

LENEXA EDIFIER

"and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
(John 8:32)

December 12, 2021

ENDURING TO THE END

Jim Stauffer

We have recently experienced the loss of several men who have preached the gospel and lived lives of service to the Lord. While we have not mentioned them by name heretofore, I decided to publish a couple of recent obituaries as an example of what and who we should be. Such men as Ed Harrell, Dee Bowman, Gerry Sandusky and others who have passed from this life recently as well as the two men we have cited in this publication, are excellent examples of the good influence we can and should have on others.

Most all of us have known men of this faithful stature that have played a major role in our maturation as servants of the Lord. We do not discuss such a matter lightly. We have been handed the mantle by such men of faith and need to carry it boldly so we can help to lead others in their lives of service in the kingdom.

These and many others have as Paul says, *finished the course....andkept the faith*. As Paul says on another occasion, they have run the race with certainty and disciplined their bodies to bring them into subjection in order to live according to what they preached. We thank God for giving us current examples in our generation to help fix our eyes upon Jesus.

We, therefore, accept them as an example just as the Thessalonians (**2 Thess. 1:4**). We must emulate their desire to be with Christ here in order to be with Him there as an example to all who observe (**2 Tim. 2:10-12**). Enduring trials and persecution are the choice of those who choose to be with God's people rather than enjoy the pleasures the world can offer (**Heb. 11:25**). Peter tells us it is an honorable thing to endure persecution for doing what is right, that is choosing God over the world (**1 Pet. 2:20**).

After all, we know God does not expect anything from us we cannot achieve in this regard, *"Wherefore*

let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it." (**1 Cor. 10:12-13**)

May we then endure to the end of this life faithful before Him that we may first ensure eternity with Him for ourselves while also being an encouragement to those around us to stand strong as well.

ACTS 15 and BIBLE AUTHORITY # 4

Did the Gentiles have to be circumcised in order to be part of the kingdom? The experiences and preaching of Peter and Paul said no. James, a leader in the Jerusalem church appealed to OT prophecy (**Amos 9:11-12**) and said no. How was God expressing His will about this live issue that confronted these NT Christians? Were they left alone, without any teaching or guidance from the Lord? Would they just decide for themselves what they should do? Would they just do what was best as long as they were sincere in their motivation?

Direct command, approved apostolic example, and necessary inference are at least three ways by which the Lord teaches us His will. Read the following from Brother Doy Moyer, gospel preacher, who lives in Birmingham, Alabama.

Regardless of who it is interpreting Scripture, there is a basic process, often unspoken, employed by anyone who thinks Scripture is authoritative that cannot be denied without denying fundamental logic or sounding outright silly. This process involves looking directly at what is said, considering examples given, and then inferring from what is said and shown how important and applicable these matters are.

Even those who fuss and pejoratively poke at CENI (Command, Example, Necessary Inference) do the same. At the end of the day, if they are going to say, "this is what Christians ought to believe or do," they will only get there through the same means. They will appeal to what Scripture says, to the examples provided, and through a reasoning process (inferring) come to conclusions that they think are important. So it is with everyone. Everyone! People will differ on outcomes, but there is no denying the process of how communication works. It astounds me when some try to deny it (accessed from *Mind Your Faith*, web site). Brother Moyer is writing about critics who want to reject the DC, AE, and NI model in establishing Bible teaching. At the end of the day, however, these same critics of "tradition" or "back water thinking" employ the same methods in their own study of the Bible.

It is not just the Bible in which these methods are employed. We use the same kind of logic and understanding in everyday walks of life. Suppose you go to the meat counter at *Wal-Mart* and ask for one pound of "Black Forest ham." The worker behind the counter understands immediately what you want—you want one pound of Black Forest ham. Do you want thin sliced or thick sliced? You answer: Thin sliced. Why do we understand what's happening here? It is because words mean something. Ham means ham, not turkey. Thin means thin, not thick. One pound means one pound, not two pounds. Also, you don't have to say: "I don't want any cheese." The clerk understands that you asked for ham, not cheese. The necessary inference is that you want what you asked for and nothing else. You did not authorize the clerk to give you cheese.

To be sure, getting at what the Bible is saying is more important than buying something at *Wal-Mart*. But the same principles of learning and logic and understanding apply in these various realms of life. God told Noah to build an ark out of gopher wood. God didn't say: "Now, Noah, don't use pine or cedar." Why? It is because the command to use gopher wood excluded the use of all other woods. Partaking of the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day, the first day of the week, follows the example of NT Christians. The day is specified; the time of day is not. We all need to study the Bible more than we do. And we need to constantly, carefully examine what God wants us to believe and then do. Anything less disrespects the authority of our Lord.

Randy Harshbarger

What Faith Is

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, NKJV)

I have underlined two key words that make up this definition of faith as it is used in the Bible. A variety of words are used to express the meaning in other translations. Note the following:

- confidence ---- assurance (NIV)
- assurance ---- conviction (ESV, ASV)
- certainty ---- proof (NASV)

These words are all describing things hoped for and things not seen. What things does the Bible talk about that are not seen? God, the power behind this world and universe is not seen. All things spiritual are not seen: heaven, angels, Satan, forgiveness of sins, etc. What things are hoped for? Believers hope to see God, to be resurrected, to live eternally, to enjoy heaven.

Too often the things we hope for and the things we cannot see do not seem real. They are at least not as real as the material things we already possess and can see. This scripture explains that faith gives me evidence, assurance, conviction, and proof for the things I hope for, and substance, confidence, assurance and certainty in the things that are presently invisible. Faith makes the spiritual, invisible and not yet attainable *real*! When faith is what God intends for it to be, it is powerful. Faith makes Heaven just as real to me as Moscow. I have never seen either one but I know they are there!

Don Bunting

The following obituaries are listed because they are men we have known who had a great influence for the Lord in their respective spheres while here on earth. They and the good they have done will be missed.

Gospel Preacher Kenneth Ray Green age, 80, of Nashville, Tennessee passed away peacefully into his heavenly home December 4, 2021.

Ken was born in Plymouth, Indiana, November 21, 1941. He was the loving son of the late Charlie C. Green and Gladys M. Green. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his brother, Randall Green.

After graduating Bellevue High School, Ken joined the United States Air Force on October 5, 1959. Soon after, on March 8, 1960, he married a beautiful brown eyed girl named Peggy whom he had dated since his junior year of high school. Later that year, while stationed in Florida, Ken received his orders to go to Sculthorpe, England. Ken and his young wife were stationed there for two years. After serving four years in air traffic control, he was honorably discharged at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas in 1963. Soon after leaving the Air Force, he began preaching and was blessed to preach for 57 years. His first full-time work was at New Hope Church of Christ in Fairview, Tennessee. He preached the gospel for churches in Louisville, Kentucky, Owensboro, Kentucky, Huntsville, Alabama, and his most recent work in Madison, Tennessee, with his beloved Kemper Height's Church of Christ family for 27 years. Ken hosted several popular call-in radio and TV programs, and preached the gospel in India, Africa, England, and Hong Kong. He also led Bible studies and shared the gospel with prisoners in the Riverbend Maximum Security Prison for many years.

Ken was passionate about studying the scriptures and preaching the Word of God.

He was an avid reader, lover of history, gifted writer, story, and joke teller. He was a loving husband, daddy, papaw, and great-grandpa. He was always kind, gracious, and generous to all he met.

Ken will be missed by his loving wife and high school sweetheart of 61 years, Peggy Delores Green; his loving children, Regina (Phillip) McGahey of Chapmansboro, Tennessee, Alisa (Billy) Boatright of Harvest, Alabama, Neil Green of Harvest, Alabama, and Alana (David) Turner of Niota, Tennessee; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren who brought him much joy, Michael, Elissia, Jonathan, Justin, Chelsea, Alessandra, Christopher, Landon, Isaac, Nathan, Ashleigh, Nathan, Candace, Christen, Christina, Gracie, Conrad, Adrianna, Auralia, Lucas, Amelia, Averie, Ocean, Twila, Eliana, Finley, Ava, Olivia, and one heavenly great-granddaughter, Autumn.

Mike Richardson will be officiating and Doug Hagewood will be leading congregational singing.

Don Craig, 74, of Warrensburg, passed away peacefully on December 4, 2021 at Decatur Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family.

Graveside services with military honors will be 11:00 AM, Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield. Visitation will be 5:00 - 7:00 PM, Tuesday, December 7 at Brintlinger and Earl Funeral Home, Decatur. Memorials in Don's honor may be made to Barclay Public Library, 220 Main St, Warrensburg, IL 62573

Don was born April 22, 1947 in Decatur, the son of Elvin and Mary (Blackorby) Craig. He proudly served our country in the U.S. Army. Don married Debra Stivers on April 14, 1984 in Olney. He was a computer mainframe programmer, most recently working for Franklin Life and then AIG Insurance Company. Don was an enthusiastic Illini basketball and football fan and an avid collector of all things Pepsi. He enjoyed time spent with his family and his grandkids. Don was a Godly man and was a member of The Church of Christ in Pana, IL.

Surviving are his wife of 37 years, Debra Craig; daughters: Emily (Bill) Burcham of Macon, Rachel (Scott) Peck of Warrensburg, and Michelle (Steven) Lee of Long Creek; grandchildren: Kayleigh, Jayden, Jakob, Jordan, Jackson, Hannah, and Nathan; brothers: Dean Craig and David Craig; and several nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Donna; and sister-in-law, Janet

DRUG PROBLEM

I had a "drug" problem when I was a young person and teenager:

I was "drug" to church on Sunday morning.

I was "drug" to church on Sunday night.

I was "drug" to church on Wednesday night.

I was "drug" to Sunday School every week.

I was "drug" to Vacation Bible School.

I was "drug" to the family gathering to read the Bible and pray.

I was "drug" to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

Those "drugs" are still in my veins; and they affect my behavior in everything I do and say and think.- They are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroine. If your children had this kind of "drug" problem, wouldn't America be a better place?

Thanks Mom and Dad!!

Copied from The River Road Reminder

Drink, Steal, Swear, & Lie

I met a man and he said he has a motto he lives by everyday. He said he lives by these four rules: Drink, Steal, Swear, & Lie.

I was shaking my head 'no', but he then told me to listen while he explained his four rules. So here they are:

1. "Drink" from the "everlasting cup" every day.
2. "Steal" a moment to help someone that is in worse shape than you are.
3. "Swear" that you will be a better person today than yesterday.
4. And last, but not least, when you "lie" down at night thank God you're alive and have faith.

I am not as good as I should be;
I am not as good as I could be;
But, THANK GOD,
I am better than I used to be!

author unknown

We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

***Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563,
Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ.***

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Things not taught in the Bible that people believe, and foster false teaching as a result.

That Christ will reign on the earth for 1000 years; Premillennialism

Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.

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

OUR ADDRESS IS:

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Visitors welcome

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders:

Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Joe Hurd

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

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

News and Notes:

Those in need of prayers:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson, Tina Brofft, Matt Bassford and Cleveland Reddinger.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning - **Revelation** -

Bill Miller

Wednesday Evening - **1&2 Peter and Jude** - Ron Peck

Sunday Sermon: *What if God Spoke Directly to You?*