

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

Anno Surface 2010

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

August
16
2020

DO I LOVE GOD'S LAW?

by Jim Stauffer

"O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97) This is the way of our hearts. The things we love are constantly on our minds.

There are so many examples of this in everyday life. The young man who has a romantic interest in a young lady thinks about her. He meditates on his and her plans. What her thoughts are about him, etc. He thinks about her constantly. People, men and women have interests in many things, sports, music, things specific to a career they have in mind, etc.

The question then becomes, what do we think about all day. Is it these earthly, secular interests or do we truly meditate on His word?

We know men and women who meditate regularly on His word. Why and how are two questions needing to be answered and one is answered by the Psalmist. First why do they meditate on His word? His answer is because they love it. They love it because of its qualities much like those secular things we have come to love. There is an attractiveness to it.

What makes God's law/word attractive? First, the source is The Almighty God who created the Universe and all that is in it including us. He has great power beyond our understanding. But along with that great power He has demonstrated His love for mankind by extending His grace in every age. Noah and his family were saved from the flood. Moses led Israel from Egyptian bondage to the land of Canaan. All these acts of deliverance were shadows of the real deliverance of man from his sin through the sacrifice of His own Son. In each of these and other instances of deliverance, He has instructed man on how to receive this gracious power by giving His law/word. With a knowledge of this, we are attracted to His law/word.

Now we ask ourselves, "How do they come to love

His law/word"? The apostle Paul tells Timothy, *"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 a natural desire to please God and Paul says we must give diligence, that is put forth serious effort to become approved of Him. That diligence or effort is to be expended toward *accurately handling the word of truth*. Of course the word of truth is God's law/word (John 17:17).

Now that we know what needs to be done, it becomes a matter of putting forth the effort.

Let me critique us all in these next few comments. We, as a people, at least in our country, have become a nation of "jacks of all trades and master of none". We have our hands in everything yet at a very shallow level. It will serve us better if we follow the old adage that says, "Do what you do do well boy". By this I mean we need to be diligent in the things we undertake. To accomplish that we will likely need to reduce the things with which we challenge ourselves.

As to giving diligence to *accurately handling the word of truth*, we must devote ourselves to regular and consistent Bible Study. If we need help with our study, there are brethren, evangelists, pastors and teachers to assist us. But the diligence comes from within each of us. Are we satisfied with our current knowledge of His law/word? I would hope not. Peter tells us growth is an on going thing. *"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."* (2 Peter 3:18)

Do you love His law/word? Would you desire to? Now you at least know what you need to do.

THE PRODIGAL SON

“And He said, ‘A man had two sons’ (Luke 15:11 NASV). Losing something dear to your heart makes you sad. You lament your loss; you start doing whatever is possible to do in order to find the lost item. When you find what you have lost, sadness turns into joy. Three stories in **Luke 15** tell us that what is lost can be found; sadness can turn to rejoicing. And amazingly, we can rejoice along with our Father in heaven, our Savior, and the angels.

The loss of a sheep is great. The animal may be lost forever; the economic loss is significant. No faithful shepherd will stand idly by and watch an animal wander off into danger. Shepherd and sheep language were used by OT prophets to illustrate our Creator’s concern for His creation, His sheep. *“Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes” (Isaiah 40:11; cf. Ezekiel 34; Psalm 23).* The spiritual connection to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is obvious and important.

The father in **Luke 15** had two sons; while the emphasis is on the younger, profligate son, the older son’s attitudes and actions teach us, too. Sadly, the rebellious son mirrors the actions of countless millions; most of us know a son or daughter, a spouse, or close friend, who decided to journey into the alluring city of sin. And like the father in the story, we, too, stand every day watching, listening, and praying for even the slightest inclination that our loved one is on the way home.

Average workers in the 1st. C. could not afford to lose money. To lose even one drachma (= to a denarius), a day’s wage, was serious. Where is the lost coin? Is it close by? Using a light to carefully search the house, the lost coin was found; rejoicing ensued. Not only is the woman relieved; she wants her friends to rejoice with her. The effort expended was worth it. And so, it is with any and all who wander away from God. It takes effort to find the sheep and the coin. But what about the lost boy?

The younger son said: Give me what is mine. I’m ready to leave home. And he did leave, making his foray into the pig pen of sin and ruin. Oh, the fun he had, at least at first. But then his money runs out, his friends run off, and now this young Jewish boy eats with the hogs. But, to his everlasting credit, he woke up. *“I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight.’”* Who was looking for him? His father. In humility and confession, he returns home saying: I am willing to

be a slave. No, you are my son, the father responds. It is time to rejoice and celebrate.

When we *come to ourselves and repent*, our status changes. We are no longer in ruin; destitution gives way to a better destiny. No longer do we live with strangers. We are again part of our true family; we have joined with our true Father and Savior. Our fortunes have been reversed. That is the hope Jesus gives us. That is why He came and lived and died and was raised. He gives hope to tax collectors, sinners, young sons, older sons, and daughters. He gives hope to you and me. Thank God, we are no longer lost; we have been found.

Randy Harshbarger

Why So Many Churches? (3)

Last week we pointed out that Paul spent the first 4 chapters of **1 Corinthians** dealing with Unity in one form or another. Specifically he chided them for this in **1 Cor. 1:12-13** where he wrote, *“Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, ‘I am of Paul,’ and ‘I of Apollos,’ and ‘I of Cephas,’ and ‘I of Christ.’ Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”* Wasn’t Paul giving a perfect, if thumbnail, description of modern-day denominationalism? Sure was! Now, lest you think I am cherry-picking just one verse let’s note some other places where Paul addressed the same subject.

1 Cor. 3:4 *For when one says, ‘I am of Paul,’ and another, ‘I am of Apollos,’ are you not mere men?* **Ephesians 4:1-6** especially **verse 3**, *“being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* In **Galatians 5:19-21** Paul points out the works of the flesh, basically man following the Devil, and notes in **verse 20**, *“jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions”.* **Romans 15:5** *“Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus”.* **1 Cor.11:18** *“For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it.”*

With Paul, and remember, Paul’s writings were inspired by the Holy Spirit; unity wasn’t just some “pie in the sky, bye and bye” unachievable ideal. It was a command of the Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, and thus it was absolutely achievable, here in this world, by us, sinful creatures that we are! We simply need to be willing!

Cleveland Reddinger

Four Conditions & Three Blessings

Rick Lanning

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Ch. 7:14)

Do you know what is going on when God makes this famous quote? Solomon has just spent years building the spectacular Temple to God and dedicated it with the sacrifice of 22,000 bulls and 120,000 sheep! The entire nation of Israel was on hand to witness this historic event and to hear this famous wise man offer a prayer for God to always bless His people in this place. Jehovah answers that He indeed will... if the king remains faithful, and if the people refuse to bow to false gods. If the nation does wander into sin and receives a curse of famine or pestilence, and if they then follow the four conditions laid out in this verse, then God will hear and return to them three blessings. What He said to “My people” then, He still repeats to “My people” today. Pay attention. Each of these conditions are still part of our salvation.

Condition 1: *“humble themselves.”* Humility is always God’s first demand in all situations of forgiveness. No humility, no forgiveness. *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble... Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:7-10).*

Condition 2: *“and pray.”* No child of God has ever been forgiven without petitioning Him for His grace and mercy (**Hebrews 4:14-16**). John put it bluntly: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).*

Condition 3: *“and seek My face.”* This is more, far more, than prayer, it is a desire for intimate fellowship with our Maker. Fellowship is a sacred closeness. I yearn for unity and oneness as a son with my Father. David said it beautifully: *“When You said, ‘Seek My face,’ My heart said to You, ‘Your face, Lord, I will seek.’ Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation” (Psalm 27:8-9).*

Condition 4: *“and turn from their wicked ways.”* Stop sinning! Start living... for God’s glory! This is Biblical repentance based on *“godly sorrow leading to salvation not to be regretted” (2 Corinthians 7:9-11).* You will never regret turning from your wicked ways. Never!

Three Blessings follow God’s conditions: 1. I will hear from heaven. 2. I will forgive their sin. 3. I will heal their

land. Do you believe God is a promise keeper? If so, today, right now, while you are thinking about your stricken conscience caused by sin(s), humble yourself, pray, seek God’s face, and turn from your wicked ways. That done, receive the promised blessings of answered prayer, forgiveness and healing. Trust me, you will never be at peace with God, or yourself, until you do.

~via Northwest Bulletin; New Hope, Minnesota.

Is It Wrong To Eat In The Church Building?

Whit Sasser

I hope not! I do it most everyday at lunch. Little kids are often seen eating snacks in the building. When having a building clean up day, many eat their lunch there.

So why do some churches belonging to Christ not provide a kitchen, dining facilities and food for eating? Well, the question is not whether it is wrong to eat in the building; rather, is it a part of the God-given work of the congregation to provide such; to take out of the Lord's Day contribution, out of the Lord's money, to pay for these or other things of our choosing?

May we take some of the Lord's money to help me put my kids through college? No. May we take some of it and pay for an all day excursion to the Milwaukee Zoo by the entire congregation? No. May we take some of it to support my widowed Dad, when I am perfectly able to do so? Absolutely not. **I Timothy 5:16** prohibits it emphatically. May we take some of the Lord's money to build a kitchen and dining hall for us to socialize in? I don't think so. If so, it would likewise be alright to just take the money and pay for everyone to go to Ponderosa each Sunday for lunch.

But, what about the church which meets in a brother's house? May the church, after services eat there, too? Sure. Remember, it is not a question of whether one can eat in the building the church meets in, but is it Scriptural to take some of God's money given to Him on Sunday and use it to provide either the food or the facilities.

What about a church which rents a hall to meet in? May they remain after services and bring their own food to eat together in the same place they met for church assembly? I have no problem with it, though it might be open to discussion of expediency; but strictly speaking, I see no problem. The church rented the hall for services and after serving that purpose it is now just a hall for any other purpose authorized by the one's renting it out. It would be no different than eating in a park after services there.

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.

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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

Visitors welcome

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OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

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(YOUTUBE ALSO)
CHRIST OUR FOUNDATION



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