

Rom. 14:19  
So then let  
us follow  
after things  
which make  
for peace,  
and things  
whereby we  
may edify  
one  
another.

John 8:32 And  
ye shall know  
the truth and  
the truth shall  
make you free.

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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*Anne Surface 2010*

## ERRORS RESULTING FROM POOR BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

*Jim Stauffer*

### UNSCRIPTURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

#### **Preaching:**

#### **Missionary Societies (exa. American Christian Missionary Society – A. Campbell):**

The defense for this kind of organization is as a good work, that our authority is not specific and it is just a method of doing work that was authorized generically with the details left up to us.

When does something cease to be a generically authorized work and become an alteration or addition to God's plan? Do we have teaching or examples to follow? Does such teaching or example provide specific authority that eliminates the idea of generic authority in this matter?

The direct command to preach the gospel was given to individuals (**Mat. 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16; 2 Tim. 4;1,2**). It is true the church in the first century preached the gospel as a part of their teaching and worship – **Acts 20:7**.

Further, they supported gospel preachers in other areas of the world (**Phil. 4:15,16**).

Some men preached for one church while being supported by another (**2 Cor. 11:8,9**).

Yet in none of these cases was a preacher supported by a human institution such as the American Missionary Society nor did any church send their money to the preacher through such an intermediary. There is no scriptural authority to delegate the church's work.

#### **Sponsoring church arrangement:**

Larger churches have decided they can plan a work larger than they can handle by themselves.

They, in turn then solicit money from many other congregations to finance this work they have undertaken.

The defense of or explanation for this is to achieve a greater and better performance through the organization men have designed, as if we can improve on God's plan.

It is easy to see the problem here. The elders of the local church who contributes to this Sponsoring Church is not providing the oversight of the work they are doing as instructed in Scripture. Furthermore, the elders of the Sponsoring Church are overseeing the work of many churches who have sent them money, therefore exceeding their God given authority in this same instruction. Elders, pastors and bishops all occupy the same office in the church. They are simply different terms describing different aspects of the job. Elders are older wiser men with experience in the word charged with the task of shepherding (pastor) the flock of God. Their task is to oversee (bishop) the work and activities of the church among them and its membership (**Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1,2**).

*The work of gospel preaching was designed by God to be conducted by individuals who, if they are to receive support, receive it directly from the churches who are supporting them. There is no middle man. There is no authority for any organization larger than the local church to do any of the work of God.*

*The Missionary Society is a human institution hired by the church to improve the work God has given it to do. Clearly an invention of the mind of man. (**Mat. 15:9**) The Sponsoring Church arrangement does not bring a human organization other than the church into the equation. Instead it perverts the function of the church by changing the oversight restrictions of the elders and alters the autonomy of the local work. Autonomy does not only mean each congregation is independent, it means it functions separately from others and the Sponsoring Church arrangement alters that.*

#### **Benevolence:**

#### **Human Institutions (Orphan Homes, Old Folks Homes, Homes for Unwed Mothers, etc.)**

These are defended as a good work. Well, in the eyes of men that can certainly be defended, but to find authorization for the church to support such is an exercise in futility. There is none. By instruction and

*Continued on page 2*

example we learn the church does not carry responsibilities for the social ills or needs of the community. It is to serve the spiritual needs and is only and always instructed to care for needy saints. Those who are members of the Lord's body. Anyone seeking proper instruction by way of examples during New Testament days should read carefully such passages as **Acts 2:44,45; 4:32-36; 11:28-30; 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. Chapters 8&9 and Rom. 15:25-27**. Needy saints are the only people the church has a responsibility to care for and they are to be cared for directly without a human institution as a go between.

*What we have attempted to do is show how human invention has invaded the church. Is it fair to say those who originated these ideas did so with the intention of teaching the lost and helping the needy? Yes! Is it also accurate to say Scripture does not authorize these things? Yes! It never did and never will. How can we criticize the Pharisees of **Matthew 15** for "teaching for doctrine the commandments of men" when we do the very same thing? It is our desire to please Him that keeps us on the strait and narrow path.*

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

*"And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: Blessed ...." (Matthew 5:1-3).* Matthew five is the first of five large sections of teaching that Jesus did. Each section ends similarly: *"And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching" (Matthew 7:28).* This *Sermon on the Mount* is the largest of the five sections in Matthew's narrative; perhaps for this reason this is "THE SERMON" of all sermons. Multitudes from far and wide gathered to hear Jesus discourse from a mountain. Is this reminiscent of Jehovah calling Moses to Mount Sinai to receive the 10 commandments? Does the presence of the multitudes and the disciples set the stage for constant conflict between those who would follow Jesus and those who would oppose Him? After the sermon was finished, it is clear that the people saw something in the way Jesus taught that was different from the norm (**Matthew 7:28-29**). It is certainly true that before Matthew's story ends at the cross that many, perhaps most, have turned away from Jesus; some, though, stayed to the bitter end.

How do even sincere students of Jesus' sermon begin to internalize this wonderful, yet perplexing, manifesto? Does Jesus give a set of stringent rules, a code of ethics, that all must follow to the letter? What Jesus teaches is so antithetical to our world. Are we really to turn the other cheek to those who abuse us? What about all the evildoers in the world? Are we really to seek their well-being, even suffering loss to do them

good? Marriage, lust, anger, retaliation, telling the truth, blessing one's enemies—these seemingly impossible demands and many more—can we realistically be expected to follow Christ's teachings?

However we understand and apply Jesus' sermon (and we need to work hard in both areas), it perhaps helps if we remember who Jesus is and what He came to earth to do. Jesus speaks as none other can speak. He entered the pages of history, living as a man among men; what He demands of those who choose to follow Him is a reflection of who He is as Savior, as the Messiah. His will for us is a reflection of what we aspire to become as kingdom citizens. After all, that is what Jesus is preaching: *"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom" (Matthew 4:23).* If the teaching of Jesus did not destroy the Law and the Prophets and if every jot and tittle of the law was fulfilled, then we cannot reach the conclusion that what Jesus teaches, what He enjoins upon kingdom citizens, can in anyway be ignored.

It is that higher standard that Jesus calls us to. *"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20).* Let's remember exactly who preaches this sermon. The demands of this sermon will change our hearts; changed hearts result in changed actions. What Matthew's account demonstrates continually is this: Jesus lived what He preached. And He invites you and me to do the same. How can we overcome hatred, cursing, lust, divorce, swearing, and greed? Without Jesus we cannot; we will fail. But remember the last point of His lesson: We can be wise and build our house on Him. Then we can live, truly live, as kingdom citizens.

**Randy Harshbarger**

## Are Individuals Lost For NOT Being Baptized?

It is fairly easy to present man's part in the gospel plan of salvation. That is, it is easy if (oh how powerful is this two letter word) the individual truly believes that the Bible is from God, and that it says what it means and means what it says. Sad to say, there are many, many people (even among those who profess membership in evangelical denominations) who claim to believe that the Bible is God-given, but rebel at what is found therein. Just as there are some who claim to love Jesus, but, in reality, do not believe what Jesus taught.

Several years ago, three American preachers visiting India were scheduled to preach to a group from the Church of South India,... but were without their translators and not one of the three were Telegu (language of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) speakers.



Both of the translators had received an urgent call from their respective homes concerning a serious problem, each knew that the other translator could handle the translating . . . so each one, unbeknownst to the other had departed for home to do what could be done to help the afflicted or comfort the bereaved. What were we (yes, I was one of the three Americans) to do? While discussing our situation (trying to not panic) one little boy, having heard a part of the discussion, said, "We speak English." Relief!

It was decided (I do not remember how) that I would speak first. Being truly grateful for the relief obtained from the young fellow who informed us that we were among English speakers, I decided to include the children in what I presented. The children, with Bibles in hand, were sitting at our feet. I told them, "I will call out a verse, and whoever finds it first can read it aloud." After the reading of each verse (some of which are given below), I asked, "Which came first baptism or the spiritual blessing mentioned?

Which Came First?

*"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned"* (Mark 16:16, ASV).

Which came first, baptism or salvation (being saved)?

Yes, it was baptism! Did Jesus make a mistake? Did He really mean what He said? Did He?

*"And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:38).

Which came first, baptism or the remission of sins? Once again, it is baptism. Did the Holy Spirit guide Peter to say something that was wrong? Did Peter make a mistake?

Well, did he?

*"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name"* (Acts 22:16).

Which came first baptism or the washing away of sins?

The New Testament is consistent; it is baptism. Was Ananias a false teacher? Did the Lord (Acts 9:10-16) send the wrong man to direct Saul of Tarsus? Did He?

Other verses were used in India and more could be cited now, but I believe that all honest readers get the point. In the New Testament baptism comes before the promised spiritual blessing. Now that brings us back to the real subject of this article, Are individuals lost for NOT being baptized? No! Assuredly not!

Each and every individual who is lost, each one in the depths of hell, will be there for one reason, and one reason only. The reason? SIN! The gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ provides the only way to have our sins forgiven. One may reject the means of salvation provided, but he cannot change it. No one is lost because he has not been baptized, he is lost (present condition now, permanent condition in hell) because he is an unforgiven sinner.

The Holy Spirit, via the apostle Paul, warns us

concerning the attitude of the coming Lord toward those who refuse, reject, or have never heard of Jesus Christ and His gospel: *". . .at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might, . . ."* (2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9). Baptism is, as the Indian children learned, essential that one might obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. But being lost (spiritual death, separation from God) is the earned wage for sins committed (Romans 6:23). That wage is paid to those who never heard of Jesus Christ and to those who foolishly reject the salvation offered . . . even if they really and truly intended to obey some day.

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Jesus give us real eyes so we can realize where the real lies.

We do not break the laws of God; we disobey them and they break us.

*William V. Beasley, The Lincoln Reader*

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We've all heard the jokes about politicians - - "How can you tell if a politician is lying? If his lips are moving!" It is truly a shame that their past conduct has branded them with such a terrible reputation. Surely their potential for doing good has become severely limited because of their inclination to tell lies. Christian, do you see a lesson there? Can you understand the critical need for honesty in all that we do? The Scriptures have a good deal to say about this...

*"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another."* (Ephesians 4:25)

*Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight."* (Proverbs 12:22)

*"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds."* (Colossians 3:9)

From these verses we conclude that honesty is necessary in order to:

- Maintain our relationship with others (*"we are members one of another"*)
- Please the Lord (*"lying lips are an abomination"* to Him)
- To demonstrate that we have truly been converted (*"put off the old man with his deeds"*)

Christians, remember that *"all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"* (Revelation 21:8).

**Beacon – The Electronic Edition  
by Greg Gwin**

**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**

**Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

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**NEWS AND NOTES:** PLEASE  
REMEMBER IN PRAYER,  
J.R.DANIEL AND JAN PATRICK.

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
GRANT CLOTHIER WILL BE  
AUGUST 25, 2016, 11:00 AM AT  
THE LENEXA CHURCH OF  
CHRIST BUILDING

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE  
CLASS - A STUDY OF PRAYER  
- RON PECK - WEDNESDAY  
BIBLE STUDY - BOOK OF  
ROMANS - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON - THE  
LOVES OF MANKIND



## **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