

LENEXA EDIFIER

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

December 5, 2021

THE DANGER OF PRESUMING

David Cox

We need to be careful about making presumptions. Sometime back, I was listening to a radio program and a man talking about something written in a book. In commenting on the article, he said, “I presume that you will find in the book...” When I heard that statement, I thought, how many people do precisely that when it comes to the Bible, God’s Word? They presume the Bible teaches something that, in fact, it does not teach. The Bible teaches against doing it.

In **Numbers 14**, the children of Israel sent spies to spy out the land. Ten of the twelve spies brought back an evil report, and the children of Israel would not go into the land as the Lord had told them to. Because of their unbelief, the Lord said to them that all who were 20 years old and older (excluding Joshua and Caleb) would not be able to go up and possess the land of promise. After hearing this, the children of Israel arose to go up and possess the land, but Moses warned them that God was not with them and they would be defeated. In **Numbers 14:44-45**, we read, *“But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses departed from the camp. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them and drove them back as far as Hormah”* (**Numbers 14:44-45**). No doubt, the Lord was not pleased with their presumption. When Moses addressed the children of Israel after their wandering in the wilderness for forty years, he told of the Lord raising up a prophet from among them. *“But the prophet, who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die”* (**Deuteronomy 18:20**). These two passages should give us an understanding of God’s displeasure when men presume things that are not so.

Do you presume what the Bible teaches?

- Some presume that the Bible teaches salvation at the point of faith. The Bible teaches we are saved by faith, but only when that faith is prompted to act according to the will of God (**Acts 2:36-38**). Faith is necessary, but obedience is also required for there to be the forgiveness of sins and to be justified before God (**James 2:24**).

- Some presume to worship God in ways that He has not prescribed. Many use musical instruments in worship as they sing in worship to God, but the New Testament (which we now live under, **Colossians 2:14**) nowhere mentions the use of musical instruments in worship to God. Singing is the only type of music mentioned in worship to God (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12**).

- Some presume that it is not necessary to take the Lord’s Supper each and every first day of the week. They assume that it will be more special and significant if it is observed less often. Looking into the Scriptures, we learn the first-century church took the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week (**Acts 20:7**). Each week has a first day, so we must conclude from the scriptures that it includes every week.

Perhaps you presume that these are minor details and God will not be bothered by them. However, we do not need to be guilty of presuming as the examples we have noticed.

In **2 Corinthians 13:5**, we read, *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.”* Paul commended the Bereans because *“they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, to find out whether these things were so”* (**Acts 17:11**). These passages impress us with the importance of doing the things God has commanded us to do.

Do you presume what God wants you to do? Or,

are you examining your lives with the scriptures, ensuring that you are acceptable to God? Do not be like those Christ mentioned in Matthew who presume to be doing the Father's will but were actually workers of lawlessness (**Matthew 7:23**).

FEAR OR TRUST?

"Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" (Numbers 14:3, ESV)

We read this and wonder what part of "Promised Land" they didn't understand? Israel's whole objective, after packing up at Mount Sinai, was to head out for *"the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying: I will give it to your offspring"* (**Exo. 33:1**). They were headed straight for it. Until fear blocked their way.

There are only two choices when God says go and fear says stop. And based on what we learn from the Israelites, the ramifications of letting fear become our travel agent can lead to a detour from which we may never recover.

The majority of the spies who were sent out to investigate the land came back in fear of what they had seen. The people were frightened by the men's report. They couldn't sleep at night for worrying about the dangers they were heading into. God *"heard the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble[d] against [Him]"* (**Num. 14:27**). And He decided if they didn't trust Him to be good to them—if they didn't trust Him to take care of them—if they didn't think He had their needs on His heart and was working on their behalf—He would find someone who did.

The "someones" turned out to be their kids. An entire generation forfeited God's blessing and plenty because they chose to listen to fear rather than lean on His promises.

This is how devastating fear can be. It leads us to view any downturns and setbacks as evidence that God's word and way cannot be trusted. It leads us to enlarge the enemy and think the obstacles cannot be conquered.

We may call it caution. We may call it thoroughness. But it is trepidation that is driving the program. It leaves no space for faith and trust. And although fear makes its appeal on the basis of protecting us from harm, it only keeps us from what would bring the greatest joy.

38 years later, Joshua stood on the banks of the

Jordan River, saying, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go"* (**Joshua 1:9**).

And this time, rather than falling to pieces like their ancestors did, they pulled up into formation and answered, *"All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go"* (**Joshua 1:16**). They were determined not to revisit the same failed expectations that fear had produced in the past generation.

Ken Green

Acts 15 and Bible Authority # 3

"For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things" (**Acts 15:28**). When the leaders of the Jerusalem church along with Paul, Barnabas and others, discussed the matter of whether the Gentiles needed to adhere to certain aspects of the Law of Moses, their conclusion was predicated on what the Holy Spirit said. That is, they did not arbitrarily decide that the Gentiles did not have to be circumcised; rather, they had communication (direct) from God, the Holy Spirit (**Acts 5:4**). To put it another way, they were respecting the express authority of God. Bible believers still cling to that great principle. **Colossians 3:17** says: *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

A good question to ask is: How does the Bible teach us? How does God express His will? Some common examples will help us better understand exactly how God teaches us in His word. Jesus, in giving His great commission, said that He had all authority (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Therefore, when the apostles were going into all the world, the message they preached was the message invested with Christ's authority; it was not their message; it was Christ's. *"Whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven"* (**NASV Matthew 18:18**). The Lord's will has already been decided—by Him! That will was (is) lived out in the lives of those who are faithfully serving the Lord (**Philippians 4:9**).

How Christ's authority is expressed can be seen in His instructions about the Lord's Supper. Jesus said in **Luke 22:19**: *"And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, This is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

This is a direct command or statement from the Lord. Later we find NT Christians remembering what the Lord said; they then, in obedience, followed His will (**1 Corinthians 11:23-24**). This leads us to the example of NT Christians as they lived out the Lord's will. Paul said: *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ"* (**1 Corinthians 11:1**). That is, when I do the will of Christ, follow my example. And we have an example of NT Christians partaking of the Lord's Supper; in fact, this example tells us when they observed the memorial feast. *"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight"* (**Acts 20:7**). We ask: Did these NT Christians partake of the Supper once a year or once a month, or every first day of the week? It is necessarily inferred (necessary inference, an inference that *must be* inferred) that these early Christians took the Lord's Supper every first day of the week. If you don't believe that, then on *what first day* of the week did they observe the Supper? The Jews, under the Law of Moses, observed the Sabbath Day, keeping it holy. Which Sabbath day? Did they observe the Sabbath once a year or once a month? As often as a Sabbath day rolled around they were obligated to observe that day in service to God. As often as a first day of the week rolls around, we are obligated to observe the Lord's Supper.

Some today laugh at and scorn the words written above. That is, some hold in contempt the teaching that direct command, approved apostolic example, and necessary inference have anything to do in expressing God's will. If you believe that, then tell us HOW the word of God teaches and authorizes?

Randy Harshbarger

That's Too Much Work!

As I write this there is a crying need in businesses across the nation for people willing to work. The unfortunate truth is that they are being paid more by government programs to stay at home than they might get by going back to work. The numbers may justify this path but there is something else, the Moral Calculus which teaches us, *"If any man will not work, neither let him eat."* (**2 Thessalonians 3:10**) It sounds hardhearted but it was God who said it, not mere men.

For the past few decades people in our society have been slowly losing their appetite for hard work.

Mike Rowe, the host of the show "Dirty Jobs" has been popularizing for years the jobs that, while not glamorous or featured on "Lifestyles of The Rich and Famous" need to be done for our society to function and provide a surprisingly good living. These jobs are not popular because they entail a great deal of work, dirt and sweat; don't involve a college degree, and fly under the radar of social esteem. I remember being told in high school that the smart kids go to college, but some of the smartest kids I knew became pipe-fitters and electricians, own nicer houses than I ever will, and I have the equivalent of a Master's Degree! And good for them! They weren't afraid of the work involved.

Many folks excuse themselves out of the blessings of life because so many blessings come disguised as work or extra work! They think there's got to be an easier way to get what they want without working so much or hard. Now, I'm all for finding a better way of doing things but the short answer to what most people are seeking (a way to prosper without work) is that it can't be done. For someone to prosper there has got to be work done, either by them or by someone else. That equation cannot be changed. And many people, when they see the work involved to obtain many blessings decide rather to live without the blessings and thus shortchange both themselves and their families. How sad!

Cleveland Reddinger

Cheap Grace

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great German pastor, theologian, martyr, spy was asked in 1943 how it was possible for the Church to sit back and let Hitler seize absolute power. His firm answer: "It was the teaching of cheap grace."

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We live in a time and culture that not only teaches cheap grace but praises it.

The Land of Pretty Soon

I know a land where the streets are paved;
With things we meant to achieve;
Walled with money we meant to have saved
And the pleasures for which we grieve,
Kind words unspoken, promises broken,
And many a coveted boon
Are gathered there in that land somewhere,
The Land of Pretty Soon.

There uncut jewels of possible fame
Are lying about in the dust,
And many a noble and lofty aim
Are covered with mold and rust.
And, oh, this place, while it seems so near,
Is farther away than the moon;
Though purpose is fair, we'll not get there
To the Land of Pretty Soon.

The road that leads to that mystic land
Is strewn with pitiful wrecks,
The ships that sailed for its shining strand
Bear skeletons on their decks.
It's farther at noon than it was at dawn,
And farther at night than noon;
Oh, let us beware of that land down there
The Land of Pretty Soon.

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:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-620-0563

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, Don Craig, Tina Brofft, Ken Green,
Matt Bassford, Tim Young and Cleveland Reddinger.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning - Revelation -

Bill Miller

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

Sunday Sermon: *Can We Be Guided By Our Conscience?*