

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.

September
16
2018

THE ROLE OF EVANGELISM IN SALVATION

Jim Stauffer

**GOSPEL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23-26
LENEXA CHURCH OF CHRIST
7845 COTTONWOOD DR.
LENEXA, KANSAS 66216
OUR SPEAKER
CHUCK BARTLETT**

Meeting Times:

**Sunday 9:30 AM; 10:20 AM; 5:00 PM
Monday thru Wednesday 7 PM**

Lesson Titles:

Sunday 9:30 AM

Faith That Brings the Victory

Sunday 10:20 AM

Don't Give Away What Belongs to God

Sunday 5:00 PM

Four Things Every Faithful Church Does

Monday 7 PM

Why Was Jesus' Death So Special?

Tuesday 7 PM

Being More Specific

Wednesday 7 PM

Signs of Drifting

When the Lord sent His disciples into the world with the instruction to,.....*preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.*, He clearly indicated the response to believe and be baptized would depend upon their understanding of the gospel that was preached. This is why the apostle Paul says in **Rom.10:17** *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

The gospel was the message that carried the details

of the promises of God concerning the redemption of man from sin. When John says, *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life* (**John 3:16**), there is the need for evangelism to present the story of Christ and the cross in order for men to understand the gospel message and believe it.

So, when Peter preached to those gathered on Pentecost in **Acts 2**, he told them to *....repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* (**Acts 2:38**) When Saul of Tarsus had been taught by Ananias he was told, *Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.* (**Acts 22:16**) When the Philippian jailer asked the question, *...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?* They told him to believe on the Lord Jesus to be saved. What happened next? They taught him and all his house the word of the Lord, yes, the gospel and he and his household were baptized (**Acts 16:30-34**).

When we study God's Word, the gospel, we learn we have all sinned and fallen short of His glory (**Rom. 3:23**). We then must repent of that sin (**Acts 17:30**), we must confess that Jesus is the Lord, the Son of God (**Rom. 10:9,10**) and then we have to put on Christ in baptism (**Rom. 6:3,4; Gal. 3:27**) in order to have our sins washed away.

The purpose of Christ placing evangelists in the church (**Eph. 4:11**) is to preach this gospel to lead men from lives of sin to the righteousness granted by God to those who obey His will (**Rom. 6:17,18**).

That is the purpose of this gospel meeting. To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ; to offer this message of salvation to all who will hear. In this meeting some of the lessons presented will also serve to equip the saints and build up the body of Christ (**Eph. 4:12**).

Please accept our invitation to join us in this effort to preach the gospel of Christ.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Does the church of Christ have a creed? How you answer that question might depend upon your understanding of what the church is. A person's creed is simply those things that person believes in. Creed comes from the Latin *credo* and means "I believe." In this sense, every person has a creed of some kind, because every person has something he believes in. It has been correctly said that if a creed contains more than the Bible it contains too much; if it contains less than the Bible it contains too little; if it contains the same as the Bible it is not needed. Most human creeds as utilized in the denominational world can be traced back to the Nicene Creed, formulated in 325AD. Creeds set forth the tenets of faith peculiar to each denomination. Human creeds are human in nature and are produced by men, not God. Creeds must never be given the same weight of scripture, whether written or unwritten.

Isaiah long ago challenged the apostate children of God to listen to their Creator by saying: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (Isa. 55:8-9). Man makes the mistake of trying to bring God down to his level. Man makes the mistake of thinking in terms of the seen rather than the unseen. Man makes the mistake of rationalizing his conduct, reaching the conclusion that God will do the same. All of these things, and more, demonstrate man's failure to listen to God.

Is it possible for those who claim New Testament Christianity to subscribe to a creed of some kind, written or unwritten? Consider the oft-told story about the newly wedded bride, who prepared a delicious dinner of pot roast for her new husband. After sitting down to eat, the husband observed two pans of roast and asked: "Why do we have two pans of roast?" "I don't really know. "replied his wife," But that is the way Mom always prepared pot roast. A quick call to Mom brought forth the answer. "Mom, I cooked supper just like you always did, and I cut the roast in half, using two pans. But, why did you always use two pans?" "Because the roast was too large for one pan!" Mom answered.

Our worship to God must be in spirit and truth, but singing two songs, having a prayer, and then another song isn't the only way to conduct that portion of the worship service. It isn't mandated that each service be closed with prayer. There is nothing in scripture about the amount of time that should be given to each respective element of our worship. Yet, to change the "prescribed order" is to incur the ire of many who are quick to say: "That is wrong ... we've never done it that way before ... etc." You get the point. Am I advocating a

change in the way we conduct our services? No! Am I saying that we can easily fall prey to creedal thinking if we are not careful? Yes! Do I believe we should give equal emphasis to HOW we do WHAT we do in our devotion to God? Yes! Don't be too quick to change something just because it is old, but don't assume that just because it is old, that it is right.

My friend Brother Elmer Moore has frequently said: "It is just as wrong to make a law, as to break a law." To that I say AMEN! May we never elevate what we think or what we say above that which is written. We may be using two pans when one will do just as well.

Remember, God's ways are above our ways!

Randy Harshbarger

The Lion or the Lamb?

We are all familiar with the words of John the Baptist upon seeing Jesus walking by in **John 1:36** where he said, *"Behold, the Lamb of God!"* We have all sung the hymn describing "Jesus, Meek and Gentle" and "Jesus like a shepherd lead us..." and so on. We all know these things and they are all true enough, but did you ever stop to think that maybe we are getting a little bit of a skewed perspective of our Lord? I say this because there is a whole different way of seeing the Lord in the Bible.

When John turned to see the Lion of the Tribe of Judah in **Revelation 5:6** he saw a slain Lamb, Jesus. He is NOT JUST the Lamb but also a LION! This is the single man who chased many men out of the Temple in Jerusalem, not just once but twice, **John 2:14ff** and **Matthew 21:12**, both at the beginning and the end of his public ministry. He was a carpenter or laborer who knew what hard work was like, **Mark 6:3**. It was that labor through the years before his ministry began which gave him the muscles he used to clear the Temple. By the way, do you read of anyone trying to fight back against this lone preacher from Galilee? I don't remember seeing it anywhere. If he had been this anemic looking "Caspar Milquetoast" type of individual we see in so many old paintings he would have been an inspiration to no one!

Why is this important? Because we have presented such an imbalanced view of Jesus to the world that many men think they'd have to turn in their "Man Card" if they became a Christian, and that's just not true!

Cleveland Reddinger

MAN'S NEED FOR BIBLE AUTHORITY

Thomas Thornhill

I realize the world in general does not choose to recognize the sovereignty of God, and His right to govern them in any matter, secular or religious. Articles such as this one, as well as the ones to follow on this

subject will have little effect on them. Yet, at the same time it is my hope that these articles will be useful to those who profess to believe in God and are willing to recognize and accept His authority.

We live in a divided, confused, religious world today. This stems from a lack of respect for God, and a disregard of His authority. This attitude is the underlying cause of every departure from the truth through the centuries, whether in the church or out. People are confused and led astray because they do not know what the right standard is, nor how to follow it. And the Lord's people are certainly not immune from the same malady. Is there really a need for Bible authority? Yes! Even the people in Jesus' day recognized this. In **Matt.21:12-15** we find Jesus cleansing the temple of God by overturning the merchandisers and money changers. Later He was confronted by the chief priests and elders who asked Him, *"By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?"* **Matt.21:23**. Their questions showed at least two things. 1. They recognized a need for authority in religion. 2. That such authority must come from someone who has the right to grant it.

Jesus said He would answer their questions, but first they had to answer His question. *"The baptism of John – where was it from? From heaven or from men?"* **Matt. 21:24-25**.

The question Jesus asked indicated there were only two sources of authority in religion. Either it came from God, or it came from men. The religious leaders recognized the force of His question and refused to press Jesus for His authority. But they knew that it came from God and not men.

There is still a need today for Bible authority for God has not changed. It is no different today than it was then. Men must have authority to act religiously, and this authority to act can only come from one who has the right to give it. It must either come from heaven or from men. Jesus has been given the right to this authority by God. It came from heaven, not men. Read **Matt.17:5**; **Matt.28:18**. His authority has been revealed to us on the pages of the New Testament, written by inspired men **1.Thes.2:13**; **Phil.4:9**; **2.Thes.2:15**. They are the commands of God **1.Cor.14:37**. The Faith (the gospel message in organized form) **Jude 3**, delivered by the Holy Spirit to these inspired men has not changed since it was given, because Jesus, the one who sent the Holy Spirit to guide them, **Jn.14:25-26**; **16:7-15**, has not changed **Heb.13:8**. He is the same today as He was then, and so is the faith delivered. Men today are limited to what is written. We are warned not to go beyond what these inspired men wrote **1.Cor. 4:6**; **2. Jn.9**. Even an angel cannot change it **Gal.1:6-9**. That is why we must continue to ask, *"By what authority do you do these things?"* *"Does it come from heaven or from men?"*

As pointed out in the last issue of this paper (7-29-07), most of the religious world has lost respect for

God's authority (His right) to govern men in religious matters. Yet, as sovereign Jehovah God He has every right, both as Creator and Sustainer of life, *God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth,.....(and).....in Him we live and move and have our being...* **Acts 17:24, 28a**. As such, God is not only to be honored, respected and worshipped; His will is also to be accepted and obeyed. He will one day bring all men into account. Therefore He *"now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."* **Acts 17:30b-31**. These things being true it behooves us to listen carefully to what He has said. *"See that you refuse not Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him (God's Son –t.t.) who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn from Him who speaks from heaven...for our God is a consuming fire."* **Heb.12:25, 29**.

Realizing the truth about these things should cause all sincere religious people to study the subject of authority more often and more carefully, to be more aware of the need for Bible authority for all we say and do **Col.3:17**. Let me ask you; Do you really want to go to heaven when you die? If so, where does one go to learn how to get there? If you answer, "I go to the Bible," let me ask some more questions. How certain are you that you are doing the right things, following the proper instructions, in being saved, and doing the things that are approved of by God and pleasing to Him? Are you confident that your faith and practice conforms to what God has said? Can you prove from the scriptures that the things you believe and practice religiously are right and true?

The reason for asking the above questions is to get you to think. When such questions are asked, the Christian should be able to answer with confidence. Peter wrote, *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"* **1.Pet.3:15**. Yet, many people answer the questions with a note of uncertainty. Others may answer with confidence at first, but when pressed to do as Peter wrote, they become uncomfortable. Why? Because they are unable to go to the source, (God's word), and find the answer. Or, they realize the standard they are using is faulty. It is not the word of God.

Notice some of the standards used by men to determine authority for religious practices. I DO IT BECAUSE I LIKE IT. Some religious people do what pleases them. They see no need for scriptural authority. They are not concerned with what God wants or demands, they just do what they want.

Taken from simplebiblestudies.com

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:

PRAYER LIST:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK,
STEPHEN KIMKER, STEVE AND
SUZANNE WIMP, LINDIA JACKSON
AND ALMA BAUMGARTNER'S MOTHER.
ALMA IS RECOVERING FROM
SURGERIES AT BROOKDALE-ROSEHILL
- RM. 106

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS -
FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH
RON PECK

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS -
THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS
GOVERNMENT
JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: EVENTS THAT WILL
NOT OCCUR AT THE SECOND COMING



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