

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

Anna Surface 2010

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

August  
9  
2020

## TO WHOM DO YOU LISTEN?

by Jim Stauffer

When we were young and under the supervision of our parents, the last thing they wanted to hear from us was, "Bobby's Dad said it was O.K." We were reminded instruction for our conduct came from our own parents and not those of our friends.

God spoke from heaven on the occasion when Jesus took Peter, James and John to the mountain when He was transfigured before them all. *"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"*" (Mat. 17:5)

Later when Paul was explaining the process of faith in response to the gospel, he said, *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."* (Rom. 10:17) The only way we will ever trust in the Lord is by hearing His message.

In that message He has promised to solve the most serious problem man has. The problem of sin. God has offered His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, as an unblemished sacrifice on the cross of Calvary as a propitiation for the sins of mankind (Rom. 3:24-26; 1 Pet. 1:18,19). The result of developing a faith in Christ and maintaining it until death is a crown of life, that is a place in heaven with God, Christ and the angels (2 Tim. 4:7,8). Scripture tells us God rewards this faith that has resulted from one listening to His message (Heb. 11:6).

Now you would think any and all would give immediate attention to His message with that reward hanging in the balance. Fact is at nearly every funeral you attend the person being eulogized is headed straight to heaven. And yet in many of those cases we have full knowledge they did not listen to His message. Oh yes they were considered to be good citizens and were loved and cared for by neighbors, but did they

demonstrate faith in God in response to His message?

Faith is directly connected to obedience in Scripture. James tells us that Rahab the Harlot in Jericho was faithful when she hid the spies for Israel. And he tells us Abraham was faithful because he took Isaac to Mount Moriah to offer him as a sacrifice to God (Jas. 2:18-26).

Can you see the connection Paul is describing for us between actually hearing and comprehending the message of God and having it evidenced in our lives by obedience to that message? *"Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,"* (Heb. 5:8-9).

## Taking the Lord's Supper Out of the Assembly

by Andy Sochor

Shortly before His death, Jesus instituted a memorial to help His disciples remember Him and the sacrifice He was about to make on the cross (Mat. 26:26-29). This memorial was later referred to as *"the Lord's Supper"* (1 Cor. 11:20).

In the first century, Christians *"gathered together"* to observe this memorial *"on the first day of the week"* (Acts 20:7). This memorial consisted of the bread which represented Jesus' body and the cup (fruit of the vine) which represented His blood that was shed on the cross (1 Cor. 11:23-26). Paul also emphasized to the brethren in Corinth that when they would *"come together to eat"* (partake of the Lord's Supper), they were to *"wait for one another"* (1 Cor. 11:33).

The New Testament stresses the importance of

following the pattern revealed by the apostles. Paul told Timothy, “*Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me*” (2 Tim. 1:13, NKJV). The brethren in Thessalonica were told to “*stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us*” (2 Thess. 2:14). If any did not do this, the brethren were to “*keep away*” from them “*not associate with [them]*” (2 Th. 3:6). Everything we do must be done “*in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (Col. 3:17), which is to do things by His authority (cf. Mat. 7:21-23; 28:18-20). John warned against going beyond this pattern as well as accepting those who do: “*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. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds*” (2 John 9-11).

Recognizing the authority of Christ and the need to follow the pattern revealed in the New Testament, there are certain points we understand about the observance of the Lord’s Supper:

- **The emblems** – We are to use unleavened bread to represent Christ’s body and fruit of the vine to represent His blood (Mat. 26:17, 26-29).
- **The purpose** – We are to partake of the Lord’s Supper in order to remember the death of Christ on the cross (1 Cor. 11:26).
- **The time** – The Lord’s Supper is to be observed on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
- **The frequency** – Just as the command to the Jews to remember the Sabbath day implied every Sabbath day (Ex. 20:8; Num. 15:32-36), the instruction to observe the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) implies an observance every first day of the week. The fact that Paul, while on a hurried trip to Jerusalem, remained in Troas for seven days in order to be there to partake of the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:6-7, 16) supports this.
- **The place** – Every New Testament example of Christians observing the Lord’s Supper since the establishment of the church shows them doing this in the assembly of the local church (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:33). To cite the example of Paul stopping in Troas again, it is significant that although he was traveling with other Christians (Acts 20:4), they did not observe the Lord’s Supper together wherever they happened to be; instead, they made sure they were in a local church assembly on the first day of the week in

order to partake.

Most brethren I have encountered recognize the Lord’s Supper consists of the bread and the fruit of the vine (and only those emblems), that it is to remember the death of Christ, and that it is to be observed on the first day of every week (and not on any other day). Yet for some reason, when it comes to the *place* of the Lord’s Supper, some brethren are either unsure or simply act as though the New Testament has nothing to say about it.

- Some take the emblems of the Lord’s Supper *out of the assembly* in order to serve a church member who is sick at home or in a nursing home.
- Some will take the few Christians needing to partake of the Lord’s Supper, but were unable to be present earlier on Sunday when the rest of the brethren assembled, and send them *out of the assembly* into a back room separated from the congregation and have them partake of the Lord’s Supper there.
- Some brethren, when traveling, will take along the emblems of the Lord’s Supper and partake *out of the assembly* rather than finding a local congregation with which to meet and observe the Lord’s Supper in that assembly.

The problem with each of these scenarios (and other similar cases) is that the Lord’s Supper is not being observed in its authorized place – *in the assembly of the local church*.

Why are brethren tempted to take the Lord’s Supper out of the assembly? Is it because of convenience? Is it because they think the place is irrelevant? In reality, the motive behind this is immaterial. It is possible to have best of intentions and still be guilty of doing things that are not in harmony with the will of Christ. Jesus said, “*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’*” (Mat. 7:22-23). More than likely, these individuals had good motives; yet they were doing things for which they had no authority.

The Lord’s Supper belongs in the assembly – not necessarily in a “church building,” but in the assembly of a local church – because that’s where the Lord, through His inspired apostles, placed it. Rather than

finding reasons to “justify” taking the Lord’s Supper out of the assembly, we simply need to follow the pattern as it has been revealed to us.

## INVITED GUESTS

*“And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, when you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:12-14).* At this point in His earthly ministry, Jesus was closing out nearly three years of teaching and controversy. He had invited all, whether Jew or Gentile, to follow Him. How do we answer that call? Jesus was in the home of a Pharisee on the Sabbath. However, the invitation to sit and eat was a ruse to watch Jesus in order to catch Him in some compromise of the Law.

It is probably true of most of us that when we have guests into our homes, we invite people we know; they are mostly people like we are in terms of background, education, economic level, similar interests, and even in religious inclinations. To put it another way, how often do we find ourselves associating with complete strangers? How often do we make an effort to include those *dreaded others* into our supposed circle of influence? Who would even think about including people who could do absolutely nothing for us, save for coming to the table we prepared? Don’t we really want prominent people to come to our table?

The guest with the highest honor would be seated on a couch at the head of the table; accordingly, other guests would take their expected seats around the head table; these seats were often determined by the host. If not, as an early arriving guest you could position yourself at the head table. After all, you are important, you deserve to be there, and tough luck to those who arrived late. How embarrassing, though, if the host told you to move to the back! *“Do not claim honor in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of great men; for it is better that it be said to you, Come up here, than for you to be placed lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen” (Pro. 25:6-7).*

Again, how do we answer Jesus’ call to His kingdom? Pride, self-exaltation, and the desire for prestige and recognition are obstacles to having a true heart and desire for the things of Jesus. When we look for the chief seats, we say that we are more important

than others; especially are we more important than those we consider to be below our station in life. We should be elevated, not them. When we focus on ourselves, we cannot see Jesus. How do we show humility and concern for others? Jesus said to invite others with no thought of what your guests can do for you. When we do that, we are following Jesus.

After all, isn’t that what Jesus does? He invites us; we can come; we come in humility, in thankfulness, in a spirit of abject spiritual poverty. Jesus’ invitation is for those who are more than happy to sit in the back of the building. We must not rush to the head table.

**Randy Harshbarger**

## Why Are There So Many Churches? (2)

Last week we began our pondering of the question: How did we go from one church in the New Testament to over two hundred today? I pointed out that it certainly wasn’t Jesus’ intent or He wouldn’t have said what He said in **John 17:20-23**.

The apostle Paul had no problem understanding the Lord’s desire as expressed in this prayer. How do I know this? Briefly look at the church in Corinth. If there was ever a church that had problems, this was it! Corinth was a vile city morally but the church had fornication that even the Gentiles frowned upon, chapter five. Brethren were suing one another in court, chapter six. They had misunderstanding concerning marriage, chapter seven. They even had folks denying the Resurrection in chapter 15! Yeah! Where do you start, right?

Paul spent his first four chapters dealing with problems concerning unity in one form or another. Right off the bat he says: *“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. 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?”* Paul always aimed for the heart!

We today have become accustomed to a divided “Christendom”. We think it’s OK and fail to appreciate that Jesus’ desire is a command. Paul had no such misapprehensions.

**Cleveland Reddinger**

**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**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

**Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons: Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Joe Hurd**

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**Check out the following websites:**

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

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

### NEWS AND NOTES:

#### SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

JAN PATRICK, ALMA  
BAUMGARTNER, LINDIA  
JACKSON, TRUDY MULLEN, RENE  
RATLIFFE, DENESE GORING,  
CHARLOTTE STAUFFER, RODNEY  
BLOUNT, TRACY RICHARDSON,  
DAISY DARNALL, BROOKLYN  
BOYER, RENEE ANDERSON AND  
L.A. STAUFFER

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK OF  
DANIEL - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK  
OF MARK - JIM STAUFFER (BOTH  
CLASSES OFFERED ON ZOOM)

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON  
(YOUTUBE ALSO)

**I KNOW MY REDEEMER LIVES**



## 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