

# 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

October 25, 2020

## WORKING TOGETHER

**Jim Stauffer**

*"Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment."* (1 Corinthians 1:10)

The question for us as children of God, those who have assayed to join ourselves to a local congregation of saints, is how do we reach this point? Some answers are found in the following passage from the same inspired writer, *"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* (Ephesians 4:1-3)

The first step is to walk worthy of our calling. When Paul spoke to those at Thessalonica about their calling, he said they were called by the gospel, *that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.* In the prior verse he defines their calling as being, *for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.* (2 Thess. 2:13,14) This says we are to walk then as Jesus did (1 Pet. 2:21ff) caring for the things He cared for. We are certainly aware that Christ so loved the church that He gave Himself up for it. He was willing to die for the church. We then must have that same mindset. After all He told us we must sacrifice ourselves to enter the kingdom (Mat. 16:24ff).

Another guideline for our conduct in the church is that we love one another. We will find it very difficult to walk worthy of our calling with such attributes as humility, gentleness, patience and tolerance without genuine love for one another.

We should remember what the apostle told Timothy when he had instructed him in the attributes of leaders in the church. He told him following these guidelines for elders and deacons that this was to show him, *how one ought to conduct himself in the*

*household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.* (1 Tim. 3:14,15)

I have cited these passages as indicators of the attitude each of us should have toward the congregation and each of its members as we serve in His kingdom. God specifically designed the local churches to provide guidance and oversight to each member. He set us the various offices in the church to bring about growth and so the church could build itself up in love (Eph. 4:16). Those offices listed earlier in this chapter are, evangelists, pastors and teachers. All designed to bring about this growth.

A current problem in the churches in our land is when people become disenchanted with the leadership, not for doctrinal error but because their decisions do not match their personal judgment, they simply leave and move to another congregation. This is particularly prevalent in metropolitan areas where there are many choices. This certainly has happened in the Kansas City Metroplex and is happening all over the land in similar fashion.

The Hebrew writer admonishes us all to trust in our leadership. *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."* (Hebrews 13:17) Brethren need to hear the message of this verse. It is telling you when you become a problem for the leadership it is not to your profit in the eyes of the Lord. It is a serious matter. There is to be a commitment to the local work. We can use the argument about being members of the church Jesus died for regardless of where we worship but that does not free us from the responsibility to submit to the leaders of the local work.

Each local church in any given community will continue to struggle and find difficulty being as strong as it needs to be if its members waffle in their loyalty to that work.

Be not deceived into altering the facts of the matter and claiming you are leaving over doctrinal issues when it really is all about yourself.

## What Is A Conservative?

**Robert H. West**

A few months ago it was my good pleasure to watch a very interesting television program. A well-known "conservative" political figure was being questioned by a panel of college students concerning his views.

One of the first questions asked was to this effect: "What is a conservative?" The gentleman's answer was something like this: "Actually, instead of being called a 'conservative,' I would prefer the word 'conservationist.' We all recognize a conservationist as one who is dedicated to the preservation of the natural beauty, wealth and resources of this great country. A 'conservative' is merely a conservationist in the political realm. He is dedicated to the preservation of the Constitution of these United States and the rights and privileges guaranteed therein. He is firmly opposed to any theory or trend which would, in its ultimate effect, weaken or deprive us of this, our greatest national resource."

As I listened to these eloquent words, it struck me that such remarks have direct application in the religious as well as the political realm. In the brotherhood today we hear frequent use of the terms "conservative" and "liberal." But what is a conservative? Adapting the words of the distinguished television speaker, a conservative is merely a conservationist in the spiritual realm. He is dedicated to the preservation of the gospel of Christ and the doctrine and practices which arise therefrom. He is firmly opposed to any theory or trend which would, in its ultimate effect, weaken or deprive us of this, our greatest and only guide and spiritual resource.

Another student asked the conservative politician, "Is it true that conservatives are opposed to progress?" The speaker answered by pointing out that such was a popular misrepresentation of the conservative position. He affirmed that the conservative view alone afforded the stimulus for real progress — progress within the framework of the Constitution.

So many times we hear the charge from our liberal brethren of how the conservatives cannot make any progress. But such charge is also a popular misrepresentation of the religious conservative position. We affirm without hesitation that by the conservative view alone can any real progress be made which will please our Father — progress within the framework of the Scriptures!

The conservative, then, is one who upholds, defends, and preserves as a spiritual conservationist,

the worship, work, organization and doctrine outlined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of God which we know as the Gospel. He pleads for a return to the "old paths." He calls for a building "according to the pattern" in all things. He strikes out at every human theory and human institution which would compete with the Divine plan. He strives for that progress which, although not "highly esteemed in the eyes of men," is nevertheless the only real progress which matters — progress which honors and glorifies God and His word.

May God help us all to be "conservationists" in the government of our Divine King.

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## The Deity of Christ

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" (John 1:1-5 NASV).*

John chapter one sounds more than vaguely familiar. *"In the beginning"* takes us back to Genesis chapter one, where life and light, yea, all things, had their *genesis*, their beginning. Genesis looks ahead; John looks backward. *"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host" (Psalm 33:6).* We accept by faith that God spoke and it was so (**Hebrews 11:3**). In the beginning the Word of God, the *logos*, created all things. Greek philosophy (500BC) tells us that *logos* was the shaping, ordering, and directing power of the universe, the captain, pilot, Father, elder son, etc. A point of departure between the *logos* of John's gospel and the *logos* of Greek philosophy is important. Jesus, the Word, was there, in the beginning. He created all things; but He was before all things; His existence is eternal. The Word was in eternal fellowship with the Father, sharing in the Father's essence.

Jesus *is* God in eternity. Moses tells us that God created the heavens and the earth; he doesn't stop to explain where God came from. God was in the beginning; He was always there; He shall always be. Jesus shares in God's eternity; He was in the beginning with God, existing in glory (**John 17:5, 24**). Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus tell us that He

and His Father are one. When you see Me, Jesus said, you have seen the Father. The God who chose a special people and then worked His plan through them to save mankind, is the God who was manifested in the flesh (**John 1:14**). To say that Jesus was "a" god, is to deny His deity, His eternity; it is to rob the world of a Savior.

Jesus was *with* God from eternity, a relationship that was before the creation. Jesus is divine, eternal, and shares in the characteristics of Deity. Jesus was with God; Jesus was God. Jewish monotheism would recoil from more than one God (**Deuteronomy 6:4-6**); yet, the Word was God, just as the Father was God; one in essence, but distinct in being (think about Father, Son, and Spirit in the Great Commission). Jesus is one with God. Thomas, after seeing the bruised body of Jesus, said: *My Lord and My God!*

Everything, from the least to the greatest, came into being through the Word; no exceptions. He who has always been made all things. More, all things were created; there was a time when all things did not exist; all things are not eternal matter, from which the Logos took something and fashioned the universe. He did what only God can do: Create! Life and light, common to John's writing, come from Jesus: physically and spiritually. Jesus is the Light of the world (**John 8:12**). The light of God's word exposes the darkness of sin and rebellion; the light from Jesus shows the way forward, out of sin and loss, for those who will come to Him. It is not Greek philosophy, or self-defined morality, or a simple lifestyle that saves. Jesus is not simply one side of some supposed, spiritual duality that oppose each other, vying for souls. Jesus is the Word, the Logos, Himself Deity. Jesus saves.

**Randy Harshbarger**

### How Do I Know?

If in order to help attain unity among believers I must stick with the Scriptures then there ought to be some way for me to KNOW if I am doing just that, shouldn't there? Well, of course there is! But first, if you came up with that question you are to be commended for there is no substitute for the desire to KNOW! John wrote his first letter in order that believers may know that they have eternal life, **1 John 5:13**. I have heard so many preachers on the radio who simply ASSUME they are sticking with the scriptures and never give it another thought. Such is not what Paul encouraged Timothy to do when he said

in **1 Timothy 4:16**, "*Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching*". The desire to know, and know that you know, is indispensable!

Also note that this knowledge is OBJECTIVE, not subjective. A 'big-name' preacher was once asked how he knew Jesus was resurrected from the dead and he replied with clenched fists held to his chest, "I feel it deep in my heart and I just know!" Well, I'm sorry but that's not knowledge and Ebenezer Scrooge gave a better answer to the ghost of Jacob Marley in "The Christmas Carol" with his comment "There's more gravy than grave about you". It's no wonder we're losing our youngsters to the world with teaching like that! For shame!

The easiest objective standard for sticking with the scriptures is explained in a poem by Rudyard Kipling: "I have six faithful serving men; they taught me all I knew. Their names are What? and Where? and When?, And How? and Why? and Who?" Once these serving men have given you all their information about a passage you're well on your way to sticking with the scriptures!

**Cleveland Reddinger**

### Where the Battle Rages

One of the reasons why ungodliness prevails so much is because Christians do not want to get involved. More than 450 years ago, Martin Luther wrote: "If I profess with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God, except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and is to be steady on all the battlefield; it is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point."

**selected**

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10/24/17**

### Aren't we supposed to enjoy life?

God intends for life to be full of joy, peace, contentment and love. Consider any number of lists of traits the New Testament letters call for, including the "*fruit of the Spirit*" in **Galatians 5:22-23**.

Note this clear instruction from God: "*Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of*

*your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, and put away evil from your flesh, for childhood and youth are vanity" (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10).* It sounds like God wants us to enjoy life, have a good time, do things we like to do and pursue things we like!

However, while we pursue all those enjoyable pleasant things, we must remember that God will judge. Specifically, He will judge and punish sin and destructive rebellion. That should not detract from anybody's rejoicing! Sin brings guilt, breaks relationships, ruins health, steals our time and money with no profitable return. Ungodliness does not bring joy. At best, it supplies a short-lived happiness that is never satisfied. The ultimate consequence of sin is eternal grief and sorrow.

So, put away the sorrow and evil and rejoice in the good things of life that come from God! Find God and find the good things of life that supply joy, peace, contentment and love. Rejoice!

**Don Bunting**

#### **NEWS AND NOTES**

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

JAN PATRICK, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRUDY MULLEN, RENE RATLIFF, DENESE GORING, RODNEY BLOUNT, DAISY DARNALL, ANN HURD, BROOKLYN BOYER, STEVE WIMP, JESSIE GIBSON, PAT GAINES IS AWAITING BACK SURGERY AND TRACY RICHARDSON IS WAITING FOR HER SURGERY TO BE SCHEDULED. HELEN WISDOM, MOTHER OF CAROL MILLER IS BATTLING COVID -19.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - EVIDENCES - BILL MILLER

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

SUNDAY SERMON: "HE CARRIED MY SORROWS"

**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**

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