

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.

June 24  
2018

## IS THE PROBLEM SPIRITUAL OR POLITICAL?

Jim Stauffer

There is a current discussion in the political arena that has spilled over into a discussion of such things as morality and even the conduct our Lord taught His disciples.

This discussion is over the separation of parents from children when they enter through our country's southern border illegally.

Now I am no expert on the legalities and political considerations of this matter, but all of us should at least have some idea of what a Christian's conduct should be in any situation he finds himself.

What I have tried to do myself in attempting to resolve this issue in my mind is to understand the situation of every participant in these matters.

There is no doubt America and the lifestyle one can live along with the freedoms enjoyed is a more desirable place than many people, especially from what we describe as third world countries, live. This accounts in large part for the desire of people to load up their families and try to get into the country even if it is by illegal means. Of course, they know already the U.S. will resist their attempts to come here unless they come fully prepared to integrate into society with job skills that will support them, so they come requesting asylum.

There is also no doubt that if the leaders of this nation we all love, were to allow it, half of Latin America would happily relocate to the U.S. The same certainty is tied to the results for America if this happens. There are not sufficient jobs and opportunities to support such a large number of immigrants. That, of course, explains the desire of the leaders of our nation to limit such immigration, especially when these folks have not taken the appropriate pathway to make their case.

There is a proper process for requesting asylum in our nation and it has been clearly stated for years. That process is not attempting to enter by deceitful efforts, but rather to go to the proper authorities and make your request. Then one must wait until that request is processed and either move into American society or return to his native country. That is the legal way to

accomplish this.

We can readily see the conflict then that has occurred and this conflict and the way these people have been handled is the source of the discussion in America and even now more each day among Christians.

First, the question needs to be answered by every Christian; is this a concern for you because of what you perceive as immorality or because you disagree with the politics involved? The only righteous solution for brethren is to maintain our loyalty to the principles of biblical interpretation as we attempt to support or criticize the way our nation's leaders handle such matters.

Often I have heard in such discussions the use of **Romans 13** where Paul speaks of the responsibility of the child of God to be subject to the powers that be. This passage is used by some as an argument that the government can do as it wishes and we should not object because it is ordained of God. That simply cannot be practical conduct for the honest heart of the child of God. After all Hitler once led Germany and Stalin, Russia. A couple of examples of leaders whose conduct one could not support and still love his neighbor as himself.

I have not suggested insurrection. I have not suggested illegal conduct against our government by children of God when they think the leaders are morally lacking in conduct. What I will suggest is this; that we continue to conduct ourselves as Christians, lighting the darkness of the world in every way we can while continuing to be obedient to those in authority. There are many ways for Christians to express themselves without violation of the law. Support of groups who wield influence for the compassion you feel should be displayed is perfectly within the right of God's children, especially in this nation.

But by the same token we must abide by the principles of biblical interpretation and only apply Scripture where it is intended. For instance passages

such as **Mat. 25:31-46**; **Heb. 13:1,2** and **Mat. 5:38-48** have been bandied about as the guideline for the nation. These principles are wonderful and authorized by our Lord. But they are directed at Christians the conduct they are responsible for as the salt of the earth and light of the world. They do not authorize individual Christians to violate the laws of the land to carry them out. We have a responsibility to love our neighbor and we can do that even while we carry out the laws of our land. There may be some enforcement persons who are Christians in the middle of this process. They must and can honor both the the laws of the nation that employs them and love their neighbors at the same time. I can offer food, shelter and whatever is needed to any individual I encounter, even if he is my enemy and my nation's enemy, but I cannot break the laws of the land to do so. I cannot assist an individual in breaking the law, but I can feed him when he is hungry. There is no conflict there. I do not have to be mean to a person to uphold the laws of my nation and I do not have to assist him in his law breaking to love him as God has demanded. What I must understand is my conduct is a communication of the love of Christ to him and will not always solve the problems he faces in this world. It can, however, provide encouragement for him to be the kind of person God wants him to be in the face of his difficulties and that will bring more reward for him than any other thing I could do.

I recognize this problem currently being discussed all over our country and especially among Christians has been fed by political feelings on both sides. As children of God, we cannot bite and devour one another over issues that have their genesis in politics. We must overcome our desire to push our political agenda even while we try to be faithful to the principles Jesus taught.

I do not know exactly how to solve this problem we as a nation face. This problem should not be laid at the feet of the Lord's church. I do know it is possible to solve it and we have elected representation in government who are responsible to do just that. I am prayerful they will. I am also prayerful for the lives and the souls of those immigrants who are facing this difficulty. I truly pray our brethren will study the Scriptures carefully in such matters and not allow such temporal, political debates to have an effect on the well being of the church our Lord died for.

## WHO CAN BE SAVED?

The Social Gospel movement of the 1880s through the 1920s perpetuated the idea that man's greatest problem was his social environment rather than his sin problem. By correcting the problems people experienced in this life, they could therefore be "saved" from the strains and stresses of life. Calvinism, in its

purest sense, teaches that an elect number of people are predestined to be saved; all others will be lost. Does the Bible make claims as to who can be saved? Does the Bible teach that someone or anyone will be lost, and if so, why?

Jesus said: *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"* (**Matthew 7:21**). Discounting the teachings of Calvinism, Jesus is saying that some will obey His will and some will not obey His will. The question is: Who will be saved? Jesus' answer is: Those who do My will! Yet, believers in universalism believe that God will ultimately restore all people to Himself; that is what He intended for them in the first place, and He will finally save all people. No one will be lost. Variations of this teaching say that you have to believe in Christ to be saved and ultimately all will do so. But what about someone such as Adolph Hitler? Admitting that God is the judge of all, still, would we reasonably conclude that Hitler was a believer in Jesus Christ as the Divine Son of God? It is difficult to believe that all will be saved, however much we want to believe that.

Who can be saved? All men can be saved. *"(God) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (**1 Timothy 2:4**).

Who can be saved? Whoever wants to be saved can be saved. *"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely"* (**Revelation 22:17**).

Who can be saved? Those who repent. *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"* (**2 Peter 3:9**).

Who can be saved? Those who obey the Son. *"Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him"* (**Hebrews 5:8,9**).

Who can be saved? Those who call on the name of the Lord. *"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord"* (**Acts 22:16**).

Who can be saved? You can be saved.

**Randy Harshbarger**

## The Fifth Purpose of the Prophecy

We now come to the Fifth Purpose to be fulfilled by the Seventy Weeks and that is: to seal up vision and prophecy. How are we to understand this?

The word for 'seal' is the Hebrew word 'chatham' which means "to close up; especially to seal:--make an end, mark, seal (up), stop" (Strong's Hebrew Dictionary). It is quite obvious that the seventieth week began with the introduction of the Messiah to the world at Jesus' baptism in **Matthew 3:13-17** and by John's declaration in **John 1:29-36**. It is equally obvious that there were prophecies made by prophets for many years after the death, burial and resurrection of Christ which occurred in the midst of that 'week', **Acts 11:27-30** and **1 Thess. 4** come to mind. The days of Claudius were in the AD 50's so the Seventy Weeks were not to bring vision and prophecy, per se to an end.

Think! Is there another way to bring prophecy to an end? Yes! Fulfill them! During Jesus' ministry he did many things "*in order that it might be fulfilled*", eight times in Matthew alone! Following His resurrection he told his disciples in **Luke 24:44**, "*Now He said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."*" (NAS95) There would be no need for further revelation about the coming Messiah for those promises had already been delivered. Any prophecies made after this were made to confirm the word of the apostles to a world lost in darkness, or to prepare the disciples for what lay ahead in their lives as disciples. The Seventy Weeks ended all Messianic Prophecy. New Testament prophecy is of a RETURNING KING!

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## Problem Solvers vs. Fault Finders

Let me state some realities for you. I believe these things could be said about any local congregation, anywhere in the world:

- 1) The church is not as evangelistic as it ought to be.
- 2) We don't do enough to support the weak and to encourage those who are struggling with hardships in their lives.
- 3) The church isn't as friendly as it could be. There isn't as much close association among the members as there ought to be.
- 4) The Bible classes could be improved. The subject matter is sometimes lacking, and the teacher's are sometimes unprepared.
- 5) We aren't doing enough benevolence. We are too slow to step forward when legitimate needs are put before us.

This is just a sampling. You can, no doubt, think of other things to expand this list. Our point, however, is this: What are YOU doing about these deficiencies? There

are two types of members in the church, and they have opposite reactions to the kind of problems we have listed here.

There are some that are dedicated to serving in the kingdom. When they see areas that need attention, they jump to work. When there are lost people that need to be taught, weak brethren to encourage, sick people to visit, these folks don't wait to be told -- they are busy working to address such needs. For example, instead of complaining that the church is unfriendly, they are doing their best to change that reputation by inviting people into their homes and by actively showing their love and concern for others. They get involved in bringing about needed changes. In short, these are the ones who love the church want to see it grow.

Sadly, there are others who only intend to complain. They are never happy and are constantly finding fault. Such members see none of the good in the congregation. They gripe and grouse and do nothing positive. Their contribution to the church is to tear it down, not build it up.

Which of these descriptions fits YOU? Think!

**by Greg Gwin**

## POSITIVE THINKING

The winner glories in the good; the whiner majors in the mediocre. Winners' thinking processes differ from other people's. As part of their normal, moment-to-moment stream of consciousness, winners think constantly in terms of I can and I will. Losers concentrate their waking thoughts on...what they should have done...would have done...what they can't do. When the mind's self-talk is positive, performance is more likely to be successful. The huge majority of our negative doubts and fears are imaginary or beyond our control.

**Denis Waitley.**

If you think you are beaten, you are.  
If you think you dare not, you don't.  
If you'd like to win but think you can't,  
It's almost certain you won't.  
Life's battles don't always go  
To the stronger or faster man,  
But sooner or later, the man who wins  
Is the man who thinks he can.

**Plaque on the wall of Golfer Arnold Palmer's office.**

***For as he thinks in his heart, so is he....Pro. 23:7***

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

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

### NEWS AND NOTES:

#### PRAYER LIST:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK,  
STEPHEN KIMKER, STEVE AND  
SUZANNE WIMP AND ALMA  
BAUMGARTNER'S MOTHER.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS -  
CHRISTIAN PARENTING PART 2  
RON PECK

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE  
CLASS - ANGELS AND DEMONS  
JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON:  
CONVERSION



## **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