

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"

April 19, 2020

HAVE YOU BEEN STRUCK WITH THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT?

by Jim Stauffer

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

We are told the word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17) and that the word of God is the truth (John 17:17). What more could a fair minded individual want? Granted there are folks in this world who simply have no interest in spiritual matters. Either they do not believe in a Creator at all or they have some feeling He will not condemn sinful man to eternal punishment. All this enables them to live life here on earth with no thought to where they will spend eternity. There is not much to be said here that will change the way they feel. Usually those folks come around at some point in life when tragedy strikes and life begins to take on a more serious look than before. When they do, I am hopeful their thoughts will be turned to a search for the truth.

I suppose nearly every person on the earth would pay dearly for the solid irrefutable truth concerning Covid-19. How many have it? How many will get it? How many will die from it? At this juncture we are simply dealing with ever changing models as we try to predict its path of destruction.

While matters such as this involving earthly life are based on the "best information available", that is not so with matters spiritual. Let us consider the information we have available and see if we can make a reliable decision based on it.

God is the one Who gave life initially. In Gen. 1:26, *Then God said, Let us make man in our image and according to our likeness....* Later, in Gen. 2:7 it is said *God,breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* God placed man in the

earthly paradise of the Garden of Eden with his wife Eve where life would have been perfect if they obeyed His commands. They did not and in the process rejected God's offer of life.

Man's rejection of God did not end the relationship. God's love led to a merciful offer of His Son as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of man (1 Pet. 1:18,19; Titus 2:11-14). Thus we could be restored to righteousness by the forgiveness of sins and therefore reconciled to God (Rom. 3:24-26; 2 Cor. 5:17-19).

Now, suddenly man is in possession of all the facts concerning the matter. He has sinned and become separated from God (Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:1,2). He must now decide to either continue in sin or accept the terms of God's redemptive offer (Col. 1:13,14). It seems to be an easy decision. Like those on Pentecost learned in Acts 2, one needs to repent of the sin that separated him from God and be baptized for the remission of sins and in that way He has *.....rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* (Colossians 1:13-14)

There is one major problem with which man is faced. There is this thing called truth. The word of God. The sword of the Spirit. Paul tells us God's mind was revealed to the apostles so they could teach it to the world and leave it for generations to follow (1 Cor. 2:10-13). The problem is that was 2000 years ago and man has had generation after generation to pervert that truth and have done so over and over again (Gal. 1:6-9). Now we ask the question, "Have you ever been struck with the sword of the Spirit?" That is have you seriously considered the word of God, which is the truth and has been revealed for man to obey in order to receive the salvation promised by the life and death of Jesus of

Nazareth, the Christ, the Son of God? (**Heb. 5:8,9**) Most people, the Lord says will not heed the truth. They will find it too restrictive and demanding (**Mat. 7:13,14**). Isn't that exactly what the problem was with the Jewish leaders who rejected and crucified Christ? *"When He entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 'The baptism of John was from what source, from heaven or from men?' And they began reasoning among themselves, saying, 'If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?' 'But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the people; for they all regard John as a prophet.' And answering Jesus, they said, 'We do not know.' He also said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.' (Matthew 21:23-27)* They would not accept the truth placed before them because it did not meet their expectations.

Now what about you? Have you examined what Scripture teaches regarding obedience to God and the resulting salvation? Or have you espoused the teachings of men over the last 2000 years? Doctrines of men who have been elevated beyond the Son of God and have led others to practice things Jesus did not ordain? Things not in the revelation of the mind of God and recorded for us by the apostles? Jesus told us this would happen. Men would demand and receive reverence as religious leaders rather than serving the Master as commanded (**Mat. 23:8-12**).

We all have a decision to make. The sword of the Spirit is unchangeable. It is the undeniable truth of the word of God. Those who accept that and obey it will receive the crown of righteousness of which Paul speaks, as his death was near (**2 Tim. 4:7,8**). But those who insist in following the religion of men will be included with those who have done evil deeds and receive condemnation as Jesus has promised (**John 5:28,29**).

Yes, even people who attend a worship service regularly, give to the poor and love their neighbors are deemed not to have loved God with all their heart, soul and mind if they do not obey the commands of the Lord (**John 14:15**). Folks, we have one life here. If we want life there, we must serve Him and not men, obey His words and not those of men.

Was The Church Built on Peter?

In reading through the Gospel of Matthew we come to a place where Jesus does some teaching concerning

the yet future church. We read that He begins asking who people say He is, getting a variety of replies. He then gets specific to them: *"He *said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 'I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.' (Mat. 16:15-18)*

Somewhere in history someone exercised their power of jumping to erroneous conclusions by noting that 'Peter' means 'a stone' and therefore Jesus must be saying that the church was to be built upon Peter! There are several reasons this cannot be beginning with the most obvious:

1. If the church was to be built on Peter, what purpose Jesus?
2. When Jesus said *"upon this rock"* He used the feminine word 'petra' which cannot be construed to refer back to Peter's name, "Petros" which is obviously masculine.
3. There is a massive (pun intended) difference between "petros – a stone" and "petra- a huge ledge of rock suitable for building upon". (Think of Gibraltar) If not Peter then what is the meaning? He was referring to the confession that Peter had just made, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* This is the confession that every Christian makes upon being baptized into Christ, **Acts 8:37**. It is the one thing which unites every Christian of all time!

Cleveland Reddinger

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY: THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19 NASV).

The Messiah-Servant, Jesus Christ the Lord., quotes **Isaiah 61:1-2**, and says: "I am the fulfillment of this prophecy." The kingdom of heaven was breaking in; OT kingdom prophecies were being fulfilled. Isaiah anticipated the coming Messiah when he spoke of the role of the Spirit in connection with the Messiah. *"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations" (Isaiah 42:1; 11:2;*

49:8; 50:4). Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 10:38**); with this power and with the approval of His Father above, He would go forth and preach to the poor and bring relief to miserable people everywhere. Bringing release to the captives echoes the Year of Jubilee (**Leviticus 25:10; Jeremiah 34:8**), a time of release from slavery or bondage (in many forms). Isaiah also said that the advent of the Messiah would bring *“the day of vengeance of our God”* (**Isaiah 61:2**). The Messiah would bring healing; He would also bring judgment against those who rejected the Father’s promises in Christ.

Clearly, Jesus worked miracles as the Messiah. His power to cast out demons, heal the crippled, and raise the dead authenticated His claim to be God’s Son. Human suffering was often alleviated by His works. The greater message was salvation. That is Luke’s message from the beginning. Jesus would bring *“redemption,” “salvation,” “mercy,” “salvation,”* and *“forgiveness”* (**Luke 1:67ff**). Forgiveness, the release from the captivity of sin, lifts the heavy burden that no one can bear alone. The Day of Atonement as celebrated by Israel (**Leviticus 16**) restored broken relationships. A physical remnant would return from Babylon; spiritual Israel would be delivered by the atoning death of Jesus. Jesus preached the gospel, making possible a new people, a new community. These new people would come to the kingdom in contrition; they could now see and walk and speak (metaphors for spiritual healing?).

Jesus’ kingdom was not the kind of kingdom expected by Judaism. The Jews knew about kings, kingdoms, war, fighting, military defeats and victories. Rome’s dominion in the first century contributed to Jewish anxieties about their very existence. Will a military deliverer, such as David, come and fight for them? Jesus’ parables make it clear that His kingdom would be unlike any earthly kingdom. Jesus told Pilate: *“My kingdom is not of the world.”* The Jews wanted salvation from their enemies; **Luke 1:71** says: *“Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us.”* But Jesus brought a different kind of salvation. If there was ever to be peace between the Jews and the Romans, or, if there is ever to be peace among mankind, then all need to be at peace with God; this must come first. Then, we can be at peace with each other. How revolutionary! How counterintuitive! But it was that kind of peace that Jesus brought to Israel and to all. Jesus, the Prince, the Savior, brought repentance to Israel and remission of sins (**Acts 5:31**). Now, if that is what Jesus was talking about in His synagogue, shouldn’t we sit down and listen?

Randy Harshbarger

It Is Not Enough To Say “Jesus”

T. Doy Moyer

It is one thing to say that Jesus needs to be our foundation for what we believe and do, but the Apostle Paul warned against “versions of Jesus” that may lull us into a false sense of security. *“For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.”* (**2 Cor. 11:4**) In other words, it’s not enough just to say, “Jesus,” as if it is impossible to misunderstand Him or come up with versions of Jesus in our mind that are not at all following the real Jesus (**Matthew 7:21-24**). The Spirit of Christ is not whatever we decide it is.

We can’t just make up what we want about Jesus and claim to be following Him, but this is always the danger when we ignore what Scripture actually teaches in favor of what feels good to us. Jesus is not there to “rubber stamp” our will. He is there to save us from sin and lead us into glory in the way that He *will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*” (**Phil. 4:6-7**).

~via Eastside Bulletin; Indianapolis, Indiana.

Taken from Market Street Messenger

Joy of a Servant

S. Fuhrman

I lighten a burden with love,
As part of my Master’s design,
And know in that moment of care:
The joy of a servant is mine!
I serve in a small quiet way,
And glory, my Master, is Thine!
What more can I ask of this day?
The joy of a servant is mine!
To live in Thy service each day,
My strength and my will I resign.
Though I am a child of Thy house,
The joy of a servant is mine!

Did Jesus not serve God’s will and our interest in delivering us?

“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.” (**Isaiah 42:1**)

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

Casey Dent

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SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

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JACKSON, TRUDY MULLEN, RENE

RATLIFFE, DENESE GORING,

CHARLOTTE STAUFFER, CAROL

WILLARD AND RODNEY BLOUNT.

PRAY FOR THE WORLD DURING

COVID-19 CRISIS.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY IS

SEARCHING FOR A KING - WITH

RON PECK.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - **THE**

BOOK OF MARK

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON

ON YOUTUBE AND ZOOM

BIBLICAL BAPTISM



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