

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

September
24
2017

GOSPEL MEETING ON THE HORIZON

GOSPEL MEETING
at
LENEXA CHURCH OF CHRIST
7845 COTTONWOOD DR
LENEXA, KANSAS 66216

OCTOBER 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 4

SPEAKER

GALE TOWLES, CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Schedule of topics:

Sunday 9:30 AM - Free Will

Sunday 10:20 AM - Discipleship

Sunday 5:00 PM - Discipline

Monday - The Gospel

Tuesday - Purity of Heart - Goodness

Wednesday - Glorious Hope in Mercy

When we have our regular Gospel Meetings in the Spring and Fall, we always want the community to know how welcome you are among the Lord's people for worship and study.

We further want to remind our members of just how important it is to be receive the spiritual nourishment that will come from a series of lessons from God's word.

Our encouragement, then is to arrange your schedule around the meeting instead of the other way around. Bring a friend or neighbor with you. Let them meet your brethren and observe what you do and what causes you to devote the most important time in your life to coming to this place for worship.

This is an effort on the part of our congregation to preach the gospel to the lost. It is not an insult to those

outside the body of Christ to be referred to as the lost. Jesus*came to seek and save that which was lost.* (Luke 19:10 cf. Mat. 20:28)

This is an effort on the part of our congregation to edify the saints. Paul sent a clear message of the need for the church to be built up, to mature, to grow to a level of stability it would withstand the wiles of error (Eph. 4:11-16).

This is an effort on the part of our congregation to present God's word simply and without any input from any culture of mankind to make it fit the designs of men. We know there are many who have fallen away from the purity of God's truth and have*given heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons....* (1 Tim. 4:1-3).

When you visit the Lenexa church of Christ, you will NOT hear politics from the pulpit. Jesus clearly taught us service to God was not politically directed in any way. **Matt. 22:17** *Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? 18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why make ye trial of me, ye hypocrites? 19 Show me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a denarius. 20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? 21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.*

Things our visitors will notice:

1. We will extend a very warm welcome to all.
2. We will not do anything to embarrass anyone.
3. Our conduct will be designed to please God first.
4. We will take no offerings other than the first day of the week offering to be participated in by our members.
5. The word of God will be the basis of each and every lesson bro. Towles presents.
6. We invite you to ask questions following the service.

A RANSOM FOR MANY

"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:25-28).

Kingdom thinking is radically different from worldly thinking. Worldly thinking focuses on power, ruling over others, occupying important positions, being seen by others, and countless other attempts for self-elevation. Kingdom thinking says to serve others. Kingdom thinking says become the slave of others. Kingdom thinking says always put yourself last. To share in the cup Jesus would drink meant to drink the bitter dregs of suffering, alienation, and finally death. Some thought they were up to the task; James, John, and their mother, even granting them good intentions, said they would follow Jesus in His kingdom. Soon, Jesus would be in Jerusalem; soon, James and John, along with Peter, would be asleep in the Garden.

Status was important in Jesus' time; it remains so, today. Social hierarchies were common in the Roman world. With honor, power, and status often came the ability to lord it over others. Appellations denoting social class such as *slave*, *freedman*, or *freedwoman*, were engraved on tombstones. If you lived in Rome or some other large city, your status was higher than that of those who lived in small villages or the countryside. Roman aristocracy carried the day in terms of power, recognition, and honor. Even the inscription *nurse*, *pedagogue*, or *valet* on the gravestone of a slave indicated higher honor. Aristotle argued that levels of society were necessary for society to exist. That is, each person needed to understand who and what they were, their place in society, and then act accordingly. When Nero "play acted" as those in the theaters did, he was publicly shamed; his actions were out of character for his status (see *The Moral World of the First Christians*, Wayne A. Meeks, 32-38).

Then Jesus comes and dies for all; Jesus, the ultimate servant with the ultimate act of service, came to earth and paid our ransom. He paid the price to save you and me. He died our death. He is our hope, the only hope for all who are cursed by the sentence of sin. In dying, Jesus was not "play acting." He was not out of character. How could He be otherwise? He was great, but He was willing to be last. He alone deserves to be served, but He came to serve. He who came from heaven was willing to stand in the lowest places for all. Do you want to be great in the eyes of the world? Do you seek the service of others on your behalf? Do you believe you deserve the praise and accolades of this

world?

Or, do you seek greatness in the kingdom? If so, Jesus says if you want to be first, if you want to be great, if you really want to follow Me to the cross, then serve others. Jesus would soon stand before the Gentiles; the agony of the cross loomed close by. You want to be great? Then see hardship, opposition, and death. But see life, too. *"On the third day he will be raised to life.*

Randy Harshbarger

If There Is No God, III

Remember the bully in school? He always seemed to be able to get away with everything by doing them at just the right time and since the teachers didn't see it they couldn't do anything about it. If you were the one bullied, like I was, didn't that just burn you?

We look around the world today and we see the same behavior among adults. There are murderers who never get caught by the law. Nations under the control of wicked men ravage and oppress their weaker neighbors and cause no end of suffering. We cry out for justice. Why is that so? Where does mankind get this UNIVERSAL trait, the desire for JUSTICE in the face of moral wrong? He certainly doesn't get it from the 'comfort' of atheism since one of their tenets is that there is no such thing as 'moral wrong' in the first place. Atheism offers no justice, no comfort to those who have suffered at the hand of unanswered evil. It offers nothing to the parents who are burying their only daughter who died at the hands of an unknown stranger.

Only the sure knowledge that God, in his role as the Original Lawgiver, will answer Abraham's question in the affirmative; *"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25)* can soften the lives of those oppressed by evil. The teacher didn't see, but God did. The nations do not always know, but God knows intimately. The 'righteous' may be cowardly, or unable to act but God has no problems doing so.

Asaph had problems with the prosperity of the wicked. The 73rd psalm is his meditation on the problem. He comforted himself in God's justice.

Cleveland Reddinger

Sharpen The Axe

The word "sharpen" implies a principle to life – things become dull. When used enough, that which once was sharp loses its sharpness. It becomes worn. This is true of tools like an axe or saw. This is true of our bodies – our muscles and our mind.

Solomon spoke of sharp and dull in **Eccl. 10:10**.

It is foolish to continue to try and chop wood with a dull axe. It will require more effort; each swing requiring more and more energy. This means the worker will work that much harder with every blow. His strength and energy will be spent quicker. His work will take longer, meaning he may not produce as much wood as before. And when we are tired and fatigued, yet we insist on continuing to work, that's when mistakes happen. We get sloppy. We overlook the obvious. People get hurt. The work suffers.

This simple analogy represents so many of us today. We're running on empty. With the many demands from work, home, and church, we find ourselves stretched thin. We find ourselves in burnout – unmotivated, sloppy, neglectful, short and rude in our attitude. When we continue in our roles and in our duties when we are dull everyone suffers. The work suffers. Our relationships suffer. We suffer.

In order to take care of others you have to take care of yourself. You need to make time to sharpen your axe. We see this with the virtuous woman in **Proverbs 31**. She was working for her family (**Proverbs 31:12, 27**). But to take care of her family, this woman took the time to care for herself. She made herself strong (**Proverbs 31:17, 25**). She made clothes for herself (**Proverbs 31:22**). She feared the Lord, pursued her own relationship with God (**Proverbs 31:30**).

We also see this in Jesus. One of the common things we see in Jesus was that He often got away by Himself (**Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:13, 23**). Jesus took time to be by Himself and talk with His Father. Something I find interesting is how often Jesus traveled to Bethany. He had friends there that He loved dearly (Mary, Martha, and Lazarus). Before the cross (**John 12:1**), and before His ascension (**Luke 24:50**) Jesus traveled to Bethany, perhaps to comfort, and be comforted by loved ones.

What about you? Has your axe become dull? Are you burnt out? Don't keep plowing on ahead. It is not selfish or inconsiderate to spend time building up yourself. In order to properly care for your work and those under your care you must take care of your self. Do you remember the instruction given on airplanes? If the cabin pressure drops, the oxygen masks will drop for the passengers to use. But if you have small children, put your mask on first. You will not be able to care for others if you are struggling. What a principle! If I'm going to care for those under my charge, I need to ensure that I take care of myself. Don't go swinging with a dull axe. Sharpen your axe, take care of yourself, get the rest and encouragement you need, then you'll be in a greater position to care for others.

This may mean taking some time to rest – stopping the work, getting away, turning off the phone, and letting your mind and body relax. This may mean exercise – you will feel your best when your body is in shape. This may mean getting away, taking a vacation, going on a date with your mate, reading a good book, spending time with good friends you look up to who can offer good

advice in your area of work (**Proverbs 27:17**).

The point is you need to **MAKE** time to sharpen your axe. Rest, renew yourself, and return refreshed and ready to get back to the work. You've heard it said before – work smarter, not harder. You'll be able to do both once you are refreshed. Sharpen your axe!

Jordan Shouse jordanleeshouse@gmail.com
taken from focusmagazine.org

“EVEN AS THY SOUL PROSPERETH”

“Beloved, I pray that in all things thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”
(3 John 2).

Did you noticed the precise things for which John prayed (wished, KJV)? The subject of his prayer, as recorded for us by the Holy Spirit, was that God would grant an equality (“even as”) between the physical health and (financial) prosperity when compared with the spiritual prosperity of the beloved Gaius. For many of my brethren I could pray, as John did, requesting that the fullness and richness of physical health and financial prosperity rest upon my beloved. However, for some of my brothers and sisters-in-Christ such a prayer would, I fear, be asking God to undermine both their health and their wealth.

How would it be received if, just before a spiritual sibling was to be wheeled into the operating theater, one prayed “Heavenly Father, guide the hands of the surgeon as he operates on our beloved, give him success to the degree that she/he attends worship and Bible study services, guide his hands in keeping with the generous love and concern shown in their contribution, and guide them to the degree she/he shares the gospel with lost souls. In Jesus’ name, Amen”? Would you want the elders or the preacher to pray this prayer for you? yours? Why not?

William V. Beasley
From the Lincoln Bible Reader

One cannot help but be reminded of the rich young ruler of Matthew 19 who walked away from the Lord sorrowful because he was unwilling to make the necessary commitment and the attendant sacrifices to that commitment to enter the Lord's Kingdom.

He thought he was a religious man and was seeking confirmation of it, but learned there was more to it than just keeping the 10 commandments.

What he needed was the commitment that would allow one to pray for his physical and financial health to match his spiritual well being.

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:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN
PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER AND
JIM NEWMAN.
STEVE WIMP - ROOM 407 SMH
(IN THE OLD BUILDING)

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS
- FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH
RON PECK

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE
CLASS - FORGIVENESS
JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON:
HOW STRONG IS YOUR DESIRE
TO WORSHIP?



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