

LENEXA EDIFIER

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; Eph. 4:11,12

November 1, 2020

THE PHYSICIAN OFFERS A CURE

Jim Stauffer

"Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. "But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:10-13)

Jesus presents Himself as the Physician who can heal our diseases as the prophet Isaiah says, *...and by His scourging we are healed. (Isa. 53:5)* Peter then repeats this, *....by His wounds you were healed. (1 Pet. 2:24)*

In our opening text He was criticized by the Pharisees for dining with sinners. Jesus declares on this occasion both His mission and His love for those who are the targets of His mission. Sinners. There is no accurate conclusion to be drawn that the Pharisees were righteous and not in need of the Christ and His power to heal sinners. Jesus just takes this opportunity to explain His role among men as the One Who could fix the sin problem that plagues everyone **(Rom. 3:23)**.

Here He portrays sin as a disease needing a cure. As we know Jesus became the cure for that disease in His death on the cross **(Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:18,19)**.

The parallel between sin, the spiritual disease and physical illnesses carries further in that each must be treated in order to save either the body or the soul, whichever we consider. If we have a disease and refuse to follow medical advice it eventually will destroy us. We have witnessed folks, who when advised their choice is between extended treatment that offers significant suffering, decide to let the disease run its course. They have decided the cure is not certain and therefore does not offer the relief they seek.

Fortunately, the cure for our spiritual sickness, sin, is 100% effective if we will take the medicine. God has promised to redeem us from sin if we will obey the instruction that comes with the grace He offers in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Righteous, His Son **(Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 5:8,9)**.

Now comes the difficult part for some. The rich young ruler of **Mat. 19**, could not accept the cure for his sin and *...obtain eternal life*. His wealth was more important to him. For some, this is an obstacle. Maybe they inherited wealth or enjoyed great success financially, but in either case they find it difficult to choose between those seemingly great values and eternal life. Make no mistake, just as this young man went away sorrowful, so will all who value the temporal things of this life over those things eternal.

Jesus dined with and spent time teaching sinners because He loved them and wanted to save their souls from eternal punishment. This is made clear in **2 Pet. 3:9**, *"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."* How could He have said, *...Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing. (Luke 23:34)*

Yet, Jesus love for the souls of mankind will not overrule His righteous judgment, *"because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."* **(Acts 17:31)** What do we think is meant by being judged in righteousness? We are provided the answer in **2 Cor. 5:10**, *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*

Yes, we learn from the Scriptures that sin will be punished. Even if we do not suffer punishment in this life *(...for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous....)* any and all sinners will receive the ultimate just reward. That is the reward they receive

will be according to righteousness or justice as promised. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 6:23) God has promised us eternal life if we are obedient to His Son Who died to purchase us from the bondage of sin. But just as surely as His promises of a reward are true, so are His promises of punishment for sin to those who reject the offer of salvation. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. *"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.'"* **(Matthew 7:21-23)**

Sober thinking tells us to repent and turn to the Lord while time still allows. Serious thought need be given to the choice God has afforded His creation.

Doy Moyer (*Current events*)

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand" **(Prov 19:21)**.

Whatever happens in the upcoming election, our trust in the Lord will be tested. We may think that "if the election doesn't go *this* way, then all is lost." That pretty much sums up every election. It also sums up a position that comes from a lack of faith.

The truth of this proverb needs to be set in our minds. Whatever plans we make or whatever we think needs to happen, the purpose of the Lord will stand. Know this: *"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good"* **(Prov 15:3)**.

We do the best we can with what we have. We strive to be the best of citizens. We take part in good conscience. Yet we need to trust the Lord for the best outcome even when we don't understand or cannot see it. If the results of an election cause us to lose our joy in the Lord, then our joy was not in the Lord to begin with.

He knows and He cares. We can wait on the Lord with Habakkuk when he was told of God's plans to bring judgment using a wicked nation:

*Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.*

Hab. 3:17-19

Even when Babylon takes us captive...

Some Glad Morning

In my father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you **(John 14:2)**.

Isn't it great to be alive today? Each day I live I am reminded that life as we know it is a great adventure. We wake up each morning to begin a new day of adventure on this side of eternity. It may be a day where every thing will go well with us or nothing could seem to go right. Will it be a day of success or failure, happiness or sadness, peace or turmoil? We just don't know but regardless of the circumstance that surrounds us, we should be rejoicing in the Lord **(Philippians 4:4)**. As a child of God we have been... *delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins* **(Colossians 1:12-14)**. We have that precious promise that our Lord has prepared a place for us. Why should we not be rejoicing in the Lord always?

My old physical body groans more and more with each passing day. More and more I think about going home to that land where joys shall never end, where for ceaseless ages there will be no sorrow, no heartache, no tears, no dying, a land where we will never grow old. Today that beautiful home tugs at my heart strings **(Philippians 1:21-23)**.

Our hearts should be set on that wonderful city of God, that's the place we should be calling home **(Heb. 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11)**. The difficult, trying times of this life may sometimes be hard to bear but with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith **(Heb. 12:1-2)**, they will not defeat us because by faith we can see that home that has been prepared for us

and with great anticipation look forward to the moment in time when we will fly away to rest forever

(Revelation 14:13).

Just knowing there awaits for the faithful child of God a home not made with human hands should put a gleam in our eye, a smile on our face and, yes, even a little bounce in our steps. I love to sing, "They're all expecting me, and that's one thing I know. My Savior pardoned me and now I onward go; I know He'll take me thru tho I am weak and poor And I can't feel at home in this world anymore". Beloved now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is **(1 John 3:1-2)**. Friends, the best is yet to come. To God be the glory forever and ever!

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FINDING STRENGTH IN GOD'S GRACE

"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" **(2 Timothy 2:1)**. Paul found strength in the Lord, even as he wrote from a jail cell. Paul's resume of suffering was staggering. The anxiety of the churches, the betrayal of his friends, the cowardice of once faithful allies—these trials and many more, would tax even the strongest of God's preachers. But Paul in tears, writes to Timothy, his beloved son in the gospel. Paul's main concern was Timothy, the Lord's people, and truth. So, too, would Timothy face similar challenges and disappointments. This younger man needed to find strength in God's grace.

Timothy was to be strong. That is, he would need to do what he could and should do to persevere spiritually. Timothy could find strength by reflecting on his past life of preaching the gospel. No one would suggest that working beside the Apostle Paul would be an easy thing. Yet, the Lord continued to be with them both. *"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might"* **(Ephesians 6:10)**. Seeking spiritual strength takes some activity on our part. *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens Me"* **(Philippians 4:13)**. Ultimately, the spiritual strength we all need must come, can only come, from the Lord.

Paul's earlier mention of grace (*"who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began"* **2 Timothy 1:9**) reminds us that salvation is impossible without God's grace. Timothy worked in

the kingdom because of God's grace. Salvation and service are connected. That service involved dedicated work on Timothy's part.

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" **(2 Timothy 2:2)**.

Holding the faith and guarding the deposit is needed; so, too, is the need to pass on to others the trust of God, enabling them to pass on to others what they have learned. Timothy would select Christians who demonstrated their trustworthiness as he taught them God's word. These faithful people stand in contrast to those unfaithful people mentioned throughout Paul's letters. Some had defected from the truth; some remained. These were Timothy's target audience. *"Men"* (*anthrōpos*) refers to men and women; male or female. Paul wrote about men (males) who serve as elders. He wrote about older women who teach younger women **(Titus 2)**.

And so, how do you hold on to the truth? You teach the truth to faithful people, men and women. These faithful people teach the truth to others. Ability, consistency, and faithfulness are requisites for Timothy's work and for his work in reaching out to others. What drives such activity? It is nothing less than God's grace. His grace brought salvation to us, a message that must resonate in all hearts. Guarding the trust doesn't mean keeping it to ourselves. Paul's jail cell made his message urgent. Timothy's work would soon end. So, too, will ours as well. We must get busy.

Randy Harshbarger

Earlier Is Not Always Better

Recently I came across some material containing some alarming statistics I wish to pass along to every young parent. Because I have two girls and the older soon to start sixth grade, I find myself very cautious in regards to what is seeking to destroy young girls. The Executive Director for the Care Net Centers in Amarillo, Texas documented some alarming statistics regarding teenage pregnancy. When a girl begins dating in sixth grade, 91% of the time she will engage in the act of fornication by graduation. However, the percentage of girls committing fornication before graduation is reduced to 20% of the time, if the girl waits until she is in the tenth grade before beginning to date. It was also alarming to hear that the prime time that teenagers are committing fornication during the

day is four P.M. (after school, and before parents get home from work).

We must be so careful as parents about giving our children too many liberties too early. Surely we can see the dangers of granting our children various freedoms before they are mature enough to face the responsibilities that come with such liberties. It's not a matter of being trustworthy, but one of being trust-ready.

I'm equally as concerned about mothers who seem to be pushing their girls to grow up too soon. It's obvious in the way these girls dress, the movies they're allowed to watch, the music they're listening to, and the apparent lack of supervision. Too often this is viewed as harmless fun, innocent "school girl" activity, or even cute. Be careful parents – the numbers tell a different story.

Let's not be deceived by Satan's devices nor ignorant with reference to what our kids are doing and who their friends are. Remember, earlier is not always better.

by Paul White

NEWS AND NOTES

Sick in need of prayers:

JAN PATRICK, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRUDY MULLEN, RENE RATLIFF, DENESE GORING, RODNEY BLOUNT, DAISY DARNALL, BROOKLYN BOYER, JESSIE GIBSON, PAT GAINES IS AWAITING BACK SURGERY - TRACY RICHARDSON IS SCHEDULED FOR SURGERY 11/19/20. HELEN WISDOM IS BATTLING COVID -19 AS DOES THE SISTER OF DAISY DARNALL. THE FATHER OF DARLENA MYER HAS PASSED AWAY.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - EVIDENCES - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - THE PARABLES - BY MULTIPLE TEACHERS (BOTH CLASSES OFFERED ON ZOOM)

SUNDAY SERMON: CONFESSION OF SIN

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders:

Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Joe Hurd

"Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:"

(Philippians 1:1)

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - **Rom. 10:17**

Believe in Jesus Christ - **Heb. 11:6**

Repent of sins - **Acts 17:30**

Confess Christ as Lord - **Rom. 10:9,10**

Baptism for remission of sins - **Acts 2:38**

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)

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.*

ADDRESS AND HOURS OF WORSHIP

7845 Cottonwood Dr. Lenexa, Kansas,
66216

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/ Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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lenexachurchofchrist.org