

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”

June 14, 2020

LET'S FIX OURSELVES

by Jim Stauffer

Each of us walked away from a Paradise in that we turned our back on a relationship with God based on righteousness. Paul tells us, For we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (**Rom. 3:23**). What that means is we acted selfishly and pleased the flesh rather than heeding the wishes of our heavenly Father, our Creator.

The results of an entire world doing that has rendered a less than perfect world in which to live. We cannot complain about the current state of things because we have been complicit.

So, how do I fix this crazy upside down world? The same way you build a skyscraper or run a marathon or sustain a long and loving relationship with a spouse. One brick, step or day at a time spent doing those things that build or continue the process whatever it may be.

Therefore, it behooves me to go to work on me. Make me what I am supposed to be. Jesus asked me to be*the salt of the earth.....the light of the world* (**Mat. 5:13-16**). Then I must do as He asked by considering what the apostle said in **Phil. 2:3,4**, “*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*”

All I can do is fix me. And that is what I must do if I am to please God. I must please God above all the noise from any others and if I do, then I will have done what I can to not only care for others but be an example to others to do the same. You see I, as well as all others on this planet am responsible for what I can do. I must not try to fix everyone else while neglecting the repairs on my own house. If I neglect those repairs it will be sinful.

Let me close my thoughts with this point. People

want to point fingers at a sinful act and call it a crime thinking they are magnifying it. Please think clearly. A crime is a transgression of man's law. A sin is a transgression of God's law. When one sins against God he has committed the greater transgression than just violating the law of men. As a result we know sin is the problem in the world. Once we disrespect God we naturally disrespect our fellow man.

Where Do I Fit?

Dee Bowman

My Dad was a great fellow. He was rather introverted, even bordered on being timid. But there was a kind of inner stability about him that made you know that his timidity was not a sign of anything—except the wisdom it takes to be quiet and listen. He had a philosophical bent about him and when he did say something, you could usually put it in your pocket and use it later because it was something that made good sense.

We moved to the Plains of West Texas when I was 5 years old. My Dad kept books at the Cotton Gin for Hume Russell. Later, when we had saved up a little money, he bought a dry cleaning shop in Morton. In addition to cleaning clothes, Dad ordered tailor-made suits for the National Tailoring Company in Chicago. We still have a nice quilt Mom made out of the wool suit samples he would show to prospective buyers. He was an expert at measuring a person for clothes and “that’s the key to having satisfied customers,” he would say. We didn’t always have much—didn’t even have a car until I was 12 or 13—but we had nice clothes, so everybody thought we were better off than we were.

One thing my Dad said about clothes has stayed with me all these years. “Things wear out where they don’t fit,” he said. In other words, if you buy things that fit you, you can wear them much longer. Things wear out where they don’t fit.

That’s true of humans, too, you know. Folks soon wear out where they don’t fit.

If you’re in a crowd where you don’t fit, chances are you won’t stay long—mainly because you don’t think you look good there. When you feel welcome—that is, when you fit—you’ll more likely stay longer and be more of a part of the overall picture.

Where do you fit here? Let’s look at some things that are necessary for a good fit.

A good fit begins with a good measurement.

You have to measure yourself. Introspection may be the hardest kind of inspection. First of all, it requires complete honesty. You have to take a long look at your assets and liabilities and see how you can best use what you have and try and do better at what you lack. That’s not easy, but just remember, not everybody fits into every slot, and you’re apt to wear out if you force yourself into some area where you don’t fit. Paul said, **(Galatians 6:4)**, *“But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone and not in another.”* Self-examination always begins with a good heart **(Psalm 15:1-2)**.

You have to want to.

You won’t fit if you don’t want to. Many times people who complain about not being a part, don’t fit in because deep down, they don’t really want to. If you want to, you can fit. How sad to see some folks who complain bitterly—and talk loudly—because they don’t have a place when they never tried to fit in. The one talent man **(Matthew 25:25)** didn’t fit into his master’s plan not because he couldn’t, but because he decided not to.

You have to stay in your own place.

Not everybody fits everywhere and not everybody can do everything. Sometimes you have to just be satisfied with where you fit and try to fit nicely into your own spot. Actually, if you try and force yourself into a place where you don’t fit, you mess up the whole picture and someone who actually fits where you’re trying to is left to fit where he doesn’t fit either. And that makes for trouble. The various parts of the body function together to make the whole body strong, but the liver doesn’t try to be what it is not and the feet don’t try and take the place of the ears **(see 1 Corinthians 12:14-f)**.

Everybody fits.

There are no unimportant parts in this picture. Every single part—no matter how small or seemingly insignificant it may seem—has a place. When a part is

missing, it messes up the entire picture and, rather than blending in to the whole, the void causes people to see only the missing part, thus distracting terribly from the big picture. And how wonderful just to know that you have a place, and one that no one else is fitted for. When Paul says we are “knitted together,” he says the knitting is supplied by every joint contributing its part by *“the effective working by which every part does its share”* **(Ephesians 4:17)**. Only when every part does its part can the whole body be effective.

So, let’s get together.

Let’s gather together all the parts of this church and fit them into the over-all scheme of things and get to the business of being lights in the world—a picture that will reflect to the world around us that we’re serious about the business of going to heaven and that we’re interested in taking as many people with us we can.

~via Southside Sunday; Pasadena, Texas; Taken from Market Street Messenger

THE TRANSFIGURATION

“Some eight days after these sayings, He took along Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions had been overcome with sleep; but when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. And as these were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles: one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah—not realizing what he was saying. While he was saying this, a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him! And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent, and reported to no one in those days any of the things which they had seen” **(Luke 9:28-36 NASV)**.

Peter, James, and John, three intimate disciples of Jesus, went up the mountain to pray. Imagine, if you can, the very thought of bowing before the Father above even as you are in the presence of the Father’s only begotten Son! These three, while part of the larger group of followers, were included in the activities of Jesus in private, intimate ways. Can we extrapolate from these

associations that these three were to be singled out for great things in the future? All three are mentioned prominently in the rest of the NT.

The voice of the Father said: *“This is My beloved Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him.”* This would have been startling; too, it would have also opened a window to who Jesus was (is). Hear Jesus, the Father says. Moses and Elijah are on the mount. The need to listen to Jesus now takes precedence over the Law that would be nailed to the cross and over the prophets, as they yielded to the greatest prophet of all. The Father said that Jesus is “My Son.” Ancient kings of Israel were called the sons of God. Jesus is the royal Son as depicted in the Psalms. *“I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain. I will proclaim the Lord’s decree: He said to me, you are my son; today I have become your father” (Psalm 2:6-7).* Jesus is the chosen one of the Father. Jesus is the servant of the Father. Jesus’ role as Servant meant that He would suffer and die on the cross for the sins of the world. *“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. He will not cry out or raise His voice” (Isaiah 42:1; 53).*

When Peter suggested building three tents for Moses, Elijah, and Jesus, his intention might have been a good one. Did he want to prolong this magnificent occasion; we can camp and stay for a long time? Whatever his motivation, Luke says that Peter didn’t realize what he was saying. And that is what happens to us. We don’t understand, we don’t listen, we don’t know what to do. The only solution, the best solution, is to listen to the Father declare His love for His Son. The brightness, the brilliance, the transforming of Jesus’ image portends the ultimate victory of Jesus over Satan, over sin, over temptation, over death. We can hardly look and take it all in. But we must try. Where else can we look?

Randy Harshbarger

Let’s Just Blame God!

In **Genesis 3:12** Adam, having been asked why he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil answered, *“The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”* In doing so he began a time honored tradition of blaming GOD when WE do things wrong, “The woman gave it to me, but YOU, GOD, gave her to me in the first place so it’s really your fault too! Not mine!” Read the chapter and you’ll see that it didn’t work, but we still do it! Let me show you how.

I spoke with a person inviting them to church and their response was, “I don’t know where to go so I’m just waiting for a sign from God.” Let me translate, “I’m too lazy to study the scriptures and see what God wants so He is just going to have to do for me what He doesn’t do for anyone else and give me a supernatural sign. If He doesn’t do what I want Him to do in the way of signs then my lack of action is HIS FAULT, NOT MINE!” Well, it won’t work for them any better than it did for Adam!

Paul told us to study the Scriptures, **2 Timothy 2:15**. He also told us that we could understand them when we read them, **Ephesians 3:3,4**; and the Bereans were called noble for examining the Scriptures daily, checking out what Paul was preaching, **Acts 17:11**. At the El Dorado Church of Christ we are studying through Hebrews on Sunday morning, taught by Paul Schellhorn; and I just began teaching Ecclesiastes on Wednesday evening. Why not come and take advantage of these opportunities to learn? Stop blaming God for your ignorance!

Cleveland Reddinger

“A prince and a great man has fallen”

A.W. Goff was born February 24, 1929 in Poughkeepsie, Arkansas to the late Archie and Ollie (McCrackin) Goff. He passed from this life June 4, 2020 in Russellville, Arkansas, at the age of 91 years.

A.W. began his preaching career at an early age, preaching one of his first sermons under an oak tree beside the church building in Poughkeepsie, Arkansas. He taught some Bible classes as a teenager.

He was greatly influenced to become a gospel preacher by his father, Archie, and two mentors – Paul Lusby and Harold Sharp. He preached in several congregations in Northeast Arkansas by appointment. He briefly attended Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee, and then began preaching full-time. He preached in Fort Scott, Kansas; Medicine Lodge, Kansas; Bradley, Illinois (5 years); Cash, Arkansas (3 years); the Eastside Church of Christ, Blytheville, Arkansas (3 years); Northside Church of Christ, Conway, Arkansas (5 years); Morrilton, Arkansas (5 years); E. 16th Street Church of Christ, Russellville, Arkansas (33 years).

He held many gospel meetings throughout the country during these years, often conducting 12-15 meetings per year. He converted countless individuals, strengthened the churches where he went, made life-long friends of the brethren, and had a sterling reputation throughout his 60-year career. He conducted his sole debate in Morrilton, Arkansas in 1977. He conducted countless weddings and funerals.

A.W. will be greatly missed by his family and friends. **Editor’s note: Bro. Goff preached a meeting for our congregation approximately 35 years ago when we still met in Merriam, Kansas.**

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

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Elders - Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

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OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

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RENE RATLIFF, DENESE GORING,
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DAISY DARNALL.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY IS

**SEARCHING FOR A KING - RON
PECK.**

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - THE
BOOK OF MARK - JIM STAUFFER
(ZOOM)

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON
YOUTUBE ALSO - **I AM A DISCIPLE
OF.....**



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