

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.

**October  
23  
2016**

## FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

*for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

**(Rom. 1:16)**

We will be having a Gospel Meeting beginning October 30. This is an invitation to all to come hear the gospel preached just as authorized in the New Testament. The very gospel Jesus authorized His disciples to preach to the whole creation.

### GOSPEL MEETING

*at*

**LENEXA CHURCH OF CHRIST  
7845 COTTONWOOD DR  
LENEXA, KANSAS 66216**

### OUR SPEAKER IS:

**J.R. BRONGER of Danville, Indiana.**

**Bro. Bronger has been preaching the gospel for 50 years. His devotion to the Bible as the singular message of God's authority, is in harmony with the stance the Lenexa church of Christ has always taken concerning God's word. If you would desire to hear what God says on these subjects, you will be pleased to attend.**

*Meeting days and times: Sunday thru  
Wednesday; October 30-November 2  
Sunday 9:30; 10:20 AM 5:00 PM  
Monday - Wednesday 7:00 PM*

### Schedule of topics:

Sunday 9:30 AM - "A Christian Home"

Sunday 10:20 AM - "The Riches of His Glory"

Sunday 5:00 PM - "He Touched Me"

Monday 7:00 PM - "Must is Not an Option"

Tuesday 7:00 PM - "A Rebel Returns Home"

Wednesday 7:00 PM - "Saved to Serve"

*The gospel is the power of God unto salvation:  
to everyone who believes - **Rom. 1:16***

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. - **John 3:16***

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. -*

**Heb. 11:6**

*for, Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 and how shall they preach, except they be sent? even as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things! - **Rom. 10:13-15***

Bro. Bronger will preach so men can hear and believe and call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

## The Failure of Diotrophes

Jim Stauffer

**3 John 9** *I wrote something to the church; but Diotrophes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. 10 For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church. 11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.*

As we look at this text we will see the problems this man had in his attempt to be a leader among God's people.

Many may dismiss any sincerity on the part of Diotrophes period. He was a bad man, there is no good to be reported at all.

He certainly was harmful to the church and is called out directly for it by the apostle John. His attitude made him intolerable as would any today who had the same attitude.

The text does not indicate any doctrinal failures on his part. What it does tell us is he had such a large ego he wanted to have preeminence in the church.

It is a far different thing to desire to see the church stand by the truth and be willing to suffer persecution for taking such a stand than to desire to be recognized for taking such a stand.

The indication is he resented the leadership of the apostle and others more so than the message they carried.

This made his deeds reprehensible and called for discipline to bring his attitude in line or to have his influence removed from the congregation.

Let us understand what he was doing and see if we can see why. He accused John with *wicked words*. In order to augment his position of opposing John he also refused to receive, that is have spiritual fellowship with other faithful brethren who recognized the authority of the apostle.

Now, Diotrophes goes beyond disagreeing with John and others and puts them out of the church.

Now he has gone far beyond what one can tolerate as we all search for truth in our service in the kingdom. He has usurped the authority of an apostle. That is even a step beyond some men today who may disrespect the eldership of a congregation and refuse to yield to them.

Part of the reason for this epistle is John wants to encourage them as it has been reported to him they are walking in the truth. This is the goal of every child of God. Yet Diotrophes is inhibiting their walk because he wants to have preeminence. He then carries this to the point of paranoia by putting faithful brethren out of the church. This action is reserved for those who are living in sin and will not repent rather than those who appear to be a threat to one's authority (**1 Cor. 5; 2 Thess. 3**).

John promises to set this matter straight with him and the church when he arrives.

Diotrophes needs a spiritual mirror, *the perfect law, the law of liberty* (**Jas. 1:22-25**) in order to see himself as he really is. He would then realize He is not conducting himself as Jesus did, **Phil. 2:5** *Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; 8 and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross.* He has rejected the teaching of Christ, **Matt. 20:25** *But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 Not so shall it be among you: but whosoever would become great among you shall be your minister;*

Churches are damaged and souls are endangered when men conduct themselves this way. Leaving a congregation for reasons other than to denounce sin is often divisive on its own.

The sad part of this is too often these men are not recognized as the divisive force they have become and many well intentioned follow their lead.

### “To Whom Shall We Go?”

Willard M. Cox

In His teachings, Jesus had been using some words in a spiritual way about Himself (John 6:48-59). Many of His disciples said, *“This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”* (v.60).

Then Jesus said, *“Does this offend you?”* (v.61). Jesus explained, *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak of you are spirit, and they are life”* (v. 63).

*“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life’”* (v. 66-68).

Surely it grieved Jesus when so many left Him, to never return, but also it was refreshing to Jesus to hear one of His twelve apostles show his great faith in Him.

If those disciples forsook Jesus as their example and guide, would they turn to any of the rabbis or to the scribes, to the Pharisees, or maybe to the high priest? Would any of these people be a sinless leader, as Jesus is? Could they truly say follow me and I will give you eternal life? No, they were sinners too. Jesus had



no sin (**1 Peter 2:21-24**). He is the only perfect example for us. Jesus died for us (**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**). Jesus said, *"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death"* (**Revelation 1:18**).

*"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (**1 Corinthians 15:55-57**).

No person – nothing in this world – can do for us today what Jesus had done. *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you"* (**John 15:13-14**).

**Jesus is the Great Physician.** *"Jesus answered and said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance'"* (**Luke 5:31-32**). Jesus is the only one who can cure the sin sick soul. He can make the sinner whole. We must take His prescription to have eternal life. Please go to Him for eternal life.

**Jesus is the Loving Lawyer.** *"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"* (**1 John 2:2**). Please do not be discouraged and turn from Him. Come to Jesus. Study His Word, the New Testament. Jesus is the greatest lawyer of all time!

**Jesus is the Talented Teacher.** Nicodemus said, *"Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him"* (**John 3:2**). Jesus can teach us of God's love, the greatest ethical standard, the way of salvation, His church, the judgment to come, and much more. Jesus taught the multitudes when He was on earth. He wants to teach you. He is the greatest teacher this world has ever known. Choose Jesus. Obey His teaching and have a glorious eternity in heaven!

**Thoughts From The Heart; Sylva, North Carolina.**

## Do Not Question the Power of God!

Rabshakeh made the mistake of ignoring the power of the God of Israel – and 185,000 men died in one night, **Isaiah 37:35, 36**. Pharaoh denied the power of God and also lost an army in **Exodus 5:2 & 14:25ff**. History is full of those who mocked God and His power and then paid the price!

Almost every time I share with folks the non-necessity of miracle working today there is an immediate

jump to the conclusion that I deny the power of God to do so. Nothing could be further from the truth. I agree with the old preacher Marshall Keeble who said, "I do not deny the power of God. My God could grow apples on a barbed wire fence if He wanted to." What we are denying is the WILL of God to do so in light of the express statement of Jesus that such are not necessary for saving faith, since we have the testimony of the word of God, **John 20:29**. Could God work miracles today? Absolutely! Could God grow apples on a barbed wire fence? Sure! DOES HE? No! God provided the miraculous when, in His Divine judgment, it was necessary to accomplish His ends. We Read in **Mark 16:20**, *"And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen."* The purpose of the miracles was to confirm the word. In anticipation of the age of miracles ceasing and the confirmed New Testament being sufficient Paul could write to the Corinthians *"Love never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away."* To Paul, unconditional love trumped miracles.

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## Influence

A woman asked, "How can I win my husband to Christ?" "You can't," was the surprising answer from the preacher. "You never attend worship regularly. If your husband wants to go for a drive on Sunday, you neglect the Lord and go with him. And if you don't have a way to come to church, you never call some other member to come for you. You will never win your husband unless you let him know, and all those about you, that your religion means more to you than anything else under heaven. This alone is the kind of influence that wins souls."

**via "Great Plainness of Speech"**

***We are to be influence peddlers. It may not sound appropriate on the surface but this is our calling in Christ Jesus.***

**Matt. 5:13** *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. 16 Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

**jcs**

**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**

## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

**Check out the following websites**

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist/](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist/)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

**NEWS AND NOTES: REMEMBER**  
THE SICK IN PRAYERS AND  
VISITS. J.R. DANIEL, JAN  
PATRICK, STEVE AND SUZANNE  
WIMP AND L.A. STAUFFER.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:  
A STUDY IN PRAYER - RON PECK

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS: THE  
BOOK OF ROMANS - J STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: RECEIVING THE  
GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN

**BE SURE TO ARRANGE YOUR  
SCHEDULE TO ATTEND THE  
GOSPEL MEETING**



## **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