

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.

**October  
1  
2017**

## ***OUR GOSPEL MEETING IS HERE!***

*Jim Stauffer*

**October 1 through October 4**  
**Gale Towles from Charlotte, N. C.**  
**Sunday 9:30; 10:20; 5:00**  
**Mon-Wed 7PM**

### **FEAR, CONFIDENCE AND LOVE**

Converting the thinking of another begins with expressing the idea they should consider change. When a young man courts a young lady, he has to at some point ask her to spend time with him somewhere, sometime. What he is doing is attempting to persuade her to change her affections from something or someone else to him. It is the first step of love, emotional attraction that leads a young man to venture into this unknown arena and risk all the things he fears to gain the favor of this young lady to whom he is attracted.

I have no intent to cheapen or lessen the concept of evangelization by such a comparison, but I would like for us to focus our attention on the common thread, fear of rejection.

Fear of rejection comes directly from a lack of confidence. When I do something for the very first time, I often am lacking in confidence. Kind of a here goes nothing attitude as I put forth the best effort my knowledge allows. Therefore, when we first ask a girl for a date we are apprehensive about her response.

There are three factors we must consider in a situation of this kind. How strong is my desire, what should I fear, and in what or whom should my confidence be?

Since fear comes from a lack of confidence, let us deal with the fear factor first. Who or what should I fear? Jesus had a very blunt and clear statement regarding this. He said, "*Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*" (Matt. 10:28) In other words, there are levels of authority and limits of

what each of them can accomplish. God's authority allows Him to determine who will be saved or lost eternally (Mat. 25:46). When we view the big picture we must fear (revere) His authority and power rather than the very limited power another person on earth has over us. Usually our fear in the matter of evangelism is the simple fear of rejection just as our example above illustrates. In our calm and rational moments, we realize this is an emotional reaction and not rational at all. So we understand we should have no fear, yet it continues to keep us from acting in a way we know we should.

When we observe another talking to someone about Christ and inviting them to either study or to attend worship, we notice the thing missing in us right away. Confidence. How did they attain to that level, we ask ourselves. The answer is they simply have learned there is only One they should fear and they learned it by a study of His word and a growing faith and trust in His commands and promises. The apostles prayed to God for the courage to speak boldly concerning the gospel in the face of physical threats. Two verses later the Scripture tells us they were filled with the Holy Spirit and enabled to speak God's word with all boldness (Acts 4:29,31).

Fear is overcome by confidence which is attained by a genuine trust in the God of heaven who has all authority.

The final piece of the puzzle is the initial motivation for taking the step that initially brought such fear to us. That piece is love. The young man approaching the young lady is thinking about love. He could easily go to the movies or whatever with his buddies, but they do not hold the appeal of this young lady.

So love must be our motive for asking someone to study the word of God or to come listen to a man expound upon God's word in a gospel meeting.

If we are trying to prove we can convert people our efforts are doomed for failure. We use earthly examples to illustrate this subject, but evangelizing is not selling.

Many like to think of it like selling merchandise, but the difference in things material and spiritual is so great, it demeans the gospel of Christ to try to sell it like a car.

We cannot view success in evangelism as a personal accomplishment. It is the act of bringing someone we love (as we have learned to love from God - **1 John 4:17-21**), to the God who created the heavens and the earth and has provided salvation for all through His Son.

Once we arrive here, we have the necessary confidence in God to eliminate the fear of personal failure and rejection.

## LOVE FINDS A WAY

*by Sewell Hall*

All Christians want to bring the lost to Christ. But each of us has some handicap which causes us to feel limited in our ability to do so. It may be a weakness of knowledge or difficulty in expressing ourselves.

Perhaps it is a personality deficiency or even a lack of transportation. Whatever it may be, we tend to feel that it excuses us from responsibility. Actually, our most debilitating handicap is a lack of zeal. Once zeal is stirred, love will find a way to overcome all obstacles.

Take June McNeese as an example. Just 4 years ago, June held a responsible position with a Tennessee-based company which manufactured automobile hoses. She was, however experiencing considerable throat trouble and the problem grew steadily worse, slurring her speech, until she could no longer function in the office. Doctors discovered that she had dreaded Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, more popularly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Rapidly it began affecting the other parts of her body until all of her limbs were paralyzed.

Her speech continued to deteriorate until only a constant companion can understand anything she says, and then only when she uses the simplest of words. Often she must spell out very slowly what she is trying to say. Meanwhile, her sparkling eyes and the few words she is able to get across reveal a mind that is still keen and active.

If ever anyone would be excused from "personal evangelism", it would be June. Without use of her lower limbs she cannot go on her own. Without her arms and hands she cannot write. And with her damaged speech mechanism she cannot talk. But June does not look for an excuse. She looks for a way.

When a nurse was employed, one stipulation was that she would take June to worship just as long as possible. Patti, the nurse who was chosen, found the services strange and the sermons very different from what she was accustomed to in her own religious experience. Soon she was asking questions which June found very difficult to answer with the

communication problem. To add to the frustration, Patti could never seem to remember her questions when Joe Olson, a gospel preacher came to visit.

Somehow June had to find a way to get those questions answered either by herself or by Joe. All she had to work with were her neck muscles. Then an idea! An electric typewriter! One was borrowed to see if she could use it. Her father cut a wooden dowel rod and place a rubber tip on one end. Placing the other end of the rod between her teeth, June happily began typing some answers for Patti and typing questions for Joe when he came.

Patti was not easily converted. She had already changed religion once and she wanted to be sure this time. But little by little the truth, adorned by the life of her cheerful patient, did its work. Pattie was baptized into Christ.

Patti is not her only convert. A Christian couple who were in error visited her on occasions. She loved them and longed to see them come closer to the truth. She successfully used her limited opportunities to teach them *the way of the Lord more perfectly*. There are many others whom she hopes to reach before her time runs out. The limited life-expectancy characteristic of those with her disease makes her constantly aware, as Jesus was, that she is approaching a night *when no man can work*. This lends urgency to her efforts.

Perhaps all of us would be more zealous and more diligent if we could only realize how short is the time each of us has to accomplish whatever is to be accomplished in this life. I visited June recently in her Tennessee home. I did not understand a single word she said. But, at her usual speed of 5 words a minute, she typed a message for me, perfectly capitalized and indented. "Dear brother Hall, I am very glad you could come to see me this afternoon."

*Via Auburn,, Al. bulletin*

## CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

*"Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, 'It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them" (Matthew 21:12-14).*

Judgment is a common theme in both the OT and NT. Our accountability before God is clear; we will all give answer at that last great day. In the OT God came in judgment against pagan nations, against individuals, and against His own people, Israel. Now, as Jesus marches inexorably toward the cross, paradoxically, He rides into Jerusalem in judgment, on a donkey; the expected displays of power (not the military or political



rides into Jerusalem in judgment, on a donkey; the expected displays of power (not the military or political power of Rome) are absent. Again He strikes at the heart of Jewish pride—the temple. *"Yet I say to you that in this place there is one greater than the temple"* (Matthew 12:6). The temple had been desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes in 164BC. Three years later the temple was rededicated. A passage from *2<sup>nd</sup> Maccabees 10* speaks of this event. Sacrifices were renewed, lights were lit, songs of praises were sung, and palm branches were strewn. The Jews began to anticipate a better time of peace and safety. Jesus arrives and the tables are turned.

Actually, God's people had been misusing the temple for some time. Jeremiah, 600 years before Christ, said: *"Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it,"* says the LORD" (Jeremiah 7:11). Now again, God's people were using the house of God for their own purposes; true worship was absent; cheating and stealing were common. Selling animals for needed sacrifices, at least on the surface, was not wrong. Worshipers came to worship; they would buy the requisite sacrificial animal. What did Jesus see? Did He see true worship and devotion to God? Did He see Gentiles coming to God (in the outer court of the temple, the place where these activities would have occurred)? No! He saw a *"den of thieves."* Isaiah prophesied: *"Even them I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations"* (Isaiah 56:7). **Malachi (3:1-5)** prophesied that the one of whom John the Baptist would speak, would come in judgment. The Lord would be *"like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap ... He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness."*

Jesus is the ultimate temple. He is our Great High Priest. Who besides Jesus could claim to be greater than the temple—that bastion of pride among even God's people? He could cleanse the temple because He understood its true purpose. True holiness and worship should dominate the temple; avarice and little concern for God or His worshipers prevents and perverts God's purposes for His people. We need to remember His authority and His right to come in judgment. But He also asks that we worship Him, singing, *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna in the highest!"* When we do that, maybe then, we begin to really know who Jesus is.

**Randy Harshbarger**

## If There Is No God, Conclusion

With this article we bring this series to a close. We could go on but we'll pick this or a related subject up again later. In this series I have shown that in atheism

there is no innate morality. This is NOT to say there are no morally good atheists for there are many. They are good, however, IN SPITE of their atheism rather than because of it. I have shown that atheism does not explain even the mere existence of the Universe. I have shown that Man's innate worth is derived from his relationship to God and not from being a higher animal. And I have shown that only the comfort of true Justice administered by a faithful and merciful Judge can soothe the injustices of this world.

Finally let's look at Love. There is love in this world, far more than the nightly newscasts would lead us to believe. Consider a mother's tenderness toward her newborn child, a father's self-sacrifices to provide for his family, neighbors banding together to bring in an injured farmer's crop to save the family from destitution or strangers forming a human chain, putting their own lives at risk to save someone they never met from drowning. Each of these is an example of love. Atheism has no explanation for this immaterial but undeniably powerful force's existence, even though there were probably atheists among the neighbors or in the chain! Biblical theism does! Scripture teaches us that *"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."* (1John 4:8) Since God is love and we are made in His image the capacity to love is in every human being. The very existence of love screams out to everyone that God is real!

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## Confidence

John McKay, of the NFL, tells a story illustrating the supreme confidence of University of Alabama football coach Bear Bryant: "We were out shooting ducks, and finally, after about three hours, here comes one lonely duck. The Bear fires. And that duck is still flying today. But Bear watched the duck flap away, looked at me and said, 'John, you are witnessing a genuine miracle. There flies a dead duck!'"

**John McKay, A Coach's Story**

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## Fear

During his years as premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev denounced many of the policies and atrocities of Joseph Stalin. Once, as he censured Stalin in a public meeting, Khrushchev was interrupted by a shout from a heckler in the audience. "You were one of Stalin's colleagues. Why didn't you stop him?" "Who said that?" roared Khrushchev. Agonizing silence followed as nobody in the room dared move a muscle. Then Khrushchev replied quietly, "Now you know why."

**Today in the Word, July 13, 1993.**

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**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**

**Deacons: Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Casey Dent**

**Joe Hurd**

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**Check out the following websites:**

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lenexachurchofchrist.org

### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN  
PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER, JIM  
NEWMAN AND JOANN MEYER  
STEVE WIMP - ROOM 602  
TRINITY REHABILITATION

BIBLE CLASSES AND SERMONS  
WILL BE DELIVERED BY GALE  
TOWLES IN OUR GOSPEL  
MEETING.

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 - FREE WILL

10:20 - DISCIPLESHIP

5:00 - DISCIPLINE

#### **MONDAY-WEDNESDAY**

7:00 - THE GOSPEL

7:00 - PURITY OF HEART

7:00 - GLORIOUS HOPE IN  
MERCY



## **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