

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



# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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

October  
13  
2019

## THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST (1)

by Jim Stauffer

*“Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.” (2 John 1:9)*

Many who have not studied the Bible very long confuse the concepts of doctrine and teaching. The same Greek word is translated doctrine in some translations and teaching in others and both are correct renderings of the meaning.

So, as we study the doctrine of Christ, we will look at just what Jesus has taught the world from both His stay on earth as well as from his seat at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

Another term for the revelation of God’s will for man is the gospel. That word simply means good news or glad tidings, but what it includes is the totality of what God would have man do to inherit the promises made in His word, the Scriptures.

Let us talk a bit about the Scriptures. They are, of course, the revealed mind of God. The Hebrew writer explained God’s revelation to all men of every age this way, *“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.” (Hebrews 1:1–2)* Paul tells us in **1 Cor. 2:10-13**, the Holy Spirit revealed the mind of God to those men who in turn taught it to all men as they traveled the land preaching the gospel and writing epistles with instructions to the churches in New Testament days.

Jesus, prior to his resurrection, promised his apostles He would send them a Comforter, later explained as the Holy Spirit, *to guide them into all truth... and, He takes of mine and will disclose it to you. (John 16:13,15)*

We understand from this message that the entirety of the New Testament is the message of Christ. It is as Paul describes it, *the gospel...for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Rom. 1:16).*

We must recognize the Scriptures as the gospel of Jesus Christ which in turn is the doctrine of Christ concerning all man must do to inherit eternal life, which is the promise, the ultimate *spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ... (Eph. 1:3,13,14).*

It is imperative for man to apply pure common sense to the story of the gospel. If God and Christ are promising an eternal home in heaven to the faithful, there must be guidelines that enunciate said faithfulness. It would be unbelievable for us to think we can attain the end result, that is heaven as our reward while dismissing the revelation of the mind of God, that is the doctrine of Christ as the authority and guide for our lives. Christ makes this very clear with His response to those who had attempted to serve Him without appropriate consideration of what He and the Father had said. *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.” (Matthew 7:21–23)*

Therefore, we must abide in the doctrine of Christ as our opening Scripture says or we will not have the Father and the Son. Without the Father and the Son, we have no opportunity for salvation and an eternal rest in heaven.

## Remember: The Bible Was Meant to be Understood

One of the most frustrating aspects of my job is dealing with well-meaning people! Yes you read that right, well-meaning people! Why? Because so often they think that because they are so well-meaning (and they genuinely are!) they can't possibly be wrong in their understanding of the Bible. But they can be, just like I was, because I speak from experience!

One of the most stubborn misunderstandings is the idea that the Holy Spirit must illumine your heart before you can understand the Scriptures. Proponents of this false idea say it explains why two people raised in identical circumstances can look at the Bible and have opposite reactions: One believing and obeying while the other thinks it's the stupidest thing he ever heard. The problem is that makes God responsible for the unbeliever's sinful attitude and you can't 'define' that responsibility away in your creed-book, as some try to do.

The answer is, of course, that the scriptures were written by God to be understood by mankind. Paul says as much in **Ephesians 3:3,4**, *"how that by revelation was made known unto me the mystery, as I wrote before in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ"*. It was revealed to Paul- that's supernatural, and he wrote it down for us to read and understand- that's natural! The proof is found in **Luke 10:26** where an opponent of Jesus is asked by him, *"What is written in the law? how readest thou?"* The lawyer answered correctly as Jesus acknowledged. This shows that even the enemies of God could understand what to do to be saved by reading the scriptures.

Reading the scriptures reveals to man the mind of God!

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## Reacting to Immorality

**Stephen Russell**

There have been many words put to print lately about various trends of immorality in the world around us. In particular, our state has recently been involved in the ongoing debate surrounding homosexual marriage and there is a movie recently released that further glorifies other forms of sexual deviancy. What is the Christian to make of all of this? Shall we take up some political campaign or protest to show our dismay? Perhaps we should go along making no comment at all because all of this "really has nothing to do with us." It is easy to get swept into one extreme reaction or another when such extreme positions are at play but let us not look to the world for our guide but to God's word.

In the first place, we do want to recognize that the

world is always going to be at odds with the will of God. Men of all points in history have believed in their own capacity to "make the world a better place." If we are not careful, we can get swept up in the notion that the right leader, the right law, or the right political system can save mankind. When God speaks of the world, He never speaks with the view that it will be saved but always to the view that the majority have always and will always turn away from Him (**Matt. 7:13**). That is not pessimism, that is reality of the history of God's word and faith in what He says of the future. So, to some degree we must not allow ourselves too much shock and dismay when the world acts like...the world.

In addition to the recognition that the world is lost and dying, we also need to recognize the limitations of our place in this world. God has not called Christians to become political world leaders but to become quiet and consistent influences wherever they are. We influence by living lives that glorify God not ones that glorify a political party (**Matt. 5:16**). Our authority over those who defy God's will is limited to those who are of our number and even that is only a matter of limiting our own contact with those persons (**1 Cor. 5:9-12**). So, while we may want to take some forceful action, that is simply not what God has called for. In fact, in a world that was at least as immoral as our own time, Paul called for Christians to pray for leaders to the end that we may live a "tranquil and quiet life" (**1 Tim. 2:2**).

Yet, while we should recognize the world for what it is and our limited capacity to bring about change, we don't want to fall into the trap of thinking that such digressions in morality as we have seen in the last several decades are of no consequence to the Christian. In the first place, it is and should be a sorrowful thing to see immorality exalted. Some might say, "I am not surprised to see this." Do you suppose the Lord was shocked to see the world digress into the state in which we find it in **Genesis 6**? The omniscient God is not shocked, but He is filled with sorrow (**Gen. 6:6**). We don't need to become so calloused to sin that it fails to cause in us the reaction that it causes in God who has seen all the sin that has ever been committed and yet grieves. Many will mock us for our sorrow and even view our sorrow as another form of judgment. And yet like *"righteous Lot"* we are increasingly living in a world surrounded by sin and therefore our souls will be *"tormented day after day by their lawless deeds"* (**2 Pet. 2:8**). But take heart, God has promised that those who mourn are blessed, *"for they shall be comforted"* (**Matt. 5:4**).

The other thing that we must do in the face of such tremendous opposition is keep the faith. When we look at the numbers we can begin to question the rightness of our beliefs or the effectiveness of our efforts to influence. But consider the influence of men of God in other ages of debauchery. Noah is said to have been a

*“preacher of righteousness”* and would have been so for at least 100 years. Yet the result of his preaching was the preservation of only eight souls (**2 Pet. 2:5**). Isaiah is told to prophesy to the people not so that they would listen and change their hearts, but to, *“Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed”* (**Isa. 6:10**). Can you imagine being told that no one would listen but that you must go and preach anyway. The response to truth may not be what we would wish it to be in a world so full of sin. But if Isaiah could continue to proclaim the truth in the face of such opposition as that, then surely we can continue to proclaim it in face of what we see today.

It is a sinful world we live in. Let it break your heart, but let God also lift it back up. Don't get carried away with the tactics of the world in trying to fight the world. But take up the armor of God and keep fighting on God's terms (**Eph. 6:12-18**). And if you will do that, you will not win the world, but you and all those blessed few who will do likewise will most assuredly win the crown of righteousness (**2 Tim. 4:8**).

## Reasons To Discipline Our Children

A scanning of Solomon's Proverbs provides several reasons. . .

1. To show you don't hate them. *“He who spares the rod hates his son but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.”* (**13:24**)
2. To give them hope: *“Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.”* (**19:18**)
3. To help them for a lifetime: *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”* (**22:6**)
4. To chase away foolishness: *“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.”* (**22:15**)
5. To save his soul: *“Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.”* (**23:13-14**)
6. For your own comfort: *“Discipline your son and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.”* (**29:17**)

Parents need to read and understand these passages. So, too, should our children. We want them to see why for their own good, and for the good of their children as well.

by Bob Hines

Taken from *The Beacon Electronic Edition;*  
*Collegue church of Christ*

## ALCOHOL

Of all drugs, alcohol is used most frequently. It is a drug that is abused by young and old alike. Drinking episodes on college campuses are all too common. It is only after a young person loses his or her life, that officials will then step in with efforts to “correct” the abuse that has been going on for too long.

From a societal standpoint, alcoholism is a sickness rather than a sin. From a Biblical standpoint, drunkenness is a sin. *“And they shall say to the elders of his city, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard. Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear”* (**Deut. 21:20-21**).

Addiction to alcohol extracts a heavy price on those involved; this includes not only those who are addicted but family members, employers, society, etc. Alcohol use leads to health problems. Mothers who drink while pregnant put their unborn child at risk. Thousands of people each year are killed in alcohol-related traffic accidents. Child abuse, spousal abuse, divorce, etc., are all dire consequences stemming from the flow of alcohol.

Where do Christians take a stand against alcohol? Or, do they? **Proverbs 23:29** says: *“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?”* The context of **Proverbs 23** juxtaposes the charming vixen against the charming allure of the vine. Both the vixen and the vine have charm; they both are appealing; they both beckon the unsuspecting to partake. The questions asked in this passage cry for an answer. Who has woe, sorrow, etc.? The answer: those who are caught up in the use of alcohol. Where did your bruises come from? Why are your eyes red? The answer: I don't know! That is right. You don't know because you were drunk. You don't remember getting into your car and driving and then hitting another car. **Proverbs 23:30** says: *“Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine.”* The imbibor refuses to leave the wine. You can “hang” around things that will cause you ruin. This doesn't establish a case for moderation; rather, it warns about a pattern or habit of indulging constantly; in this case, the person who lingers over the wine refused any boundaries for his or her life. What should we do? **Proverbs 23:31** says: *“Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly.”* Be swift, certain, act quickly, resist the temptation, don't take the first drink. If you refuse to take the first drink, you will never run the risk of addiction. Don't be deceived by its charm. In the end you will only be taken captive by its enticement.

Randy Harshbarger

**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**

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### NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER, STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP, AND ALMA BAUMGARTNER, LINDIA JACKSON, TRUDY MULLEN, RON DALY AND TOM HOGLAND.

### BIBLE CLASSES

SUNDAY MORNING

STUDY OF AUTHORITY

TEACHER - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY EVENING

THE BOOK OF JOB

TEACHER - JIM STAUFFER

**SUNDAY SERMON:** IS YOUR BAPTISM

A SIGN OF YOUR COVENANT WITH GOD?



## 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