

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.

September
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THE LAST DAYS

Jim Stauffer

When you hear the last days discussed it usually is placed in the context of eschatology. Rarely do people speak of the last days in its perspective of the Messianic Age.

While it is noble to maintain awareness of the impending judgment of God (**Acts 17:31**), we are remiss if this is our only understanding of the last days.

Joel promises God *will pour out my Spirit on all mankind*, indicating dreams, visions and great demonstrations of the power of God will take place by the hands of His chosen vessels. He said in those days, *whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered* (**Joel 2:28-32**). Peter says in **Acts 2:16ff**, that what occurred on that day of Pentecost was that of which Joel spoke. In his quotation he identifies it as the last days. He repeats the phrase, *and it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved* (**vs 21**).

Isaiah then prophesies, **Isa. 2:2** *Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. 3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.*

When Daniel was called to interpret the dream of Nebuchadnezzar in **Chapter 2** of that book, he said his interpretation was concerning things that would happen in the latter days. He then identified four kingdoms that would exist in succession of each other with the last one being the Roman Empire. He then said of *.....the days of those kings* (the Roman Empire) *the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms but it will itself endure forever* (**Dan. 2:44**).

There is no question the *last days* will end with the judgment of God being pronounced on everyone who has lived on this earth. However, more importantly, the message is conveyed by both the prophets and New Testament apostles that the *last days* are the days of the kingdom God has promised over which His Son shall reign (**Dan. 7:13,14; Eph. 1:22,23**). This is the kingdom that offers the security of deliverance or salvation to those who call on His name.

The *last days* are comprised so far of at least 2000 years where man is being provided the opportunity to *call on the name of the Lord*. Calling on the name of the Lord is described in Scripture as those who hear the gospel preached and believe what it says and then obey the precepts it sets forth (**Rom. 10:13-15; Acts 22:16**).

Peter tells the scoffers in **2 Pet. 3:7-10**, they can be assured God will come in judgment again, as he did in the days of Noah. He warns them and us that God's word is on the line. He has reserved a time when ungodly men will be judged and punished with eternal fire. He then balances the story by telling us God is willing to allow time for repentance. He then cites two very important factors concerning God's judgment. First, it will be a surprise to all. He will come as a thief in the night. Jesus said as much Himself, **Matt. 24:36** *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.* Second, he promises the day will definitely come as God never fails to keep His promises (**2 Pet. 3:10; Heb. 6:18-20**).

Armed with this information we must view the *last days* as an opportunity to those who live faithfully now and a blessing for those who lived faithfully before the kingdom was established on that day of Pentecost in **Acts 2**. The deliverer of all men has come. He has shed His blood to provide atonement and its subsequent justification for all men of all time (**Rom. 3:24-26; Heb. 9:15**). We need to use such an opportunity to prepare to inhabit those mansions Jesus promised in heaven. **John 14:1** *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.*

Garfield's Rules of Successful Living *by A. T. Pate*

One of the most illustrious careers found in the pages of American history is that of James Abram Garfield, twentieth President of the United States. Before his election to this country's highest office, he was a college president, state senator, major-general, U.S. Congressman and U.S. Senator, a combination of honors without parallel in the national annals. When Garfield was a young man, someone placed in his hand one day a slip of paper, which he carried with him all his life. Inscribed on this paper were the following lines:

- ✓ Make few promises.
- ✓ Always speak the truth.
- ✓ Live within your income.
- ✓ Never speak evil of anyone.
- ✓ Keep good company or none.
- ✓ Never play games of chance.
- ✓ Drink no intoxicating drinks.
- ✓ Good character is above everything else.
- ✓ Keep your own secrets if you have any.
- ✓ Never borrow if you can possibly avoid it.
- ✓ Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.
- ✓ Keep yourself honest if you would be happy.
- ✓ When you speak to a person, look into his eyes.
- ✓ Make not haste to be rich, if you would prosper.
- ✓ Save when you are young to spend when you are old.
- ✓ Never run into debt, unless you see a way out again.
- ✓ Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtues.
- ✓ Your character cannot be badly hurt except by your own vices.
- ✓ If anybody speaks evil of you, let your life be so that no one will believe it.
- ✓ Never be idle. If your hands cannot be employed usefully, attend to the culture of your mind.

As one thinks of this great and successful man, it is well to remember that he was devotedly religious. From his mother Garfield learned the value of prayer and daily Bible reading. It was his practice through life to pause each evening at sunset and read the Scriptures. Because of his belief in prayer, he was often referred to as the "praying colonel" during his army career. Moreover, he always faithfully met with the church for worship. Garfield firmly believed that "there is nothing that can make youth so shapeful, manhood so strong, and old age so beautiful, as the religion of Jesus Christ."

While yet a teenager, he espoused the cause of Christ and took his stand with those calling for a complete

return to the New Testament. A few months after preaching his first sermon, Garfield wrote to a friend: "I tell you, my dear brother, the cause in which we are engaged must take the world. It fills my soul when I reflect upon the light, joy and love of the ancient gospel."

Christ and his gospel can give real meaning and purpose to your life! Without Him, no life can be truly successful. Open your heart to him today; for says He: *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me"* (Revelation 3:20).

"Garfield had attended church more to please his mother than to worship God, but in his late teens underwent a religious awakening, and attended many camp meetings, at one of which he was born again. The next day, March 4, 1850, he was baptized into the Disciples by being submerged in the icy waters of the Chagrin River." [Wikipedia]

Taken from the Roanridge Reader April 17, 2016

Are Miracles Really Necessary?

by Cleveland Reddinger

The liberal media and their ever present accomplices, religious compromisers, are constantly telling us that the miracles of the Bible are not, in reality, you know, miraculous. "They are stories told to get across a 'deeper truth'." The Israelites really didn't cross the Red Sea on Dry Ground in **Exodus 14**, they just made an astonishing get away and Moses exaggerated the story. Jesus really didn't walk on water, He just knew where the stones were just below the surface and it looked like he was walking on water to his fatigued and gullible disciples, and Peter just missed the stones in **Matthew 14**. And God really didn't create the universe and all life in six days as He told us in **Genesis 1, 2**. He really took billions and billions of years and had to experiment over and over again with lots of different life forms (evolution). Each explanation just gets goofier and goofier. It's enough to make a serious minded person ask the question, "Do I really have to believe these miracles in order to be a good Christian?"

The short blunt answer is, yes! You don't have to believe them to be a good person. That much should be obvious to anybody. If, however, you are speaking of going to Heaven where we will be with God for ever and ever then let me answer with a question: Can you call Jesus a liar and still go to heaven? Jesus spoke about Noah and the ark as though they were historical facts, **Matthew 24:37**. He used Adam and Eve as a basis for His teaching on Divorce in **Mat. 19 (Gen.2:18-25)**. You cannot do that without believing they were actual historical facts. So, was Jesus a liar or the Sinless Son of God?

What Kind of Preaching Is Needed?

Ken Weliever

The above question is raised with great forethought and care, realizing that many are “expert” regarding the type, manner, and method of preaching that is most needed. Nevertheless, we feel obligated to present what the New Testament (what else) teachers regarding preaching.

We need preaching that is based on *“the faith”* (Gal. 1:10). Although it is popular to philosophize and speak about “ideals”, the apostles spoke God’s truth and not their own whims and fancies. We need preachers who will appeal to the word of God and base their conclusions on scripture.

We need preaching that is bold and aggressive. Peter prayed that God would grant them the courage to speak *“with all boldness”* (Acts 4:29). Paul and Barnabas found it necessary to speak boldly to the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:46). Today preachers need to boldly and aggressively declare God's word to men.

We need preaching that is unmistakably clear and intelligible. When Paul preached he *“reasoned”* and *“proved”* his points (Acts 17:2; 18:4). Generalizing and speaking in sixteen syllable words was unheard in Bible times. Some folks won't like it, but preachers need to be clearly understood in this modern era also.

We need preaching that is controversial, meeting error face to face. In the early days, there was a great deal of disputing and debating (Acts 6:9; 9:28; 17:17). Some today would have liked New Testament preaching a little bit! The modern cry is: “Don’t call names; don’t condemn; just preach constructive lessons.” The problem is that many weaklings are afraid to defend the Truth and are worried about the loss of friendships and popularity.

We need preaching that is motivated by love for truth and for the lost souls of men and women (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11). If we are really concerned about the lost we will cease to “soft-peddle” the gospel, but will truly “tell it like it is.”

The world needs preaching and the church needs preaching, but not the kind some want. Yet, if all preachers would follow the apostolic examples, then everyone will get the kind of preaching that is sorely needed.

~via The Exhorter; Athens, Alabama.

The Church For Everybody

Sewell Hall

I agree to go with a group of Christian friends to a Braves game. It was going to be different. The field was

covered with performing high school bands - an appeal to all who like music. And that was only the beginning. For those preferring opera, a Metropolitan Opera star sang the National Anthem. For those more political in taste, the Attorney General of the U.S. led the pledge to the allegiance. Lovers of money were tantalized by a \$500 door prize. Cartoon fans were entertained by a million dollar score board featuring cartoon characters. Those living on the level of the flesh were treated to the sight of a young lady in short shorts running around the diamond sweeping off the bases between every inning. And to climax it all, there was a huge fireworks display. I don't remember what team the Braves were playing, much less who won, but that was a game I shall never forget. That was baseball for people who don't like baseball.

Col. 3:17 *Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.* Far too many churches are trying to remodel the religion of Jesus Christ to make it a religion for people who don't like religion! For those desiring recreation, they offer recreation. For those who like entertainment, there is entertainment. For those whose primary interest is secular education, they offer day care, kindergartens, schools, and colleges. For those whose appetite is for food, they build church kitchens and dining rooms. The attempt is to be “the church for everybody.”

Such carnal,temporal appeals were never authorized by the Lord. He intended that the church be a *“called out,”* separated body of people. If the gospel is the only appeal, it will make that separation. In Corinth, where the wisdom of men was valued, Paul *“determined not to know anything...except Jesus Christ and him crucified”* (1 Corinthians 2:2). In a city where oratory was highly esteemed, he refused even to dress up the gospel with *“excellence of speech”* (2:1). His purpose was to see that the materials he built into the temple were *“gold, silver, precious stone”* rather than *“wood,hay,and straw”* (3:12).

No, the Lord's church is not for everybody - just for those who have those qualities which set them apart as God's elect and chosen ones.

~via Stanley Avenue Church Bulletin; Andalusia, Alabama. by way of The Market Street Messenger, Athens, Al.

2 John 9 *Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.*

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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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS
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WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

THE BOOK OF ROMANS-
JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON:
TRANSFORMING AND RENEWING
THE MIND



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