

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.

**March  
3  
2019**

## WHO DO YOU OBEY?

Jim Stauffer

What is obedience? There is the old story of the man who bought a farm and left instructions with his son to dig a well in a certain location, build a barn adjacent to it and then build the house in a spot he picked that would have easy access to both the barn and the well. When he returned later he found the well and the house located according to his design but the barn was in a different place than he had authorized. He confronted his son and challenged him as to why he had not obeyed his instruction. The son said, "I did with the house and the well, but thought it better to locate the barn in this different spot."

The father then explained to the son he had not obeyed him in any of his instructions, he had simply agreed with him on two of them.

In **Numbers 20** the people came to a place called Kadesh and found there was no water to drink. They immediately confronted Moses and Aaron with their usual complaint. The expressed fear they would die in the wilderness and showed no appreciation for God's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. They insisted it would have been better for them to stay in slavery than to risk dying of thirst in this wilderness.

God authorized Moses and Aaron to speak to the rock before all the people so they could not only have water to drink but they could see it happen and witness the power of God as their thirst was quenched. Now Moses, who had already endured this same complaint from the people before on this journey, became angry and he struck the rock saying, "*Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?*" Already the attentive reader can tell Moses changed God's command and struck the rock rather than speaking to it. He was reminded quickly by God Who said, "*Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.*"

Why do we understand this simple Bible lesson when it applies to Israel in the wilderness but cannot

apply the same principle to ourselves today?

Men have decided it is no longer necessary to believe and be baptized to be saved. It is simply sufficient to believe. Think about this! Jesus of Nazareth, the One Who died for your sins and mine, said, *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be condemned.* (**Mark 16:15,16**) But since Martin Luther and John Calvin say baptism are not necessary for salvation, but faith only will suffice, men have accepted their word over that of the Lord.

And that is not the only thing. Long after the church Jesus died to purchase and build was established and operating in communities throughout the Roman Empire, men decided the singing was unpleasant and that instruments of music would be an improvement. But the apostles of the Lord, inspired by the Holy Spirit (**2 Tim. 3:16,17**), instructed the early Christians that ... *singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord...* (**Eph. 5:19**), was all they were taught to do in song worship.

The list of commands from God that men have changed could go on for some time, but the point is, do we know how to obey? Has modern man lost his ability to listen with respect to those of authority? We see this in civil society and it disturbs us when so many believe they have the right to except themselves from the laws of the land.

I submit to each of us, it is of far greater significance when we reject what the Lord says. He is the *author of salvation to all those who obey Him.* (**Heb. 5:9**) Jesus had some very choice and descriptive words for such who would not heed His commands. "*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*" (**Matthew 15:9**) "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name*

*done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7:21–23)* Will you decide to treat God as *holy* in His sight and the sight of men?

## “What Do You Want?”

Have you ever had someone ask you that question? They might not have used just those words. They may have said, “What are you looking for?”, “How can I help you?” or any one of a dozen other similar queries. For a salesman this is a good question, essential actually. After all, all the production in the world is worthless without sales because “Production minus Sales is Scrap.” The problem here is, I’m not a salesman. I, my friends, am a preacher. There are plenty of popular men out there who call themselves ‘preachers’ but who are actually just salesmen and ‘sloganeers’, trying to find out what the ‘customer’ wants in order to deliver it to them. My job is not to give you what you ‘want’ but to deliver what God’s Word says you need! And that means that, sometimes, you’re not going to like what I have to say. That’s too bad but there were times when they didn’t like what Jesus and other faithful preachers in the New Testament said either! However, we read that later some of those who initially resisted became obedient to the gospel, **Acts 6:7**.

What we all need is the truth of the Gospel. There is plenty of falsehood to go around and it changes from day to day. Satan puts out his “Lie of the Day” but the Word of God will never change. Jesus said in **Matthew 24:35**, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”* Jude calls the Gospel *“the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints” (Jude 3)* An old preacher once said, rightfully, “If it’s NEW, It ain’t GOSPEL! n’ if it’s GOSPEL, it ain’t NEW!” We all need the OLD words of the Gospel.

**Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.**

## O MAN OF GOD

*“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:11-12).*

At different times in life, we all need some encouragement. The strains and stresses of life, whether self-imposed or from without, can beat upon us; we soon grow weary and despondent. How did Timothy feel about being left behind by Paul in the city of Ephesus? We do know from Paul’s letters that Timothy had great work to do even as he faced false

teaching, idolatry, loneliness, and even personal self-doubt. Yet, here comes Paul, who was no stranger to opposition, and he encourages this young preacher. Timothy, you are a Man of God! This brings encouragement; this brings challenges.

Timothy had to tell wealthy Christians in the church in Ephesus not to trust in riches. Some in their desire to be rich were turning away from the Lord; this is a snare of the devil. Some evidently put their faith in what they had rather than the Lord. Riches can be lost; a relationship with Jesus is secure. Often those who are rich or even those who simply want to be rich, don’t want any warnings about what they are doing with what they have.

Timothy was to flee the mad pursuits of the world. He was to pursue righteousness—he was to be right with God and with all others. His faith was in God; his fidelity was obvious to all. His love was of the highest kind. He was patient and steady. His attitude about others was that of kindness and meekness. All of these qualities and their attendant actions were part of fighting the good fight of faith. Don’t give up, Timothy; keep on fighting. Lay hold on eternal life; the Lord gives you hope. That is your calling; it is the calling from the Lord to all; all can come in faith if they choose. Your faith can be seen by others. Keep on pursuing.

Paul told Timothy to *“keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing.”* The coronation of a king or queen is not a part of our culture. The British monarchy, though, is familiar to most of us. When a king or queen is crowned or in some way celebrated, elaborate preparations are made. Parade routes are cleaned; media is set in place; anxious spectators take their places, all in anticipation of the appearance of some royal person. Paul tells Timothy and each of us to *get ready* for the appearing of our Lord and Savior! The Lord is coming back. Yes, we need to get ready and be prepared to stand before Him in judgment. How do we do that? We become people of God. We pursue the same things Timothy pursued. We flee the same things he fled. That kind of life, that kind of faith, that kind of eager anticipation indicates true faith. We will meet the Lord in the air! Seeing the Lord is more than just not being lost. We will see the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Surely, anticipation of that joy will drive away despair and despondency. That was true in Ephesus; it is true wherever we live.

**Randy Harshbarger**

## What Bible Classes Need

**Dan S. Shipley**

Appreciation! That’s the first and fundamental need of our Bible classes. After all, if they are not esteemed



as vitally important in the local church, any other need they have will be almost academic. But, it is not enough that only a dedicated few have this sense of seriousness about Bible classes. Every elder, deacon, teacher, preacher, and parent must feel a personal obligation to cooperate in assuring the very best in Bible instruction. And that will certainly include overcoming the prevalent and hurtful apathetic attitudes that hinder such an objective.

Accordingly, Bible classes urgently need the active and involved support of the elders. As respected and influential *"ensamples to the flock"* (1 Pet. 5:3), these men, more than any others, determine the congregation's attitude toward these classes. That which does not warrant the interest, the planning, the encouragement, and the involvement of elders is not likely to be considered all that important by other members. Bible classes are one way in which they can *"feed the church of the Lord"* (Acts 20:28). As those who *"take care of the church"* (1 Tim. 3:5), these leaders should provide the very best possible teachers and facilities to promote the instruction which is in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16).

In addition, Bible classes desperately need dedicated and conscientious teachers. Not only is what the teacher **says** important; what he **does** and **is** are equally important. Unless he lives what he teaches, he teaches in vain. Bible classes need prepared teachers — the kind who have something to offer besides "fill-in-the-blanks" and cross- word puzzles. Our classes need teachers who relate Bible truth to the level and needs of the students. And, all the better if it can be done with enthusiasm and a sense of urgency. It should go without saying that the best teachers are those who are truly concerned for the souls of their pupils. It is not without good reason that James says, *"Be not many of you teachers, my brethren..."* (3:1). Teaching God's word is serious business and our classes need teachers who think so.

Another thing our Bible classes need are concerned parents. Usually, the parent's attitude toward these classes will be reflected in their children. If parents leave the impression that school studies are more important than Bible studies, the effect can be eternally hurtful. One of the perpetual problems voiced by many Bible class teachers is that their students do not read their assignments or do their homework. Parents condone and even encourage such neglect in allowing it — not that most of them don't care, we just forget and become neglectful. I've often wondered if it wouldn't be helpful if teachers would send parents progress or report cards something like those used in public schools. Anyway, none can deny that parental influence is a major factor in determining the quality of our Bible classes.

Instruction in Bible truth was never needed more. May we remember the needs of classes where such instruction is done.

## In Vogue to Be Vague

We are told that in order to be effective, preaching must "relate the ambiguities of the New Testament to the complexities of modern society." We are pretty sure we know what that means, and it isn't "shelling the corn and showing the cob." But, in case you haven't noticed, it is now in vogue to be vague. We even know of two people who, after attending an entire series of gospel meetings, thought we were advocating interdenominational and not nondenominational Christianity. Although all the blame for this ought not to be put on the preacher, fifty years ago no one would have made such a mistake after attending one of our gospel meetings.

In truth, we are drifting and have no one to blame but ourselves. Wanting to have our ears tickled, we are accumulating to ourselves teachers in accordance with our own desires (II Timothy 4:3). In Matthew 11:7, the Lord, speaking about John the Baptist, asked the people of His day, *"What did you go out into the wilderness to see?"* If asked that question today, many might answer, "We want to see a dandy dressed in three hundred dollar suits with matching shoes, along with gold chains, bracelets and diamond rings, using four hundred dollar words that impress but do not offend."

Josiah Holland, who lived in the century before this one, knew the remedy for our current situation. He said: "God give us men. A time like this demands strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands; men whom the lust of office cannot buy; men who will not lie; men who stand before a demagogue and damn his treacherous flatteries without winking; tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog; in public duty and private thinking."

Real men are hard to find, and always have been. It has been said that in order to emphasize the difficulty of finding a man of integrity in ancient Athens, the Greek philosopher Diogenes lighted a lamp in the daylight and went searching for one. Years before this alleged event, Jerusalem could have been saved if one man of integrity could have been found within the city (cf. Jeremiah 5:1). Even the apostle Paul recognized the difficulty in finding a real man when he said, *"for all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's"* (Philippians 2:21).

May God give us men who are willing to use *"great plainness of speech"* (II Corinthians 3:12). At the same time, we pray there is enough spirituality left among churches of Christ that we don't slay all such plain speakers.

**by Allan Turner; Taken from the Beacon Electronic Edition**

*"with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints, and on my behalf, that utterance may be given unto me in opening my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly as I ought to speak. Eph. 6:18-20"*

*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 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:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

***Check out the following websites:***

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

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

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

**Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons: Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Casey Dent**

**Joe Hurd**

### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK, STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRACY RICHARDSON AND LORENE PARKER.

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING:  
HEAVEN AND HELL  
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY SERMON: SENSUALITY (THE  
WORLD'S ANSWER TO HAPPINESS)

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