

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



THE LENEXA EDIFIER



John 8:32

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"

April 3, 2022

GLADLY RECEIVING HIS WORD

Jim Stauffer

"Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:37-38)

We are then told in the following verses there were 3000 who gladly received this message and were baptized and added to the church as the saved.

The question we wish to raise and the one each of us must answer is how we respond to the word of God. These folks were pierced in their hearts by the message. That is, the guilt of their sin became obvious to them and the need to be forgiven was just as apparent. These people were sincere and because of that, the word of God in heaven, the Creator of the universe meant everything to them.

But, of course there were many who that day did not gladly receive the word and did not feel the need for the remission of their sin. For one to gladly receive the word of God when it condemns what they are doing requires a pure and sincere heart.

One of the things we become very aware of when we become a child of God is that God and Christ come first in everything. We do give the government proper respect while first and foremost obeying what God says (**Matthew 22:15-22, 37-40**). There is a very interesting statement in **Daniel 6** when Daniel appears unharmed by the lions when morning comes. The Scripture says, "Then Daniel spoke to the king, *"O king, live forever! 'My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime.'"* (**Daniel 6:21-22**) The interesting part of the statement is that while Daniel was being

punished for disobeying the king's law, God sent a message saying Daniel was innocent before both God and the king.

We must remember both sides of the comments from God on this subject. We must obey both God and man, but when man attempts to come between us and obedience to God, we are to trust and obey the Lord. It is as simple as that and as difficult as that. Daniel never wavered in his faith in God, but just like his three friends from Judea, he obeyed God not knowing what the result would be for his earthly life.

Please read again **Matthew 4:1-11** to see how our Lord was tempted in all the same ways we are and yet without sin (**Hebrews 4:15**). I do not have to be the most courageous individual myself, but simply the most trusting. Listen to Paul's perspective on the threat to our earthly life,

"For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;"

(2 Corinthians 1:8-9)

When we gladly receive the word, gladly and receive mean we will trust its message.

Things That Save - Hope

Don Wright

The Christian's hope is more important than most children of God realize. The Hebrews writer put it into perspective when he referred to it as an anchor. *"So that by two unchangeable things, in which it is*

impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain" (6: 18,19).

An anchor holds a ship or boat in place, preventing it from drifting from a desired spot. This is what hope does for us. It anchors us in Christ, stopping us from drifting back into the world where only condemnation awaits us. It is this function of hope that saves us. *"For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?" (Rom. 8:24).* Hope gives us the sustaining power that we need to be steadfast and unmovable. The devil is always trying to cause us to stumble and fall. As long as we keep our hope before us, we have the edge over him.

What is our hope? It is the coming of our Lord and Savior, Who will take us to our home in heaven where we will spend eternity in our glorified bodies. So, Jesus is the "Who" of our hope, heaven is the "where" of our hope, and our glorified bodies are the "what" of our hope **(Acts 24:15)**. As long as this hope is our main focus in life, we will be sustained by our desire for it to come to fruition. *"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure" (1 Jn. 3: 2,3).*

The key for us is to not allow the circumstances of our lives to cause us to lose our heavenly focus. This can happen when things turn dreary in our lives or when things are going too well. The trials of life can cause us to be discouraged, while the material blessings of life can steal our hearts and cause our hope to fade. Keeping our hope before us and making it the primary goal of life is something we do on purpose.

"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:13). This is strong language. Hope is not to be an afterthought to us, but the main focus of our lives. Peter said we are to *"hope fully..."* for the time when Jesus comes back. None of our earthly activities, goals, or dreams should ever overshadow our desire and expectation of Jesus coming back. We must, as Paul said, set our minds on things above, not on things that are on earth **(Col. 3: 1,2)**. We are saved by this hope.

As you wind down for the night, think about these things.

Taken from 25th Street church of Christ Bulletin

While my webcam is down, and I cannot get it to work with my microphone, I thought I could not do anything. However, I can still post articles for your consideration. ***Here is one that I originally wrote about twelve years ago, and have only slightly edited it since.***

"Jesus Was Wrong"

How do we know? Because the world has been evolving and Jesus has not kept up with the times. I was listening to a talk show on the radio while driving, and one of the guests who claimed to be a "reverend" made the above claim. I was taken aback by this statement, but it really did not surprise me given the political climate in our world today. It is the utter disregard that so many in our churches have towards the Bible and Bible authority.

While this person claimed to read the Bible, everything he was espousing was something that God has condemned in the Bible. He said that abortion was a woman's right to choose and the not yet born had no choice or God given rights to live. He said something to the effect that sex is a beautiful thing and almost went to the point of saying that God approved of pre and extra marital sex, although he would not encourage it. Of course, the radio topic was same sex marriage. This is a very hot issue right now with the Supreme Court looking at two challenges to the laws about same-sex marriage.

Jesus said that in the beginning God created male and female and gave the instruction that the male and female were to cohabit in a marriage. Jesus gave further instructions that they two were to remain a couple for life, and anyone who did not respect this union would be guilty of sin and if unrepented of, would lead to eternal damnation. Perhaps that sounds harsh. Maybe we should say those who sin are heaven deficient.

One of the things at issue is the fact that churches will have no rights to believe that same-sex couples are living in sin, and that God does not approve of their lifestyle. That is really the issue. Most gay couples reject God and promote their choice in life. They want to live their way and are basically forcing you and me to tolerate such. Actually, they want you and me to join them in their sexually deviant behavior.

As Christians, we see this as gross immorality, but they apparently do not see anything wrong with what they are doing. When challenged about their lifestyle as compared to the Bible, their argument is that the writings of two thousand years ago are obsolete and do not apply

anymore. This person I heard on the radio said that what Jesus said in His day may have been right for back then, but it is not right for today. There are plenty of passages that tell us God does not change, Jesus does not change, and the word will abide forever.

Whether same-sex marriage is legalized in this country really is not the point. We may not like it, but we will respect the law of the land and recognize the legal rights of these people. But that does not mean we will participate in something that is legalized by man. Abortion is legal, yet we see it for what is truly is: Murder. Drinking is legal, yet God disapproves of drunkenness or getting high or getting a "buzz". Even if same-sex marriages are legalized, those who are serious about their soul will abstain from such behavior and cease the sin if they have been involved in it.

God has never approved of same-sex marriage. He does not even approve of same-sex relationships. He does not approve of pre-marital sex, neither does He approve of extra-marital sex. Any sex outside of lawful (not human directed) marriage is an abomination to God. In other words, it is described as the worst kind of sin imaginable. We need to learn all that God has declared abominable and refrain from doing those things.

There are many excuses people use to promote their sin. One method is that they say they are born that way. So we must accept them. How long before pedophiles claim their sickness makes them that way, and we should allow adults to have relations with children? Throughout the Bible, people guilty of homosexuality were punished by God in severe ways. Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them are evidence of God's hatred for that sin. The apostle Paul said that those who practice homosexuality will not enter the kingdom of heaven. The blunt term is that they are "going to hell". However, if they care for their soul, they will cease the sin, acknowledge their sin, and they can be baptized for the remission of sins. And as long as they do not return to that lifestyle, but remain faithful to God, they can go to heaven.

God does not want anybody to be lost in hell. That is why God provided His Son to die upon the cross. It is so that we who believe in Jesus as the Son of God, and our Lord and King can be in a justified relationship with God. To answer the person on the talk show: Our Lord does not change and His words are authoritative, and it is His words that will be our judge. Jesus was right because He was God, and God is perfect. Jesus is right because He has all authority in heaven and on earth. Let us listen to Jesus and not some man's "think so".

By Carey Scott

National Atheist's Day Eve

Here we are, March 31st, the day before the most important celebration of the year for many American citizens, National Atheist's Day! On this day we celebrate all of the glorious contributions of atheism to the greatness of American Society.

For example, The Declaration of Independence States clearly that our ancestors were "assume (ing) among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them.." OOPS! I guess that's the wrong place!. Let's go down the page a bit. Yes, Here it is: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal: that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights: that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Oops again! I guess an atheist wouldn't mention 'created' or 'endowed by their creator' would they?

Well, I guess we are left with the words of Thomas Jefferson (allegedly the most atheistic of our Founding Fathers) to the newborn namesake, Thomas Jefferson Grotjan, on January 10, 1824, advice for a young man: *Your affectionate mother requests that I would address to you, as a namesake, something which might have a favorable influence on the course of life you have to run. Few words are necessary, with good dispositions on your part. Adore God; reverence and cherish your parents; love your neighbor as yourself, and your country more than life. Be just; be true; murmur not at the ways of Providence—and the life into which you have entered will be one of eternal and ineffable bliss. And if to the dead it is permitted to care for the things of this world, every action of your life will be under my regard. Farewell.[iii]*

Well, maybe our Founding Fathers weren't so atheistic after all. Far from it. All the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, to believe or not, to evangelize or to scoff, are enshrined in our founding documents because the overwhelming majority of those doing the founding grew up in a world of Biblical Theism and Worldview. It was their light, their air, and their water, as it were. The God of the Bible gave us the moral right to choose so let us remember that tomorrow, on April First, National Atheist's Day.

Cleveland Reddinger

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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.

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.*

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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