

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.

**January  
20  
2019**

# LET US BE DILIGENT

Jim Stauffer

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)*

There is an attitude that is to be the trademark of the child of God and it is diligence. This attitude is based upon the value of those things attached to such a one. Jesus told us in **Mat. 16:26**, the soul of man is more valuable than the whole world. So as Paul teaches the young evangelist Timothy, he impresses upon him the necessity of diligence in proving himself as a workman in the vineyard of the Lord that has no need for shame.

But it is not just shame that results from a lack of diligence. In **Heb. 11:6** we learn it is impossible to please God without faith. The verse further explains faith is exhibited by having sufficient belief in Him that we seek after Him. The Greek word for seek here means to crave, investigate, demand. The Hebrew writer further warns us to be diligent in our pursuit of heaven that we might not fall to the same disobedience that prevented those in the wilderness from entering Canaan (**Heb. 4:11**).

Peter then details the necessary attributes of a child of God in his second epistle when he tells us to add to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. He then impresses us with the importance of these things by saying, *“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;”* for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.” (**2 Peter 1:10,11**).

The conduct of New Testament Christians may then become a commentary on such passages when we see the endured persecution of the apostle Paul (**2 Cor. 11**). Or when we hear him describe the diligence necessary to win the race, *“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They*

*then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.” (1 Corinthians 9:24–27)*

Again, the mentality of the early saints is demonstrated in the following verses, *“So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” (Acts 5:41,42)*

Paul reminds us of the grace wherein we stand in **Romans 5:1,2**, reminding us this grace causes us to exult in hope of the glory of God. He then explains how one gains the strength to sustain that hope. *“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:3–5)*

We understand achievement in secular matters and often praise young men and women for pursuing professions that demand inordinate amounts of time and effort to succeed. And yet these things are part of the world Jesus says is inferior to the value of the soul of a man.

Can we not see how things have become reversed in our day and time. We pursue temporal achievement with the diligence God calls for His child to have in His service.

Brethren, let us be diligent as we pursue the inheritance promised through the grace of God.

*“Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,” (2 Peter 3:14).*

## What Is Fellowship?

**Robert F. Turner**

The early disciples *"continued steadfastly in... fellowship"* (Acts 2: 42). And, this "constant attention" to fellowship is a practice of our first century brethren that we would do well to imitate. But what is involved in *"fellowship,"* especially fellowship with a local church? Fellowship is **not** "placing membership" or having one's name "on the roll." Nor should it be equated with one's bodily presence in an assembly. In spite of these things, there are many brethren who are not in fellowship with the congregation they claim to be a part of.

The prefix "fellow" means being a partner, having or sharing in common with others (**Philem.17**). Christians are those who share a common faith (**Tit. 1:4**), salvation (**Jude 3**), calling (**Heb. 3:1**), nature (**2 Pet. 1:4**), and relationship (**Eph. 3:6**).

But simply having things in common with others does not make one "in fellowship" with them. The suffix "ship" suggests a "state, condition, quality" that must be attained and maintained by **activity**. Extending the *"right hand of fellowship"* (**Gal. 2:9**) and jointly participating with others in activities that we all have a common interest in brings us into true fellowship. There must likewise be a *"fellowship of the spirit"* (**Phil.2:1**) or disposition. We must all "will" the same things.

A local church is such a fellowship of saints: those with common interests, having a united spirit, and jointly working together in providing for various activities (**Phil. 1:1, 5; 4:10-18**). In the **work** of the church do I aid my "fellows" in their scriptural endeavors to the extent of my ability? Do I "share" my "resources" (time, talents, money, etc.) with them as they work to accomplish their goals?

In the **assemblies** of the church do I seek to learn from the teaching (**Gal. 6:6**)? As prayer is offered do I become of "one spirit" with the one expressing thoughts to God (**1 Cor. 14:16**)? Do I speak to my brethren in song and make melody in my heart to God (**Eph. 5:19**)? And when the death of Christ is remembered, do I partake in a "worthy manner" (**1 Cor. 11:27**)?

Isn't it strange that brethren can believe they are still in fellowship with a local church even though they seldom, if ever, attend the assemblies, refuse to participate in the assemblies they do attend, or fail to "lend a hand" in the various programs of work being carried on?

Brethren, whenever we withdraw our "spirits" (and we are no longer interested in what is being done), or when our participation in the work ceases because we have deliberately withdrawn it, then **we have withdrawn our fellowship**. How many assemblies we attend, or our names being in the directory means nothing.

Brethren, let us be actively interested and involved in the work of the local church that we may truly continue steadfastly in fellowship.

**David Smitherman; Taken from Plain Talk**

## WIDOWS INDEED

*"Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity. Honor widows who are really widows."* (**1 Tim. 5:1-3**).

Most congregations are filled with all kinds of people. Some are old, some young; there are men and women, youngsters and teenagers. The Lord tells this eclectic mix to get along with each other. Some members are singled out for special attention—attention from Paul, as he writes to Timothy saying that appropriate attention for each member must be given. Special attention to those who are older must be given. Every member must show respect for the other.

Older men are not to be rebuked; rather, they must be treated as fathers. Younger men should be treated as brothers. The KJV uses the word *elder*, sometimes confusing the discussion. Elders and their qualifications are found in chapter three. These men are easily identified by their manner of life. In chapter five, it seems better to understand *elder* to refer simply to older men in the church. Would an older man sometimes need a rebuke? Yes. Some men grow older and wiser; some simply grow older. But in giving a rebuke, the age of the man must be respected. Rather than chastising and upbraiding the man, he should be exhorted, beseeched, entreated. Tempered actions are needed. Regarding younger men, they too, can and should act right. If not, this brother needs some scripturally guided help. *Brethren* are in a family relationship. Mothers and sisters and brothers and fathers are not to be enemies. They should work to strengthen the family bond of love and purity. Families should always be on guard to preserve the sanctity of their relationship. This is no less true of the church!

Another segment of a congregation that may need attention are the widows who are really widows. They are to receive respect, deference, and care. Why? Because they are destitute; they lack children or other relatives to care for them. They are widows *"indeed."* There is no doubt about their situation. Honor must be given (honor will apply also to elders, **1 Timothy 5:17**). The widow who has family members will rely on them for needed help. Paul says *"let them"* help their family member. That is their obligation. **1 Timothy 5:16** says: *"If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows."* The church (congregation) will help those who have no one to help them; other widows should be helped by their families. To put it another way: The church has an



obligation to help some, but not an obligation to help everyone. The Lord has provided the mechanism for helping all members; the help is sometimes given individually and sometimes given collectively.

The widows Paul speaks of are those who have by their lives shown godliness in their homes; all who know them know about their devotion to the Lord. Children or grandchildren are to step in and help this aged mother or grandmother. Can a child ever fully repay godly parents for their faith and dedication and example of living for the Lord? No! But they can try! And how many, sadly, don't? Do you want to stand before God not having done what He said regarding those who took care of you? If it is good and acceptable in God's sight for children to help when needed, then surely it is not good when these children fail to obey God. If we are to have *order in the church*, we must always seek and do God's will.

**Randy Harshbarger**

### Hidden In My Heart (3)

Last week I gave you three good pieces of advice on how to memorize scripture verses and a short list of verses to get you started. Today I am going to give you the most important hint for memorizing scripture, in my not so humble estimation. Ready?

Which body of water would you rather be: a stagnant pond or a flowing stream of fresh water? Truly, I'm serious, which would you rather be? OK now which one would you rather drink from? If you're at all like me you chose the flowing stream each time, which is a good thing! And here's the hint: You're not learning this scripture just to keep it to yourself (being the stagnant pond) you're learning this scripture to pass it on to others (being a flowing stream). As you examine the scripture passage try to imagine yourself saying this scripture

a. As the author or speaker would have spoken it originally. Don't try to imitate the old Alexander Scourby recordings of the KJV (if that's what you choose to memorize). If there is any pattern the original speakers did NOT use, that's it!

b. Now, picture yourself in front of a group of people, without any fear, teaching them how to understand this verse properly. How would you speak these words to them (word for word) in such a way as to not change any of the meaning of the original speaker? The very act of trying to teach this verse to another person whom you care about will help you to memorize it almost effortlessly. (Almost!) Try it and see if it doesn't help you to do better!

c. More scriptures to learn: **Colossians 3:16, 17; 1 John 2:1-6; John 13:34, 35; James 1:22, 26, 2:24, 5:16.**

**Cleveland Reddinger**

### "Be No More Children"

After seeing an exciting basketball game on TV, he decides he'd like to be a professional basketball player. A few days later, after hearing of a daring rescue from a burning building, he is convinced he wants to be a fireman. Not long after that he learns about men going into outer space, and he is sure that he really would love to become an astronaut.

What in the world is wrong with this guy? Why can't he decide on a career course and stick with it? Why is he always changing his mind about important things? The answer is simple: he's a child! It is inherent in children to frequently change their minds. They may be firmly convinced of something one day, and ready to do the opposite the next day. We understand that this is their nature. They will (hopefully) outgrow this tendency. And, when they do, we will say that they have "matured".

There are some that are spiritual "babes". In fact, everyone is in that category upon first obeying the gospel. Unfortunately, some never grow past that point (**1 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:12-14**). These folks are forever troubled by something new or different that they hear. It might be something about our worship, or about the work of the church, or about a matter of morality (like divorce and remarriage), or ... you get the idea. These people can never be settled as to what they think about the important truths contained in God's word.

Let us put it as simply and directly as we can - GROW UP! **Ephesians 4:14** urges us *"that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine."* You need to know what you believe, and you need to know why you believe it. If you hold a view, endorse a position, or would teach or recommend an "alternate view", you should have strong reasons for doing so. You should be ready to logically and rationally defend the position you espouse. If you can't do that, you're manifesting the fact that you are a spiritual child - immature - and you are likely to be *"tossed to and fro"* by whatever new thing comes along. GROW UP!

**by Greg Gwin**

#### Do you go to church?

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The preacher said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, preacher."

Preacher questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

*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.*

## **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***

## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

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**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

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### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK (WHO HAS A BROKEN FOOT), STEPHEN KIMKER, STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, AND GEORGE ROOT.

**BIBLE CLASSES** SUNDAY MORNING:  
THE PSALMS - RON PECK - TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING:  
HEAVEN AND HELL  
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY SERMON: WITHOUT BIAS  
UNDERSTANDING IS POSSIBLE

SPRING GOSPEL MEETING:  
MAY 19-22  
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