

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.

**November
5
2017**

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

by Jim Stauffer

Matt. 22:37 *And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’38 “This is the great and foremost commandment.39 “The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’*

Jesus says this is the second greatest commandment and then relates the story of the Good Samaritan in **Luke 10** to illustrate just who our neighbor is. When He teaches us we are to love our enemies in order to be perfect like our Father in heaven, He broadens the definition of neighbor even further.

When we begin to love all men as God loved us, we have both the responsibility and the opportunity to teach them about Jesus. We obviously cannot withhold the greatest news of all from those we love.

My concern is about how we conduct ourselves and what it both says about us and what it tells those whom we might hope to teach about us.

At the 1992 Republican Convention Pat Buchanan was given a prime slot in which to make a speech. He said in that speech, "There is a religious war going on in our country for the soul of America. It is a cultural war, as critical to the kind of nation we will one day be as was the Cold War itself." He was referring to the division of the country politically on such issues as; abortion, gun politics, separation of church and state, privacy, recreational drug use, homosexuality and censorship.

That division has become more intense in our current political atmosphere than ever before in my lifetime. It is so ingrained in folks that they post their thoughts on these subjects daily all over public content such as Facebook, Twitter and just about every medium they can access.

Now, let me be sure not to criticize anyone for standing firm behind their beliefs, and especially those that are based on teachings in the Bible.

But when we plaster aggressive political language

all over such pages, we can lose our ability to relate to our neighbors. It is very possible to cement enmity between people when it is presented as **OUR** thoughts rather than presented in a biblical context.

Which is more important to each of us? To convince someone to vote for the person of our choice or to convince them to listen to the words of the Master?

My point is this. It is better to first teach someone from the Scripture that sinful actions, such as abortion, homosexuality and drug use are a detriment to their soul's salvation than to challenge their political belief by attacking some candidate because of those things. Paul said, *God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Cor. 1:9)* Jesus is the One who teaches us love and represents the love of God toward us; *and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)* Then it was Paul again who said, *Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one. (Col. 4:6)*

I also see rational posts on these media outlets. Posts that are based on Scripture. It is my hope that when we do that the people who read them are serious enough to recognize these are the words of the God of heaven Who created us all. He is the One who knows what is best for us since we are made in His image.

These are the posts that represent our responsibility to *.....preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15)*

Jesus taught us to let our light shine and to be the salt of the earth. If we alienate people by our attitudes in public, how do we hope to shine the light of Christ in their hearts. Posting the truth in distasteful fashion on such outlets is really no different than acting that way in the presence of people in a public gathering. We would be completely disappointed in a brother who did such in person before a large group of people. And rightly so. It is no different when we write such things in such a manner in a public forum such as we have stated here. Let us love in word and in deed. **(see 1 John 3:18)**

Can One Fall From Grace?

Robert Jackson

This is a very serious question that needs to be settled in the minds of religious thinking people. First, we must make our appeal to the word of God for the answer. Secondly, the answer can be understood. I realize that some can cloud the issue with their mishandling of the Scriptures. Yet, the truth is clear. Let us consider the following things:

Consider 1: One must first be in grace. It is evident that in order for one to fall from grace that he must first be in grace. *"therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God"* (Romans 5:1–2). A careful study of this reveals how one has access to the grace of God. When one obeys the faith, he becomes a child of God, and thus stands in the grace of God. Paul stated it another way in **2 Corinthians 5:17**: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* The man in Christ is a new creature. He is a recipient of the grace of God. The man who is baptized upon his faith in Christ becomes a child of God (**Galatians 3:26–27**). He is in grace.

Consider 2: Can he fall? If one cannot fall from the grace of God, then the writers of the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit, wasted much space and time in teaching one how not to fall. Notice **1 Corinthians 15:2**, *"If ye keep in memory."* What if they forget? Would they still be in grace? Look at **Hebrews 10:26**: *"For if we sin wilfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins."* Here we are taught that one can wilfully turn from Christ as a sacrifice. The apostle Peter said that if the child of God did not add certain things to his faith, he would fall (**2 Peter 1:5–11**). In **1 Timothy 4:1**, it plainly states that one will fall: *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."* Was Paul wrong? Was the Spirit wrong in guiding Paul? No. The truth is that one can fall from grace.

Consider 3: The consequences of falling from grace. It would do us all good to stop and consider the grave consequences of departing from the faith. It means that one is out of fellowship with God. He is missing the joy and peace of mind that comes from serving God. He has brought shame and disgrace to himself and to the name of God. He lives daily in fear of death, knowing that he will fall under the condemnation of God. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"* (Romans 8:1).

If the doctrine be true that one cannot fall, just think of the time wasted in teaching people how to live. I grant that it would be a very easy doctrine to believe, but it is just not in harmony with the teaching of our Lord. It is true that some fall, and then come back. Others fall and never come back. *"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."* (Hebrews 6:4-6).

I believe that a person with an open mind and an open Bible can see that one can fall from grace.

~via Christianity Magazine; Vol. 1 No. 6, June 1984.
Taken from the Market Street Messenger

WATCH AND PRAY

"Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, What? Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:40-41).

Matthew tells us that Jesus *"had finished all these sayings."* This phrase, common to Matthew, signals a shift in the narrative, a momentous shift. Jesus has been preaching the good news of the kingdom for three years. All He wanted to say has been said. His inexorable march to the cross continues. It was for this purpose that He came to earth. His body would soon be anointed for burial; then, as Jesus said, 2000 years later we continue to speak of the woman's generosity. After the Passover meal had been eaten, Jesus took only a few disciples with Him and walked the few miles to Gethsemane. There, in distress, grief, and agitation, Jesus prayed to His Father. Returning to Peter, James, and John, Jesus asked: *"Could you not watch with me one hour?"* Maybe we think that Peter especially needed these words from Jesus. After all, the fisherman said that he would always stand by Jesus' side; he would never forsake his Lord. But off in the distance we hear the rooster crow.

Can we do what Jesus told Peter to do? Can we watch and pray? Jesus had told His disciples that He would die in Jerusalem; the time is near. The greatest travesty of injustice was unfolding; the dire situation called for prayer. That is what Jesus was doing. That is what we need to do. Why did Jesus take His favored trio to the garden? Did the Savior find solace and comfort in the companionship of these three men? Why wouldn't Jesus gain encouragement and strength from the prayers of these three? Jesus prayed three

times that the cup of suffering be taken away. Is there efficacy in continued, sustained prayer? We wonder about prayer and about how God answers prayer. Could it be that we are disappointed when God doesn't answer our prayers as we think He should? Could it be that we are praying for our will to be done rather than the Father's will? Jesus surely trusted in His Father, yielding to heaven's will. The Hebrew writer said of Jesus: *"Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered"* (5:7-8). Jesus came and yielded and obeyed in all things and He prayed.

While watching and praying is important for Christians today, are we probably more like Peter than we care to admit? Do we really understand and appreciate the seriousness of serving the Lord? Peter had tried to keep Jesus from going to Jerusalem (Matthew 16). Yes, before the night was over, he cut off the ear of one who came to arrest Jesus. Peter didn't and we don't sweat blood when we pray. Why not? How earnest are we, how serious are we, how dedicated are we to Jesus, His mission, and His will for our lives? Do we see ourselves in the garden, staying awake, watching and praying, and never leaving Jesus' side? Are you sure? *"Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled."*

Randy Harshbarger

Who's on YOUR Prayer List?

Every Wednesday at four o'clock we have a Bible Class at the Heritage House on North Gordy Street. And every time we meet we spend a few minutes catching up with one another and composing our Prayer List. We take a few minutes each time to set in our minds exactly what and who we want to lift up before the Almighty in prayer. Sometimes the list is quite long and at other times it hardly has anyone on it but we always pray for our nation, that it might return to some moral sanity, for the folks who are unfortunate or homeless and for our elected leaders.

Prayer has been part of the worship of the Almighty ever since the beginning, **Genesis 4:26**. Here we are, just at Adam's son and grandson and we already have men calling on the Lord in Prayer. Abram took his complaint to God in **Genesis 15:2** and was promised a son. Moses interceded for the children of Israel a number of times while they were in the wilderness of Sinai, **Numbers 11** among them. Nehemiah sent a quick prayer up to God in **Nehemiah 2:4,5**. Jesus spent the entire night in prayer before choosing the twelve, **Luke 6:12**. He also prayed for the disciples before his betrayal by Judas in **John 17**. If it was important for these mere men who were servants of God, and if it was important to

the man who was also God in the flesh to pray, should it not also be important for us to pray?

There are plenty who need prayer. Take the time to compose a list of just the folks you know and you'll understand how the folks spent so much time in prayer!

Cleveland Reddinger

Armed with an Attitude

In fortifying God's people to meet suffering and persecution, Peter says *"arm ye yourselves also with the same mind"* (the mind of Christ, **1 Peter 4:1**) Nothing better equips us to suffer for righteousness' sake than Christ-mindedness. That means seeing things from the divine viewpoint.

Accordingly, such suffering comes as no surprise to those who live Godly in Christ Jesus (**2 Timothy 3:12**). Not only is it expected, it is made easier with an encouraging sense of purpose in recalling that we become "joint-heirs with Christ; *if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be glorified together*" (**Romans 8:17**). With the mind of Christ we see our affliction as light, temporary and even beneficial: *"For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory..."* (**2 Corinthians 4:17**).

Like Jesus, we must see a blessedness associated with persecution for His sake. And more, to experience a sense of joy and gladness with our endurance because of the great heavenly reward that is promised the faithful (**Matthew 5:10-12**).

However, Christ-mindedness not only sees suffering in perspective, it enables us to see things "as they are" in other areas as well. From the divine viewpoint we see sin for what it is and therefore *"hate every false way"* (**Psalms 119:104**). In contrast, the carnally minded minimize and lightly regard sin; they usually "don't see anything wrong with it", much less mourn about it (**1 Corinthians 5:2**). The mind of Christ is sensitive to sin. It sees every sin as serious; as a kind of spiritual cancer in need of immediate attention — and they appreciate the remedy provided by the Great Physician. Such a view sees sinners with compassion, whether brethren who need restoring or aliens needing to know the gospel. They not only see sinners as needing help, they see self as the helper.

To have the mind of Christ is to see time as an expression of God's longsuffering (**2 Peter 3:15**); as an opportunity to do the Father's will, knowing that the night cometh when no man can work. Nothing will enhance life more than to *"Have this mind in you."*

Dan S. Shipley

A chaplain was speaking to a soldier on a cot in a hospital. "You have lost an arm in the great cause," he said. "No," said the soldier with a smile. "I didn't lose it—I gave it." In that same way, Jesus did not lose His life. He gave it purposefully.

Source unknown

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

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BIBLE CLASSES
SUNDAY MORNING = EPHESIANS,
PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS
BILL MILLER - TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING
ISLAM VS. CHRISTIANITY
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY SERMON: THE GOOD
MORAL MAN VS. THE MAN OF
GOD



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