

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**February
10
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GENUINE REPENTANCE

Jim Stauffer

There are times we can actually learn more about biblical principles by simply observing the goings on in the world.

Recently, several politicians in Virginia have been caught up in their past transgressions. Things they did many years ago in their relative youth have come back to haunt them. These men dressed in various garb in their youth that was very discriminatory toward black people of the day. It is probably fair to say they nor their friends at the time considered it to be nearly as serious and harmful as hindsight has decided today.

While it is difficult to be too judgmental of these few men (mostly because we are still waiting to see how many are guilty of the same), it does teach us that a mature and serious consideration of one's actions is warranted if we are to be able to say as the apostle did, *.....Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day.* (Acts 23:1) Can we see both the beauty and the maturity in such a statement? Paul is saying he persecuted the church because he believed it to be the right thing to do. Yet when the Lord appeared to him and Ananias taught him the truth he immediately changed his course by repenting of his failure to understand God's will for man.

The beauty of God's redemptive plan is His recognition of our weaknesses and of the sin of all men (Rom. 3:23). As a result, He sent His Son to earth as an atonement sacrifice for these very sins of mankind.

The demand of God concerning our sin is we have genuine remorse. Remorse He defines as *godly sorrow* that *worketh unto repentance* (2 Cor. 7:10). This concept of repentance has been taught by prophets of God from the earliest of times (Isa. 30:15; Mat. 3:5). The idea expressed by John the Baptist and the apostle Paul is that this genuine remorse would be evidenced in a change of conduct expressed as *....performing deeds appropriate to repentance.* (Acts 26:20)

As we observe these things going on in the world it is very important that we learn what is and what is not genuine repentance. While most of the attention on

their misdeeds is focused from a political aspect of their present and future positions in government, we must look for genuine repentance in all matters of men.

We, too, can fall prey to pride and only repent because we have been caught rather than because we have recognized the seriousness of our offense. It is fair to note these men did not come forth until their actions were discovered and then exposed by others. Just as surely, we when guilty of sin, must with *godly sorrow* repent and perform deeds worthy of one who has done so.

There can be no doubt pride is the real reason many do not repent. It stands in the way of *godly sorrow*.

But that cannot be the case with the one who is truly concerned about his relationship with His Father. When we fail to repent of sin we are the man spoken of by the apostle John, *"If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us."* (1 John 1:10)

Salvation calls for purity, sanctification and righteousness that can only be found in our Savior when we come to Him in repentance.

HONORING ELDERS

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, you shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain, and, the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear" (1 Timothy 5:17-20).

Elders who meet the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3 can *"rule well."* Elders must take care of the

church, the household of God. Elders take heed for, hold fast to, and exhort the church. They convince and feed the flock. These older, mature men oversee, care for, and superintend God's church. These men always remember that the church belongs to the Lord.

Corroborating passages would include **1 Timothy 3:4-5, Acts 20:28, Titus 1:9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4.**

When these elders so act, they are worthy of *"double honor."* What does this mean? Honor conveys the idea of respect and deference stemming from recognized value. In this case, Paul has in mind additional honor, namely, financial remuneration. Elders who labor wearily, elders who grow tired to the point of exhaustion, elders who teach sound doctrine are deserving of this double honor. Paul does not say how much should be given in this circumstance. Remember, though, that elders are not to be greedy men; they are not interested in filthy gain; they are willing to spend the needed time and effort to do their work as the Lord intends without consideration for any financial gain. Paul uses the example of the need for oxen to be fed; the farmer doesn't expect his animals to work all day without food and water. That same care is to be extended to those who labor in preaching (**1 Corinthians 9:9, 14**). That same care can be extended to these elders. We must show honor to these men because of who they are and because of what they do for us. Extending double honor shows greater appreciation and respect for them.

We must be careful before we make accusations against an elder; this is a safeguard against gossip. The value of two or three witnesses comes from the OT (**Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:16**). Even Jesus called upon more than one witness regarding His identity (**John 5:30-32**). Still, an elder might need a rebuke because of some sin; they are not immune from correction. In doing so, however, we must be careful. Unjust or capricious accusations only complicate matters; and our own guilt is now in play.

Too, it is not always clear about the wrong someone may be involved in. Except by one's actions we cannot always know what is or is not going on in a person's life. Whether we know or not, remember that all sins will be adjudicated at the judgment bar of God. *"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account"* (**Hebrews 4:13**). Works, good or bad, cannot and will not be hidden.

Order in the church was Paul's goal when He wrote to Timothy. God's word must be followed by all—elders, widows, widows indeed, elders worthy of double honor, and those bringing accusations. God's word is not intended to drum people out of the kingdom. God's word is intended to bring needed order to His people. With this the Lord is pleased.

Randy Harshbarger

What One Tolerates, the Next Accepts

John Wesley once wrote, "What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace." Both sacred and secular history have proven the truth of this assessment time and time again.

Everything from dancing to drinking, from abortion to mercy-killing, has gone from toleration to acceptance. In the home and in the church, everything from immodesty to immorality has been first allowed and then endorsed. Adulterous marriages, gambling, and other similar sins, have gone from being permitted to being sponsored. Remember when wearing shorts and attending dances were generally condemned as sinful? Now, in some places shorts are being worn to church services and dances are sometimes held in church buildings! Truly, "what one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace."

One generation tolerated sprinkling for baptism if a person were seriously ill. The next generation accepted sprinkling for baptism as an option for everyone. One generation approved a "head" elder. The next generation appointed some elders "bishops." One generation introduced instruments of music as an aid to poor singing. The next generation demanded we worship with instruments. One generation accepted the "fellowship hall" (which, at first, was just a few tables in the basement for social meals). The next generation built gymnasiums and "Family Life Centers." One generation apologized for "hard preachers" who opposed denominationalism. The next generation saw their sons and daughters joining those denominations. One generation spoke of the need to reach out in a "nonjudgmental" way to our Catholic and Protestant friends. The next generation welcomed Presbyterians into "our fellowship" with only a handshake. One generation spoke of congregational singing as "one of our traditions." The next generation defended choruses and choirs. One generation applauded preachers who closed their sermons without an appeal for sinners to be baptized for the remission of sins. The next generation denied the gospel plan of salvation in general and baptism in particular.

What does this say to us? What is our responsibility? *"You shall observe to do therefore as the Lord... hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left"* (**Deut. 5:32**). *"Hold fast the form of sound words"* (**2 Tim. 1:13**). *"Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them"* (**2 Tim. 3:14**). *"Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them"* (**Rom. 16:17**). The next time we are tempted to deviate from the word of God, let us remember that what we tolerate, our children will embrace.

by Mark White

Why Call Me Lord?

I will ever be grateful to a Baptist preacher whose name I will never recall. He came to the Friday Night Bible Study at the Track House in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania many years ago when I was a sophomore in college. The theme of his lesson was very simple: God loves you and because He does He wants you to learn just ONE FUNDAMENTAL LESSON AND THAT IS TO DO WHAT HE SAYS! He asked us why we would think we could arrive at the Pearly Gates and expect a "Welcome Home!" when we spent our lives telling Jesus, in effect, "Jesus, I believe in you but I'm not going to do what you want me to do 'cause I know better how to run my life. I'll see you in heaven!" What arrogance! Who could ever think like that?

Unfortunately all too many of those who claim to be 'Christians', that's who! It is the expected and exact consequence of the doctrine of "Once Saved, Always Saved" espoused by so many Baptist preachers, and others. That's why I will always love that Baptist preacher from so long ago, he gave me Bible and not dogma.

See, Jesus said in **Luke 6:46**, *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"* (NAS95) The Apostle of Love, John, said in **1 John 2: 3f** *"By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him"*. When you do what He said do, you're a believer. If you don't, you aren't! It's just that simple! Let's stop making excuses!

Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.

The Godly & Ungodly In Psalms One THE GODLY MAN ... HIS POSITIVE CHARACTER:

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord." The Christian life is not one merely giving up this or that, but it is entering into a new and happy inheritance in the Word of God. True, the prodigal son had to give up some things to come back. But what were they? The swine troughs and his rags! In exchange he acquired the best robe and the joys of a happy home. The godly man gives up the entanglements of sin, for the delight of God's law!

"And in His law he meditates day and night." The modern voices of secular values and occult interests urge us to MEDITATE, without specifying a worthy object of meditation. The godly man meditates on the law of God, and from that meditation receives spiritual strength and health. One telling test of a man's character is this: UPON WHAT DOES HE MEDITATE DAY AND NIGHT? (See **Phil. 4:8**). THE GODLY MAN.... WHAT HE IS LIKE: *"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."*

Here is the result of the godly man's character, negative and positive: SPIRITUAL FRUITFULNESS AND PROSPERITY. If you want a life such as this; if you want to be a like a healthy, thriving, fruitful tree *"whose leaf also shall not wither,"* do the things outlined in **Psalms 1:1,2**. *"Blessed is this man!"*

The first part of the chapter describes the blessedness of the godly man. HIS NEGATIVE CHARACTER lies in his refusal to walk in the counsel of the ungodly; staying away from the path of sinners, and not sitting in the seat of the scornful. HIS POSITIVE CHARACTER lies in his delight in the law of the Lord, and his practice of meditation therein, day and night. As a result of this good character, there is spiritual benefit: *"And whatever he does shall prosper."* The last part of the psalm show WHAT THE GODLY MAN IS NOT LIKE. It is a description of the ungodly.

THE UNGODLY MAN....HIS CHARACTER:

"The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

First, the ungodly are described as having the opposite behavior as the godly. After the description of the godly in verses 1-3, the writer says: *"THE UNGODLY ARE NOT SO,"* that is, they are living in another fashion. They are *"like the chaff."* This term "chaff" is used throughout the Scriptures as an emblem of what is weak and worthless (see **Job 21:18; Da n. 2:35, and Matt. 3:12**). In ancient times chaff was considered of no value, and when corn was winnowed, it was thrown up in the air until the wind had blown all the chaff away. Hence the ungodly are pictured by this language as weak, of no value; something to be thrown out, *"which the wind driveth away."*

What a way to live! Think of the reality of living a life that is worthless, of no value ... compared to something that is good for nothing, but to be thrown out.

"Therefore," because of this worthless life, *"the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous."* While the wicked may be proud, arrogant and high-minded in this day. In the last day the wicked will not be able to hold up their heads. They will have no security, and will have no place with the righteous. There will be a great separation (**Matt. 25:31-46**).

On the other hand, *"the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish."* Here, simply stated, is the end to which all men are headed. In the world there are good and bad - righteous and unrighteous. Their character and behavior are entirely different. And the Bible teaches, all things will eventuate in the salvation of the righteous, and the destruction of the wicked.

Warren E. Berkley

Let us be reminded to pray for those we support who are preaching in other areas of this country and also of the world. Remember to pray for Kyle Bennett in Boston Ma., Matt Hodge in Marshfield, Mo. and Cleveland Reddinger in El Dorado, Ks. Overseas we need to remember, Wilfredo Pelino and Jonathan Sapitula in the Philippines as well as Moses Tivane and Francisco Vascob in Mozambique.

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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

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THE PSALMS - RON PECK - TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING:
HEAVEN AND HELL
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**SUNDAY SERMON: THE SOVEREIGNTY OF
GOD**

SPRING GOSPEL MEETING:
MAY 17-19
ROGER SHOUSE



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