

# 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 22, 2020

## EVERYDAY IS THANKSGIVING DAY

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* (Philippians 4:6)

As the Russian comedian says, "What a great country"! We in America have lived for many years now in what most agree is a great country. We have much freedom. Generally our freedom spans all aspects of life as long as we do not infringe on the rights and freedoms of others.

As a result of this great freedom we thank God often for the blessings this nation has afforded us. We even have a holiday devoted to that expression. That day comes next Thursday as it does each year on the 4th Thursday in November.

Because this nation was founded on many of the principles of the Christian religion, many have come to equate our nation with the church Jesus died to purchase with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

That is a sad mistake. While some of the ideas expressed by the founding fathers may have originated in Scripture, this nation is not in anyway a part of the plan God has revealed for His saints in His word.

As Paul then instructs us to remember to be thankful as we make our requests known to God, he is referring to the spiritual blessings found in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3). That does not in anyway imply we should not be grateful for the blessings we have as a nation of people on this earth as well as those conferred on a *....holy nation, a people for His own possession....* (1 Pet. 2:9). What it means is there are blessings such as we enjoy as Americans that fall under the umbrella of the rain falling on the just and the unjust that are distinctly different than those afforded the person who has obeyed Christ unto salvation (Mat. 5:45; Heb. 5:9).

We, therefore make a mistake when we equate our nation with God's people. America is not *....A CHOSEN RACE, A royal bPRIESTHOOD, A cHOLY NATION, dA PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, (1 Pet. 2:9).*

Now let us recognize the reality and opportunity we enjoy in such a nation as this and spread the news about the greater blessings to which the apostle refers. We have an open door to communicate the news of salvation to the world using nearly any and all formats. We can speak freely to our neighbor. We can communicate by the written word such as this or any other venue. We can speak publicly to any and all who will listen. After all, we are as the parable teaches sowing the seed all over the field, the world, in hopes of finding the good soil in which it can thrive.

Now that is worthy of thanksgiving and it offers thanks for both the opportunity provided by the nation in which we live while at the same time thanking God for His indescribable gift (2 Cor. 9:10-15).

## Are There Any False Teachers?

The Bible warns of false prophets, ones who pretend to be preachers of righteousness, but are actually agents of the devil. *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works"* (2 Cor. 11:13-15). John warned, *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world"* (1 Jn. 4:1). However, in spite of these warnings, many today act as though there are few, or no, false teachers in the world. They will give their general approval to almost any man (or woman) who says he is preaching the gospel.

In contrast to the general feeling among religious people, the Bible teaches that false prophets abound. John said *"many"* have gone out into the world. Is it any different today? Right after Jesus stated that few

would make it to heaven while many will go to hell, He warned us about false teachers (**Matt. 7:13-20**). Do you suppose there is any connection? Many false teachers will deceive many people. Few teachers of righteousness will persuade few people.

Instead of endorsing everyone who is a "preacher" and accepting his teaching, we are to examine, test, and try what he says by the Scripture (**1 Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:11**). When it is true, accept it and live by it. When it is false, reject it and him (**Gal. 1:8-9**). When a man will not affirm that Jesus is the Christ, reject him (**Matt. 16:16**). When a man will not teach that salvation is offered to all men of all races, reject him (**Mk. 16:15**). When a man will not advocate the words of the Lord, that baptism is for salvation, reject him (**Mk. 16:16; cf. Acts 2:38**).

Please, dear friend, understand that there are false teachers in the world. Use some discernment. If what we teach is false, reject it. Only follow the Word of God! Yet, if what we teach is true according to God's revelation, receive it and abide in it. We want to go to heaven and want you to go, too.

**Steven F. Deaton**

## **A Just Weight is the Lord's Delight**

**By Jay Dixon**

*"A just weight is the LORD'S delight..."*

*"Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight."* **Proverbs 11:1**

*"Honest weights and scales are the Lord's; all the weights in the bag are His work."* **Proverbs 16:11**

*"Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an abomination to the Lord."* **Proverbs 20:10**

*"Diverse weights are an abomination to the Lord, and dishonest scales are not good."* **Proverbs 20:23**

Dishonest scales and divers' weights are identified as an abomination and not good in the eyes of the LORD. If something is abominable to the LORD, it is morally disgusting and something He looks upon with abhorrence or hatred. Dishonest scales, divers' weights and measures are an abomination to the LORD. Their intent is to deceive and provide oneself with an advantage at the expense of another. Whether buying or selling, the intent of the deceiver is to make something appear to be heavier or lighter depending on which would benefit them. GOD specifically spoke of this practice through Moses in the Law and revealed His disdain for it as well as the corresponding consequences.

**Deuteronomy 25:14-16** *"Thou shalt not have in thine house divers' measures, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteous, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God."*

The people were not to have varying ways of doing business. There should not be stones of unequal weights; one to sell with and one to buy with but they were to use weights and measures that were correct and accurate with everyone every time.

GOD did not use dishonest scales or divers' weights in His treatment of Israel. Rather each time He dealt justly and perfectly. (**Leviticus 19:34-37**) GOD has always wanted His people to assume His character. He wants us to be people of integrity because He is a GOD of integrity. **Proverbs 16:11** *"Honest weights and scales are the Lord's; all the weights in the bag are His work."*

As a result of being honorable people the inheritance that Israel stood to take possession of would bode well for them. **Deuteronomy 25:15** reveals that their *"...days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD was giving them."* This implies that a lack of integrity would shorten those days. Dishonesty would adversely affect the inheritance that GOD had in store of them. I would suggest that it will do the same to us. We may not think much about being shady here and there regarding our dealings with others. Perhaps we do not consider the danger and dishonesty associated with shaving off a little or adding a little to make the deal more favorable for us. Maybe we do this with our word, adding or omitting words to make a situation more to our advantage. These things are an abomination to the LORD. Our dealings and communications with our fellow man are a direct result of our reverence for GOD. As we do unto others we are doing unto the LORD. A just weight is the LORD'S delight.

The principle in these Proverbs will be aptly applied if we will allow the greatest and 2nd greatest commandment to govern our lives.

*"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."* **Matthew 22:37-40**

## The Testimony of John

*"This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said" (John 1:19-23 NASV).*

Early in the ministry of Jesus, Jews from Jerusalem came to John the Baptist for some answers. They were not simply Jews living in Judea; they were Jews who opposed the Lord. Who is this odd-looking harbinger from the desert? Could he be the Messiah, or Elijah, or the Prophet? Was John's preparatory preaching true? Could his message be trusted? Does he have official sanction? *"And the child continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel" (Luke 1:80).* Did the Jews really need to repent in advance of the coming kingdom? Correct identification was important!

OT pointers would have alerted the Jews that something was going to happen; someone was coming. The OT closed with the promise of Elijah. *"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord" (Malachi 4:5).* Jesus does connect Elijah with John; John was not Elijah, but he came in the spirit of Elijah (Matthew 11:14). Then, Deuteronomy 18:15 says that a prophet would come. *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him."* Whatever Jewish expectations about this passage might have been, Acts 3:22-26 says that Jesus is the prophet Moses spoke of. Even John points to an OT passage that anticipated his work. *"A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God" (Isaiah 40:3).*

John the Baptist was always willing and content to recognize his role in preparing people for the One to come. John did come in the spirit and power of Elijah; both preached a message of reformation. John was sent from God (John 1:6). He was not the light; he came to call attention to the Light (John 1:8). The Jews reveled in their unique relationship with God; but John told this brood of vipers to repent. You

perpetuate yourselves in unbelief; as your fathers did, you, too, reject the true prophets that God sent. John was not trying to distance himself from Jesus; rather, he wanted all to seek Jesus only. John's job was to make smooth the barren wasteland of hardened hearts, the hard hearts of Israel. He wanted all to accept the Messiah's invitation to be part of the kingdom of heaven.

John will end up in prison; his head will end up on a platter of blood and hatred. Confusion about Jesus' identity persisted. *"Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, "This certainly is the Prophet." Others were saying, "This is the Christ." Still others were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He?" (John 7:40-41).* Do you want to know who Jesus is? Then listen to John the Baptist.

**Randy Harshbarger**

## Be Not Dismayed!

After the apparent results of the recent election many of the godly in our nation are dispirited and disappointed. "How could the God of Heaven allow such to occur?" "Didn't God mean what he said in 2 Chronicles 7:14?" It sure seems like we've been delivered into the lions' den, doesn't it? At times like this we need to remember that the Word of God has a message for us to take comfort from for there have been those who've felt the way before!

In the Old Testament book of Habakkuk the prophet takes the complaint to God, *"Thou that art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and that canst not look on perverseness, wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy peace when the wicked swalloweth up the man that is more righteous than he" (1:13).* He was referring, of course, to the Chaldeans of Babylon who were idolatrous bloodthirsty conquerors far more wicked than Judah and yet God was giving Judah into the hand of this idolatrous nation. How could He do such a thing? God's answer was given earlier, in verse 5: *Behold ye among the nations, and look, and wonder marvellously; for I am working a work in your days, which ye will not believe though it be told you.* God was not absent; He was busy working out His purposes. He later encourages Habakkuk to be patient, *"For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hasteth toward the end, and shall not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not delay." (Habakkuk 2:3)* Just because we don't see

how such could lead to good doesn't mean that God can't use it for good. Just trust Him.

**Cleveland Reddinger**

### **JAMES (THE LESS)**

This James was the brother of Jesus and the writer of the epistle. He seems to have been leader of the church at Jerusalem (see Acts 12:17; 15:13-29; 21:18-24). The exact time and manner of his death is not certain although it is believed to be about A.D. 66. According to Flavius Josephus, the Jewish historian, the High Priest Ananus ordered James killed by stoning. But Hegesippus, an early Christian writer, quoted by the third century historian, Eusebius, says James was cast down from the Temple Tower. This version of his death further states he was not killed by the fall, and so his head was bashed in by a fuller's club, which may have been a club used to beat clothing or a hammer used by blacksmiths.

**Foxe's Book of Martyrs**

### **NEWS AND NOTES**

#### **Sick in need of prayers:**

JAN PATRICK, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRUDY MULLEN, RENE RATLIFFE, DENESE GORING, RODNEY BLOUNT, DAISY DARNALL, BROOKLYN BOYER, JESSIE GIBSON, PAT GAINES IS AWAITING BACK SURGERY AND THE SISTER OF DAISY DARNALL HAS COVID-19, THE FORD FAMILY (RELATIVES OF BRO. BILL MILLER ARE BATTLING COVID -19.

TRACY RICHARDSON HAD SURGERY 11/19/20. THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL SURGERY SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE THE REMOVAL OF TUMOROUS TISSUE.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - EVIDENCES - BILL MILLER

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

SUNDAY SERMON: GOD, THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH

### **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**

**Check out the following websites:**

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

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

**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)**