

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 22, 2016

Beware of the leaven.....

Jim Stauffer

Mat. 16:11 *How is it that you fail to understand that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.* When Jesus spoke this to His disciples he was teaching them not to be influenced by the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

It is no doubt a difficult task for the child of God to live in the world and yet not be a part of its choices and lifestyles. After all, we live next door to and become friends of those who have long since adopted the standards of the world.

This point is emphasized when Jesus taught these same disciples a lesson on conduct emanating from the heart rather than from what goes into the mouth. The Pharisees, who had great influence over the multitudes of common Jews, had criticized Jesus' disciples for not washing their hands according to the traditions of their fathers. Jesus explained the thoughts of the heart were what would lead to righteous or unrighteous conduct rather than the preparation of hands and food for consumption. Even as he was teaching them He discerned the lack of understanding on the part of His disciples (**Mat. 15:1-20**).

Jesus recognized and warned against the influence of the leaders in any society over the masses who reside under their authority.

It is no different in our day and time. In the 60's and 70's there was a "sexual revolution" in our nation. It took its toll on the world's respect for fidelity and marriage and spread a new concept of morality throughout the land. This was not lost on Christians and the church. Infidelity and divorce became more prevalent among children of God. Soon religious organizations, in an effort to retain numbers, began to accept it as a part of our culture.

Jesus' point is that they should avoid being taught righteous conduct before God by society or the current culture. Quite the contrary, they and we alike, are to teach society the culture of God.

What we are being told today is no different from the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Their decisions were made based on what they chose to do for their satisfaction. We are told not to criticize or denounce things that are in opposition to God's word. Life is to be lived for the pleasure and satisfaction of the person living it. If it is homosexuality, transgendering or any of the perversions of God's plan for the sexuality of mankind, we are told it is to be respected and encouraged.

This is utter nonsense to anyone who has spent any real time in study of Scripture. Further it is the same process the world continues to use to influence and direct the lives of God's people. We are defined as hateful toward others when we quote what God has said. Remember, Satan is the ruler of this world (**Joh. 16:11; Eph. 2:1,2**). Then remember how Jesus handled Satan when He was tempted of him in the wilderness (**Mat. 4:4,7,10**). He quoted Scripture on each occasion.

It is imperative the child of God remain free from the "leaven" of this world. **2 Cor. 1:12** *For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.* Demas is an example of one who did not. **2 Tim. 4:10** *For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.*

There are two important results of accepting criticism from the world while denying it any influence over our conduct. First, our own souls will be saved (**Jas. 1:21**). Second we will be teaching both in word and deed this message to others who will be saved by it as well.

We are to be *transformed by renewed minds* rather than being *conformed to this world* (**Rom. 12:1,2**). It is our responsibility to be the influence rather than the influenced. We are to be *the salt of the earth*. We are to be *the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.* (**Mat. 5:13-16**)

So What Do We Know About the Lord's Supper?

So what has the New Testament told us so far about the Lord's Supper? Well, quite a bit:

1. We know that it is simply a Memorial Feast designed to remind us of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus, who died for our salvation, **1 Corinthians 11:23-27**; **Luke 22:19**. It is NOT a sacrifice in any way shape or form. That idea is false.
2. We know that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper during the Passover Feast, therefore we know that the bread and grape juice used during the supper were unleavened, **Luke 22:1**.
3. We also know that they observed the Supper on the First Day of the Week, **Acts 20:7** and no other day is authorized in any manner on the pages of the New Testament.
4. We know that since every week has a first day then they observed it on a weekly basis, not monthly, quarterly or annually. This is a necessary inference since the scriptures do not specify WHICH first day then every First Day is meant. By illustration, look at the Fourth Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" **Exodus 20:8**. God did not specify which one therefore all were meant!

I hear those who observe it less frequently saying, "Well then it just becomes commonplace and loses its significance." I challenge them to provide scriptural authority for any other practice! It's not in the New Testament.

Besides, you pray daily, does that lose its significance because you do it daily? (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**) You preach weekly, does that become insignificant? That weak contention says more about the person making it than it does about the Lord's Supper! How can remembering become insignificant? **ASK A VETERAN WHO LOST A FRIEND HOW OFTEN HE REMEMBERS!**

Clee Richardson, El Dorado church of Christ

A recent illustration of bro. Richardson's point on observation every first day was given by bro. Ken Weliever. He visited a restaurant once that had posted a sign saying, "Closed on Mondays". He asked the lady which Monday they were closed. She replied, "Apparently you haven't been up too long." In every other aspect of life we recognize a specified day of the week for events means every week.

Editor's note.

MATTHEW'S GENEALOGY

Correctly reading names in the Bible can be a daunting task. Long sections of unfamiliar appellations are easily skipped. Yet, we miss so much if we bypass these names of men and women who lived long ago—

those who were obviously important in God's scheme of things. If that is not so, why are they mentioned in the Bible? **Ezra 2:62** says: "*These sought their listing among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled.*" Clearly, family and connections to past family members was important in Bible times. The Jewish historian Josephus begins his autobiography with his ancestry (*Flavius Josephus Home Page*).

Matthew's genealogy immediately connects Jesus with two venerable heroes of the Jews, Abraham and David. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic promises (**Genesis 12:1-3**) and the promises that a kingdom and king would come forth from David (**2 Samuel 7:11-16**). Matthew groups his genealogy into three sections of fourteen names each; rather than being thorough, it is selective. Three names stand out: Abraham, David, and Jesus. Such literary devices were common in ancient times (cf. **Psalms 119**; **Lamentations 3**), proving useful for memorization; this was especially helpful in a time when most people could not read or write. In the Hebrew language the numerical value of *David* is fourteen; this would serve as a memory jogger. And, **Matthew 1:17** mentions the Babylonian Captivity; significant events in Israel's history would also point to the Messiah; hope could be found in God's purposes not man's.

Four women are featured in Matthew's genealogy—Tamar (**v. 3**), Rahab (**v. 5**), Ruth (**v. 5**), and Bathsheba (**v. 6**, "*the wife of Uriah*"). Matthew's inclusion of these four women would quickly gather reactions from his readers. Women in the 1st c. (Greek and Jewish culture) had no legal rights; they were precluded from giving testimony in court; her existence was tied inextricably to her husband. Yet, here are four women in this text—an adulteress (Tamar), Rahab (a prostitute from Jericho), Bathsheba (seduced by David; her baby died), and Ruth (a Moabitess; Moabites could not enter the assembly of the Lord cf. **Deuteronomy 23:3**). Do these "foreign women" illustrate that the promises to Abraham included all people—Jews and Gentiles? Clearly, Jesus, the one who "*will save His people from their sins*" includes ALL people. Tamar became the mother of Judah's sons. Rahab is identified as a woman of faith (**Heb. 11:31**). Ruth was the great grandmother of David. Bathsheba's son continued the royal line.

Or, is Matthew pointing to Mary, the mother of Jesus? Jesus was not the illegitimate son of a Roman soldier. The baby Mary carried in her womb was the very Son of God, the Son of Abraham, and the Son of David. The dynasty of the kingdom of Judah did not change. One of David's descendants now sits upon the throne. He is Jesus Christ, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Randy Harshbarger

The following article from the pen of O. C. Lambert, over 37 years ago, is as timely now as when written. It appeared in the Gospel Advocate, September 28, 1922, page 916.

"THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST"

By O. C. Lambert

More "everyday" people is the crying need of the hour — people without worldly ambition, in love with simple things and content in humble spheres. The laws in control of this universe seem to demand that one of the leading characteristics of everything great or good or beautiful be simplicity. The weakness of our modern civilization lies in the fact that it is so complex that we do not have time to really live. We have drifted away from the simple, wholesome ways, and the church, too, has been tainted with the spirit of the times.

The simple ways are best. The most satisfying drink is water; all the glory of Solomon could not rival for one moment a simple dogwood blossom: the most beautiful bouquet is made of the plainest flowers and grasses; the artist searches for beauty among rustic scenes; the sweetest poetry sings the charms of common things; the songs that touch us most deeply and linger longest in our memories are the hymns our mothers sang. A man may gorge himself with dainties until his taste is perverted and he loses his relish for food; and just so the only religion worthy of the name, that will continue to satisfy the hungry, healthy, growing soul, is the simple worship of Christ and his apostles. All the embellishments of men simply rob it of its power. Expensive houses and fixtures, pompous ceremonies, instrumental music and the like, are adulterations which are fatal to the spirit of Christianity.

It is not because mother is possessed of any of those graces which mark one for distinction or renown that she is idolized in our hearts, but because we see in her the embodiment of simple virtues.

The wonderful things that God is doing all around us in the material universe we personify as Nature. She has a fashion of constructing the most beautiful things of the simplest elements. Refuse animal and vegetable matter comes forth from her fingers reanimated in other forms of life. She distills the crystal dew-drops from stagnant morasses and thrusts her worn-out garments into her magic loom, by which they are transformed into new fabrics of finest texture and daintiest colors. If a man attempted to teach the flowers to bloom, he could only mar and spoil; likewise, when men lay unholy hands upon God's doings in the spiritual realm, the results cannot but be disastrous. Hear the warning of Paul: *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (2 Cor. 11:3)*

There is danger, or else we would not have had this warning. So let us guard jealously the rich heritage of the gospel of Christ, and attack mercilessly every departure from its original simplicity. There is nothing in

the prayers, the Lord's Supper, the study of God's word, the giving of our means on the first day of the week, the simple singing of spiritual songs, that will every appeal to the vanity of the human heart. Let us never become dissatisfied with this simplicity.

Taken from Searching the Scriptures, January, 1960

Editor's note: *In 1922 and 1960 they were lamenting the forsaking of the simple truths that set the child of God apart from the world. Mankind continues to drift as material progress is made. Bro. J.D. Tant used to close his articles years ago with the warning, "Brethren we are drifting".*

WILL HE BE THE LAST?

James P. Miller

Every informed member of the church now knows that Pat Hardeman is no longer the gospel preacher, but is now Dr. Thomas P. Hardeman, pastor of the Unitarian Fellowship of Tampa, Florida. To grasp what this really means in the fullest sense, the following statement was recently published in the Courier-Journal by the First Unitarian Church of Louisville:

"What's your creed?' people ask. We haven't any. So they ask again, "What do you believe?' We haven't any required beliefs. Each member is expected to believe only what his knowledge and experience lead him to believe, but to remain open minded. A Unitarian may be a humanist or an atheist. He may be a Christian or Non-Christian."

Pat Hardeman's departure from the faith and the loss of his soul is the result of a kind of thinking that fills the brethren in far too many places today. When you hear brethren say, "We do not have to have authority for all we do;" or again, "Show me where God said it is wrong;" or "Let us forget the how and just get it done," you know that these brethren are on the same road. Everyone of this attitude have three great things in common: A lack of respect for the inspiration of the Bible, the authority of Christ, and the all-sufficiency of the blood-bought church of the Lord.

I believe that in some way every thinking person in the church knows that this is true. Our departures from the faith must be preceded by an attitude similar to that of Pat Hardeman. The attitude comes first, and the departure later. With hundreds of highly educated young men in the pulpit of the churches dependent on what they have been taught by sectarian teachers in denominational seminaries and universities, we cannot help but lift our voice to cry, WILL HE BE THE LAST?

Taken from Searching the Scriptures, January 1960

Editor's note: *I am hopeful these older articles from time to time are enjoyable to those today who may not have lived during these times. They tell us that human tendencies do not change with the modernization of society, but that men have always been susceptible to the 'wiles of the devil'.*

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

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Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

J.R. DANIEL, JAN PATRICK AND GRANT CLOTHIER CONTINUE TO NEED OUR PRAYERS.

MARY CZIRR, A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE CHURCH IN LENEXA PASSED AWAY FRIDAY MORNING. WE WILL HAVE A COMPLETE WRITE-UP NEXT WEEK. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE PRESENCE SHE WAS IN OUR LIVES.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - THE BOOK OF ACTS- BYRON TAYLOR

WEDNESDAY - THE BOOK OF JAMES - JOE HURD

SUNDAY SERMON - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW THE TRUTH?



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