply affirms that all are not apostles, or perhaps, better expressed, it denies that all are apostles. The answer “no” is required for every one of them. All were not apostles; all were not prophets; all were not teachers; all did not work miracles; all did not have the gifts of healing all did not speak with tongues; and all did not interpret. Some of them had one gift; others had different gifts. Hence it is further evident that miraculous gifts were bestowed *“in part.”*

But in the next chapter, **1 Cor. 13:8-10**, Paul said:

*“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophecy in part. But when Paul said *“prophecies shall fail”* he did not mean that any prophecy delivered by a prophet of God would fail to be fulfilled, but that the gift of prophecy would be discontinued. When he said *“tongues shall cease”* he did not mean to say the time would come when languages would no longer be spoken, but that the gift of tongues would be removed. When he said *“knowledge shall vanish away”* he did not mean that the time would come when men would know nothing, but that the gift of knowledge would no longer be bestowed upon men. So he goes on to say that *“we know in part, and we prophecy in part.”* In other words, the gift of knowledge was in part, and the gift of prophecy was in part. Since that was true with these two gifts, it was also true with the remainder of them. Consequently, he says, *“When that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”**

In this last statement he tells us just when miracles were to cease among men. Miracles were to be *“done away”* when? *“When that which is perfect is come.”* If we can find out what this perfect thing is and when it came, if it did, then we will know when miraculous gifts were removed. The word “perfect” often means “complete.” Evidently such is the significance of it here. Paul contrasts the *“perfect”* with that which *“is in part.”* When the “complete” comes the “partial” will be done away.

Revelation and knowledge were in part — here a little and there a little — they did not have it all. But when revelation was completed the partial must come to an end. When, therefore, the revelation of truth was completed through the apostles *“that which is perfect”* came. And at that time *“that which is in part”* was done away. Thus we learn that miracles among the people of God ceased at the completion of the New Testament record and the closing of the apostolic age.

In my debate with A. G. Canada, of the Pentecostal Faith, at Oakland, California, a short time ago, I presented and emphasized this argument from the statements of Paul. In Mr. Canada’s effort to set it aside he said he believed miracles would cease, and he gave his solution of it. He declared that tongues would cease, prophecies would fail and knowledge would vanish away when the church goes into apostasy. As long as the church remains faithful the working of miracles continues to be done, but if the church apostatizes, it will be unable to work miracles; therefore, they will cease. But he was pressed to tell what is meant by the “perfect” thing that Paul said would come. This, he declared, referred to the church in its state of perfection when it reaches

heaven. We are not perfect now, he insisted, but will be when the church reaches heaven. So he claimed that Paul referred to the church in the heavenly state.

I therefore showed the consequences of his arguments. Paul said that miracles would cease *"when that which is perfect is come."* But Mr. Canada says Paul referred to the perfected church in heaven. Therefore, according to Canada, miracles will cease when the church reaches heaven. But he told us that miracles will cease only when the church goes into apostasy. Yet they will cease when the church reaches heaven. Therefore the church will go into apostasy after it reaches heaven. From this predicament he could not extricate himself. Such are the consequences in which men involve themselves when they try to defend false doctrines.

WHY I LEFT THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Patrick Donahue

I have been asked several times through the years why I left the Baptist Church. My answer is that it was not just because of one thing, but it involved several issues and most importantly, an attitude. As a general rule, Baptist people are not as diligent and careful in their study of God's word as they should be (and some so called Christians are like that too), and this leads to many false teachings. Two of these false teachings were at the forefront of my decision to leave the Baptist church in November of 1981.

The Baptist church emphasizes you must "accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior" to be saved. This is true enough if you understand that they mean by this phrase the same as what Philip meant when he said in **Acts 8:37** *"If thou believest with all thine heart."* The problem is Baptists say this is all you have to do, excluding the necessity of water baptism (in order to salvation) in their teaching. Many texts (for example **Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, and I Peter 3:21**) show clearly that a person does have to be baptized to be saved. My opinion is that many Baptists are too wedded to their system of "faith only" to accept the plain meaning of these passages. After diligently studying this issue for about three years, I determined that I must change and follow what the scriptures actually say on the purpose of water baptism, instead of continuing to follow what I had always been taught on it.

Another major issue I studied in-depth in the period leading up to my conversion was the "once saved always saved" question. Countless passages (for example **Galatians 5:2,4, II Peter 2:20-22, Hebrews 3:1,12, and James 5:19-20**) show that a Christian can "fall from grace," and that when a Christian sins he must repent to be forgiven (**Acts 8:22, I John 9**). My opinion

is that most Baptists continue to hold on to their false "once saved always saved" position because it makes them feel more comfortable. They don't ever want to have to worry about losing their salvation, no matter how they live. In actuality, the Baptist way is a de-emphasis upon obedience to God, whereas God's way most certainly requires our obedience (**Matthew 7:21, Hebrews 5:9**).

But as I said, these two issues are just a symptom of the problem. Diligent Christians struggle with different aspects of Biblical issues such as withdrawal (**I Cor. 5**), the covering (**I Corinthians 11:2-16**), divorce and remarriage questions (**Matthew 19:9**), and etc. Many Baptists simply ignore these teachings and therefore any difficulties in their implementation are moot for them. This attitude is the underlying reason why I left the Baptist church. I am very thankful to the many who helped me see the error of my way during those years.

Wrong is Always Wrong

Donald Townsley

In a period of loose and sagging morals, Satan provides many rationalizations for improper behavior. Those who would be faithful Christians must not be *"ignorant"* of his *"devices"* (**2 Cor. 2:11**). Wrong is always wrong, despite our efforts to excuse our actions.

WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT. Let us remember that *"the eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good"* (**Prov. 15:13**).

WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF YOU DO IT FOR A GOOD CAUSE. The honorable purpose does not justify a dishonorable deed or action. The end never does justify the means. *"All sin is transgression of the law"* (**I John 3:4; 5:17; 2 John 9**).

WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF OTHERS ARE DOING WORSE THINGS. It will be of little comfort to you in the day of judgment if you should be lost, knowing that others did things which you considered to be worse than your own sins. Remember, *"the thought of sin is foolishness"* (**Prov. 24:9**).

WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOUR CONSCIENCE. The conscience can be trained, or educated, to accept wrong-doing, and even an honest sin or evil done in sincerity is sinful in the sight of the holy God. *"Whatever a man sows, that shall a man reap"* (**Gal. 6:7**).

WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT IS COMMONLY CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE. The Bible says, *"Thou shall not follow a multitude to do evil"* (**Ex. 23:2**). The Christian should *"enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away"* (**Prov. 4:4-5**). *"Prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil"* (**I Thess. 5:21-22**).

There is never a right way to do a wrong!

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

Editor: Evangelist Jim Stauffer

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

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Check out the following websites

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

J.R. DANIEL, JAN PATRICK AND GRANT CLOTHIER. MARY CZIRR REMAINS IN HOSPICE CARE AT SHARON LANE.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY IS THE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS - BYRON TAYLOR. WEDNESDAY OUR STUDY IS THE BOOK OF JAMES - JOE HURD.

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: I AM MY FATHER'S CHILD



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