

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.

December
3
2017

THE PILLAR AND SUPPORT OF THE TRUTH

by Jim Stauffer

1 Tim. 3:15 *but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*

There are so many ways in which the church should have a positive effect on society. As God says, it is the *pillar and support of the truth*. Truth is a difficult pill to swallow when one's lifestyle is found to be opposed to its message.

We hear many say the world is becoming more vulgar and evil as the days go by.

Christians are charged with the responsibility of being the *light of the world*. In the same text a different metaphor is used, *salt of the earth*. As Christians attempt to be the light of the world, the church is busy upholding the truth, the word of God, in many communities around the world.

So how then does this light and salt influence the world as those Christians serve in the kingdom of God which is the church. That light can only affect the world if like any other influencing power, it is digested by those who need it.

Our society is made up of small units. You have the individual Christian, in this case, who is a member of a family in the community and also a member of the Lord's family, the church. In each of these roles he lives according to that truth that God has revealed in His word.

In many cases he is ridiculed for taking the Bible so seriously as to allow it to alter his life and deny him some of the things others choose for pleasure or entertainment.

The world becomes acquainted with the truth of God because the local church Jesus died to establish takes a stand for its message. That message is carried into the community by the members of the Lord's church.

If the community accepts the quality this truth brings to life, society does not deteriorate but rather can improve.

Look at just one glaring example in our nation today. Fatherless children are abundant when men live their lives without responsibility and go from woman to woman producing children through carnal pleasure without any responsibility to rear those children in the proper way.

Their rejection of God's command to live up to their responsibility produces many citizens in society who have no foundation in life and often follow in the footsteps of this irresponsible father. And even when they do not, a great burden is placed on others in the family; mothers and grandmothers, to rear these young people and attempt to teach them responsibility.

This is just one area where the pillar and ground of the truth can make a substantial difference in the lives of people and in the quality of a community.

Another blight on society is its failure to listen to God in learning a lesson in values. **1 Tim. 6:6-10** teaches us to be content with the things we have and to practice godliness along with this contentment in order to make a valuable gain. What is that gain? It is not the riches he condemns men for seeking in the next verses. But rather it is the peace we have with God by honoring His teaching and advice. Those who ignore this simple lesson and seek the riches he warns against *....fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction*. The love of money is one of if not the single greatest contributor to the evil in the world today. Men and women who seek money and the power that goes with it will lie and cheat in every way possible to achieve and sustain that position. If we look at the problems in our world today, most of them revolve around envy and covetousness, which the apostle Paul says is idolatry in **(Col. 3:5)**.

It is amazing how peaceful and happy life on earth can be for those who are willing to hear the simple truths of God's word. Truth is foreign to many, but is peace and joy and happiness to those who will hear it.

The Severity Of Minimizing His Severity

We human beings must constantly guard against the subtle temptation to trivialize and re-fashion God into some semblance of deity that fits our expectations and serves our desires. There is pressure from the world and the flesh to reduce God to a more manageable deity, or view Him in some way that makes Him more congenial and serviceable. We can drift away from the Biblical concept of God and Christ, and gradually develop a warped and humanistic view of God and His authority. One man called this "the dangerous illusion of a manageable deity."

Some theologians and religious writers on the contemporary scene attempt in every way they can, to deny or minimize the *"severity"* of God. They are playing into the hands of those who wish to reject the *"severity"* of God because of the moral implications of that sternness. There are many who nurture an unconfessed fear, that if they accept the *"severity"* of God or acknowledge His wrath, this will imply certain moral demands they find distasteful.

To be more specific, if I'm involved in adultery and desire to continue in that sin, I am comforted (deceived) by the notion that God is not severe; that He can overlook my sin or look the other way while I practice it. By the same token, if I'm participating in stealing for a living (or for fun ... doesn't matter), the concept of a severe God who punishes sin will not be agreeable. Thus, the temptation to "re-think" and revise our view of God, depending upon our involvements in daily life; that is, our involvements which run counter to divine legislation.

Isn't it clear, that so many people begin with their own behavior and that which they desire to do --- and from there they reason out their concept of God? So, their ideas of God are based on WHAT THEY DESIRE rather than WHAT IS REVEALED. What they think about God is what they want to think rather than what the Bible teaches. What we need to do is this: BEGIN WITH THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF GOD (THE TRUTH), AND ON THAT BASIS LET OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS AND DEEDS BE FORMED! Then re-shape and revise our behavior, not our concept of God.

One facet of God's character many do not readily accept is: HE IS *"A JEALOUS AND AVENGING GOD!"* The book of Nahum decreed punishment against the people of Ninevah (about 150 years after they repented at Jonah's preaching). The prophesy begins: *"The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on His foes and maintains His wrath against His enemies. The Lord is slow to anger and great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished,"*

(Nahum 1:2-3). Other passages likewise teach, the jealousy of God (see Ex. 20:5; Deut. 29:20; Psa. 78:58; Ezek. 36:5).

Now it must be said, this jealousy is not a jealousy that is tainted with sin. So often, the jealousy of man is tainted with or is productive of sin. But in no sense is God's jealousy explosive or irrational. Never does this divine disposition border on caprice or evil. It simply has to do with the fact, GOD CANNOT ABIDE THE PRESENCE OF SIN; and He cannot merely ignore unfaithfulness to Himself.

To husbands I would ask: WHAT IF YOUR WIFE STARTED PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO OTHER MEN, WHILE SLIGHTING YOU? Would you merely ignore that? Would your attitude be: "Well, I am a man of love and compassion ... it's all right!" To wives I would direct the same inquiry: WHAT IF YOUR HUSBAND STARTED LOOKING AT, LUSTING AFTER AND SPENDING TIME WITH OTHER WOMEN, WHILE SLIGHTING YOU? Would you allow or tolerate this?

Likewise, when people ignore God and worship men ... when people who should be following God's law, invent their own law or become a law unto themselves ... when God's people thumb their nose at God, and fall in love with the world ... when we labor to develop loop-hole arguments and theories to justify our sin -- GOD'S VERY CHARACTER CRIES OUT FOR VENGEANCE. For He is *"a jealous and avenging God."* *"Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God; on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off,"* (Rom. 11:22).

by Warren Berkley; Taken from simplebiblestudies.com

Four Gospels: One Message: John

It is always helpful when a NT writer clearly states his reason for writing. John does that for us. *"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name"* (20:30-31). Because we have an interest in the salvation of souls, we should have an interest in the gospel of John because John's message will bring people to Jesus. Some have taken the Gospel of John by itself, giving this book alone to an unbeliever, and then that person will come to have faith in the Messiah. The Gospel of John is easy to read; it is exciting in its movements; it is convincing in its logic.

There is even within the book itself a model, an example from the life of Jesus, that will help us in teaching others. Read chapter four and see how Jesus

taught the woman at the well. That pattern can help us in teaching others.

The Gospel of John is about faith. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, had faith in the Messiah; the Baptizer in turn passed his faith on to his followers—that is, he took a back seat to Jesus, decreasing as Jesus increased, and his disciples became disciples of Jesus; in fact, some became apostles. Read John one and see how one person would invite another person to consider who Jesus was. The Gospel of John is designed to provoke a response in the hearts of those who encounter Jesus. Not all came to have faith in Jesus; but there was adequate evidence presented to convince the fair-minded that Jesus was who He claimed to be—the divine Son of God.

Even a casual reading of John will show it is different from the Synoptics. While there is a decided interest in reaching out to the lost in each book, Matthew, Mark, and Luke concentrate on incidents in the life of Jesus; their narratives tell His story. Yet, John's story about Jesus revolves largely around seven miracles that highlight Jesus' purpose for coming into the world. For example, Jesus gave sight to the blind; the larger lesson is that Jesus gives to all who will come to Him spiritual sight in order to leave the blinding nature of sin. Many (not all by any means) believe John wrote his books (the gospel of John, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John, and Revelation) near the end of the 1st c. This could have been anywhere from AD 80 to AD 100. Fragments of John's gospel help us understand that it was circulating as early as AD 125. Writers (Irenaeus AD 185) mention John as the one whom Jesus loved (**John 21:20**). Add to that the mention of the isle of Patmos (**Rev. 1:9**), the place of John's exile, and you have factors that can lead to the conclusion that John's writings came later in the 1st c. **John 12:48** says: *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."* Let us receive Christ's words now; we will face them in the judgment.

Randy Harshbarger; From stallingsdrivechurchofchrist.net

Number Your Days

Moses was a very wise man. He chose to suffer with the people of God rather than enjoy temporary riches, **Hebrews 11:24f**. He intervened with God on Israel's behalf, **Numbers 11:2** and others. He saved Israel several times. He was, however, also a very practically wise man. Read the **90th Psalm** in its entirety. He understood the transitory nature of this life. In one of his most famous lines he said, *"So teach us to number our days, That we may get us a heart of wisdom."* (**Psalm 90:12**) What does he mean by that? Well, when it seems like the money will never end you don't worry

about wasting it, do you? I know I didn't. When the fountain dries up you suddenly start counting every penny.

Life is that way. We must use every single day for good since we don't know how many we have. This summer I made a point to visit with my sister-in-Law Mary Lou, who helped me become a Christian, and my sister Barbara. It was a good thing to make the effort since they both passed away the week before Thanksgiving and that visit during this past summer was the last time I would see either of them in this life. I am glad I made the effort.

What good thing are you putting off doing for whatever reason? Maybe it seems like a good reason to you now but will it seem so important in a hundred years? Yes, you WILL be around to care, though not in this life. Will it seem so important in light of eternity and judgment? Whatever good you can do, do it now before you forget. It will take less effort than you think it will and make you feel better in the long run!

Cleveland Reddinger

Once Right, Not Always

The Bible says, *"Repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand"* (**Revelation 2:5**). The church addressed in this passage was once acceptable to Christ, but now had left its first love and was in danger of rejection. A congregation, which at one time may have been right, may not always continue true to God's word. If that happens, the members must recognize such and have a greater allegiance to Christ than the group, for their relationship with Christ comes first. How is it where you attend? Is the truth being taught and practiced? **—Whit Sasser (Via Exhortations & Stuff)-- Taken from Lincoln Bible Reader**

Alberto de Vivero 8-6-1930 - 11-19-2017

Alberto de Vivero passed away November 19, 2017 just prior to his regular duties of preaching the gospel to the saints in Baybay, Leyte in the Philippines. He was 87 years of age.

The church here in Lenexa has provided support for him for many years as he has labored in the Lord's vineyard in that land.

Over the years the brethren there have suffered many difficulties, such as typhoons which often destroy their homes, church buildings and even their crops.

Bro. Vivero has been a staple in bringing many to the Lord and helping other young men begin to preach in surrounding areas.

We are saddened at his passing. We feel sorrow for those brethren who have lost a true soldier in the cause of the Lord.

We are prayerful God will bless those brethren with other men who can at least attempt to fill his shoes.

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

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NEWS AND NOTES:

**PLEASE REMEMBER JAN
PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER,
JIM NEWMAN, JOANN MEYER,
STEVE WIMP AND LINDIA
JACKSON**

BIBLE CLASSES

**SUNDAY - EPHESIANS,
PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS
BILL MILLER - TEACHER
WEDNESDAY**

**ISLAM VS. CHRISTIANITY
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER**

**SUNDAY SERMON: GUEST
SPEAKER - DAVID BECKLEY ON
THE WORK IN MOZAMBIQUE**



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