

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.

September
6
2020

BELIEVE IT, GOD WILL PUNISH SIN

by Jim Stauffer

As we discuss the subject of sin and its inevitable punishment we must see the fallacies of man's ideas as they will eventually become subject to God's eternal concepts of justice.

As we mention man's ideas on sin and any punishment, we see a focus on the right of any individual to enjoy his life here to the fullest. This includes the pleasure of sin. Scripture warns us about giving in to lust and offers the example of Moses who rejected those very things that Egypt could provide (**1 John 2:15-17; Heb. 11:24-26**).

When this attitude of mankind is compared to the principles God sets forth it clearly is leading many souls toward disaster. God has clearly stated there will be justice in the final day (**2 Cor. 5:10**). He has also taught us it will be Christ Who judges us and He will do so according to righteousness and His word (**Acts 17:31; John 12:48**). Precious souls who are led to think their sin is not harming them will be very disappointed when they come face to face with the accounting they will give to Christ at His coming.

God has made it very clear in His word that a failure to keep His commandments will lead man to sin (**1 John 3:4**). Even as His disdain for sin and the source of our temptation, the devil, is expressed in Scripture, God expresses His love for mankind and His desire for us to come to repentance in order to avoid eternal condemnation (**Eph. 2:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:9**). At the same time He offers man who has sinned, and we all have (**Rom. 3:23**), a pathway to forgiveness (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**). He continues to offer forgiveness throughout the life of a child of God (**1 John 1:7-10**).

Lest we deceive ourselves let us understand how God's promises both those of a positive nature and those negative are true and honored faithfully. He gives

us an example of this in His promise to Abraham (**Heb. 6:13-18**). Who then do we think those people are who Christ mentions here, "*Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*" (**John 5:28-29**) Those who have done good are those who have sought the forgiveness we mentioned earlier. Those who have done evil have not sought forgiveness and therefore their evil remains between them and God. The prophet Isaiah points out how sin separates man from God (**Isa. 59:1,2**). Those are the people for whom God reserves judgment. They are the folks for whom His long suffering finally ended.

Yes, brethren, and also any who have not yet responded to God's offer of salvation, judgment day is coming and justice will be administered according to righteousness, according to His word. Please consider your plight and accept His offer of forgiveness.

COMMITMENT *by Wayne Goff*

COMMITMENT
*The state of being
obligated or bound
to a charge or trust.*

What the local church needs more of today is commitment from all of its members. Commitment is the thing on which relationships in life are built. Without

commitment in marriage, husbands and wives cannot have a secure relationship. Without commitment at work, the employer would never be sure of his work force; the employee would never be sure of his job. Without commitment, schools would have no boards, no principals, no teachers, and no students. Without commitment, the church would flounder — never sure of its ability, never sure of its power for good, never certain if it can finish the task to which it has set itself.

A Committed Church

How can we have a committed church? By teaching every member to be committed to the Lord and to the local church. *“And this they did, not as we had hoped, but first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God” (2 Corinthians 8:5).* With these words, the Lord was teaching the saints at Corinth about commitment. The Macedonians were committed Christians; the Corinthians could be committed too.

But committed to do what? *“But as you abound in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us — see that you abound in this grace also.” (2 Corinthians 8:7).* In short, the church needs its members to be committed to any and every Scriptural endeavor. If the church conducts a gospel meeting, then every member should commit himself or herself to attend, to invite others, and to pray for its success. If the church is teaching its members how to do personal work, then every member should commit to learning how to do it. Commitment comes in every aspect of the church — Scriptural worship (**John 4:24**), Scriptural work (**Ephesians 4:16**), and Scriptural organization (**Philippians 1:1**).

What if everyone is not committed? *“For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack — that there may be equality. As it is written, ‘He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack’” (2 Corinthians 8:13-15).* The God-ordained plan is that every member should be committed to do his or her work.

Consequently, no one is over burdened, and none are without work. Those who are stronger should teach the weaker what is their responsibility and how they can discharge it.

Are you a committed Christian? Do you accept personal responsibility for yourself? Do you look for opportunities to serve the Lord and your brethren?

PHARISEES AND PUBLICANS

“And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 18:9-14 NASV).

Jesus’ target audience, the Pharisees, were those “who trusted in themselves.” His disciples were close by, too, to hear Jesus contrast those who believed they didn’t need God with those who knew their need. Who would question the spiritual status of the Pharisees? This particular Pharisee, pointed out all he had been doing in his religious life; he certainly tried to separate himself from the *dreaded others*, especially the tax collectors. Tax collectors were viewed as traitors; they worked for the despised Romans; they often cheated their own countrymen out of more money than was due. Why would Jesus use a tax collector to make His point? Why wouldn’t He? Tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers—the dregs of society were the very ones Jesus came to save. Could Pharisees be saved? No doubt some were. But how? By their own righteousness? By their own good works? By their own perceptions of what kingdom living was all about? No, justification is possible only in a spirit of humility, not self-exaltation.

Praying to God is a good thing; it is needed; it is a blessing and privilege to speak with our heavenly Father. But how do we speak with Him? With boasting or humility? It is not that we shouldn’t try to obey God’s will; that is what the Pharisee did. But in his litany of religious expressions, the Pharisee saw himself as better than others; because of what he did, he thought he deserved the good will of God. The tax collector, however good or bad or notorious, knew he is a sinner. He beats his breast in contrition. He stands apart from the holy God he prayed to.

Is God’s grace for all mankind? Yes! But what of those who don’t see their undone, self-righteous condition before God? When humility eludes you, justification is impossible. Mercy comes to all who recognize that God alone is their only hope. The tax

collector went home justified. The Pharisee went home, too. Was he thinking: Hey, no problem? All is well with my soul? What are you thinking?

Randy Harshbarger

Why So Many Churches (6)

Last week we addressed a major cause of division: the confusion of Faith and Opinion. They are entirely separate entities and to treat either as the other makes YOU the cause of division.

There is another area where confusion causes division and that is: Authority. Jesus addressed this need in **Matthew 21:25** when questioned by the Pharisees concerning his actions. He responded with a question, *“The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven or from men?”* Notice that he did not deny the validity of their question. No, but by answering in the manner in which he did he both acknowledged the need for authority and pointed out their hypocrisy in the matter by putting them on the horns of a dilemma, *“And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why then did ye not believe him? But if we shall say, From men; we fear the multitude; for all hold John as a prophet.”*

Jesus clearly pointed out there are two and only two sources of authority: Heaven or Men, and they lead to vastly different destinations. In **Matthew 7:13,14** Jesus says, *“Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it.”* Paul echoes this in **Galatians 1:10** and **Colossians 2:16-23**.

Man-made creeds, written or not, are a sure fire sign that you are following men and not God. Some of you are disturbed that I would say this but, think about it! God wrote the Bible but who wrote the creeds?

Cleveland Reddinger

Be An Enabler

Rick Liggin

In the field of civil law, there are sometimes people who “aid and abet” criminals, and there are also those who “contribute to the delinquency of a minor.” To do either of these is against the law, and those who do it become criminals themselves. In the field of psychology,

there are sometimes people who are identified as “enablers,” because they enable others (often their own loved ones) to be involved in addictive behavior. “Enablers” are not necessarily people who would themselves participate in the addictive conduct; they may actually even oppose it. But by their actions they make it easy for the addict to continue in his addiction.

In spiritual matters, we also unfortunately have people who “aid and abet” evildoers, or who “contribute to the delinquency” of sinners, or who become “enablers” of those who are doing wrong! Now, you might be thinking of those who practice deeds that are “worthy of death,” while also giving “heartily approval” to those who practice “such things” (**Romans 1:32**). But these are not the “enablers” we are talking about. The “enablers” we are talking about would not practice the sins that they “aid and abet.” In fact, they would oppose and carefully avoid such practices in their own lives. And yet, they enable others (especially when the “others” are their own family or loved ones) to practice sinful behavior. How does that happen? In what way do they “aid and abet” evildoers or “enable” those who are given to sin?

Often, it is done by downplaying the person’s sin or by even offering excuses for the “poor helpless sinner.” More often than not, they enable sinners by their silence. Instead of lovingly confronting the sinner (**Matt. 18:15**) and exposing his crime (**Eph. 5:11**), they ignore the sin and pretend it isn’t really happening. Even worse, they hamper the local church’s efforts to correct the sinner by continuing to socialize and associate with the one who has been collectively disciplined by the group (**1 Cor. 5:1-13**). When will we learn that this does not help the sinner to correct his ways? It only enables him to continue in his evil deeds!

Don’t you dare be an “enabler” of sin! Don’t you dare “contribute to the delinquency” of one who is caught up in a trespass or “aid and abet” a sinner in the error of his way! Instead, be an encourager and “enabler” of that which is good, even if it means you must confront and oppose someone you love. If you really love someone in sin, you will not enable him to continue in the error of his way; you will, instead, do whatever you can to turn him back to God...to *“save his soul from death”* and to *“cover a multitude of sins”* (**James 5:19-20**).

~via Think On These Things; Cortland, Illinois.

“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 1:9-11**)

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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BROOKLYN BOYER, RENEE
ANDERSON, STEVE WIMP, JESSIE
GIBSON AND PAT GAINES

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK OF
DANIEL - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - STUDY
OF WORSHIP - JIM STAUFFER
(BOTH CLASSES OFFERED ON ZOOM)

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON
(YOUTUBE ALSO)
SACRIFICES TO 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