

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"

May 15, 2022

...MEN MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT...

Jim Stauffer

"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

(2 Peter 1:20-21)

The apostle tells us here those who were inspired by the Holy Spirit (**John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13**) did not put any personal explanations or construction to the words given by the Holy Spirit. We learn from this passage and those listed in this paragraph the message God sent to man was **verbally** inspired. This warns and reminds us we also must hear the words of the Lord and accept them as spoken. There is no man who is authorized to put his personal slant or input on what God has said.

These verses are the culmination of the teaching of **chapter 1** of this epistle. Peter describes the character and conduct of a Christian in **verses 5-7** with what have been described as the seven Christian graces to be added to our faith; virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. He tells them adding these things to their lives is the way to ensure a fruitful life in His service and an entrance into the eternal kingdom (heaven).

He then reminds them these things he speaks of are the truth and he leaves them with them as his legacy to to serve them well after he is gone from this life.

Next he relates the story of the transfiguration of the Lord which he personally witnessed (**Matthew 17:1-5**). On that occasion he says God the Father honored Christ with the words, *This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased*. These words, Peter says, he heard himself. This, he says makes more sure the prophetic words spoken to them by inspired men. These are words that serve as a *light...in a dark place...*with the eventual

result of Christ lighting your way and your life as He is ... **the light of men (John 1:4)**.

By equating the Scriptures with the truth uttered by God through the Holy Spirit, Peter emphasizes to us just how precious this is. Much like the Samaritan woman of **John 4** to whom Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah, we too, must experience and appreciate the revelation of Christ to us by way of inspired men guided by the Holy Spirit. When we do, we will properly appreciate the Scriptures just as those who personally witnessed Christ when He was on the earth.

Such appreciation will lead us to ...*hear ye Him (Matthew 17:5)*. We will then be personally discouraged from altering the message to conform to the lives we choose to live here. For when we do that we no longer have Christ living in us (**Galatians 2:20**).

Reinstated?

We are hearing some rather strange expressions these days. A man was telling us recently that he had gone forward the Sunday before to be "reinstated." A woman said she was thinking of "going back into the church." Are such expressions a problem in terminology? Or are we faced with a problem in concept? Are people thinking of the church as an organization similar to the P.T.A., in and out of which they can go at will, returning simply to be "reinstated"?

Unfaithfulness is not just a matter of dropping out of the church for a while. It is a matter of trampling "*the Son of God underfoot*"; of insulting "*the Spirit of grace*"; of giving "*occasion to the enemies of the LORD to*

blaspheme"; of turning one's back on the Lord and His promises; of living in sin and flirting with eternal damnation. Imagine a person's being in such a position, and then coming forward to be "reinstated"!!! What that person needs to do is repent, fall on his knees before God, confess to Him and to his brethren, "I have sinned," and cry to God for mercy.

We are not questioning God's mercy. He is prepared to forgive His wayward child; to run to him, fall on his neck, and kiss him; to place the best robe on his back, a ring on his finger, shoes on his feet; to kill the fatted calf and be merry. But this abundant forgiveness is for that wayward child who returns with a full recognition of his sin and unworthiness, who confesses his sins, who asks, not to be "reinstated" as a son, but to be received back only as a hired servant. Forgiveness is for the penitent.

May the Lord help us to see sin in its true ugliness, to *"abhor what is evil"* and *"cling to what is good,"* to remember the price paid by our Lord for our forgiveness, to be faithful, and to humbly acknowledge our sins when we do fall. And when we are forgiven, let us not speak glibly of "going back into the church," but let us speak of the grace of God that could save "a wretch like me."

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4).

by **Bill Hall**

Are You Ashamed?

By **Carey Scott**

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of the Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38)

The parallel passage of this scripture is **Luke 9:26** and says almost the same thing. This should be a sobering thought to many who wear the name of Christ. For too often, for various reasons, we demonstrate that we are ashamed of Christ and His gospel. This shame is evidenced by the fact that we do not share the gospel message with others we come in contact with. And unless you continue to remind others that you are a Christian, they will soon forget.

The words of Jesus above are hard words for a Christian to swallow. For in essence, Jesus is saying that if we are ashamed of Him or His teachings, we will not be able to enter heaven. This shame is synonymous to denial. Notice what Jesus said in **Matthew 10:33**: *"But*

whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

Clearly the scriptures teach that Christians can lose their salvation by denying, disowning and even being ashamed of Jesus. If you think about it, you can see the devil at work in this area. Because the devil has failed to get us to live wicked lives, or to cause harm to Christ, he chooses a method that is very subtle and we go along feeling good about ourselves, while at the same time, we are separated from God. It is sin to be ashamed of Christ.

Notice the times where Paul mentioned the word ashamed: *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek"* (**Romans 1:16**).

Neither should we be ashamed of the gospel. Yet how often do we promote the gospel to those who need it? Your actions speak louder than your words. If you have no shame in the gospel, why are you not sharing it?

"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (**Romans 5:5**).

The phrase "maketh not ashamed in the KJV is translated by other words in most other versions of the Bible and as we look at some of them we get the idea that the Holy Spirit wanted us to have about our concept of hope. Notice:

"does not disappoint" (TEV, NIV,

NASB,RSV)

"is no mockery"

(NEB)

"will never disappoint"

(CEV,EVD)

"we are able to hold our heads high no matter what happens" (LB)

"is not deceptive" (JB)

Then again we read: *"Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death"* (**Romans 6:21**) In this context, Paul was discussing their former lifestyle and the things they once did. So we SHOULD be ashamed of those things we have done in the past that hurt God, but we should never be ashamed of what God did for us.

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day" (**2 Timothy 1:8-12**). *"According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death"* (**Philippians 1:20**) If we have hope in the

promise of God, and if we share His gospel message, we have no reason to be ashamed, for we are trying to exalt Christ in all that we are and everything that we do. Yet when our actions indicate something different, there is need to be concerned.

Here is a quote from an article I read recently. "Dear reader, if you are ashamed of the Lord Jesus and His words among the wicked in your neighborhood, jobsite, family, friends, etc., He, in turn, will be ashamed of YOU. That is fact, even though you might go to "church" as people say in our day, and live a moral life." (Dan Corner-Fighting the Good Fight Vol 8, #1 from the Evangelical Outreach group). As I think and contemplate this, I realize that he is right on the money.

Part of our "good fight" is to battle against being ashamed of Jesus and His gospel among the wicked, lost, deceivers, and all those in error. Even though we may suffer persecution or fear that we might suffer persecution, let us not forget that the battle hardest to fight is the one within our own selves.

We have a day coming whereby we will give an account of our actions and the books of God will judge us. *"And let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary."* (Galatians 6:6-9)

Day by Day (4)

"...Lovingly, it's par of pain and pleasure, mingling toil with peace and rest."

The verse that comes to mind when thinking upon this lyric is **John 16:33**, *"These things I have spoken to you that in Me, you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."* I think many people believe that when you become a Christian, all of your problems miraculously disappear; but that couldn't be farther from the truth. In fact, I think it's quite the opposite. I feel like as faith increases, tribulation increases as well; however, one thing we have that the world doesn't is our Lord, and our hope and trust in Him. And in this, thought we may face a fiery tail, we have that peace that surpasses all understanding that **Philippians 4:7** speaks of. God has promised that He will always be with us, His children, and if we have responded accordingly, His Spirit dwells within us. With Him, we can get through anything. **Psalm**

30:5 says that *"weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."* This verse reminds me of an old song we used to sing that said, *"I'm so glad that trouble don't last always."*

Caleb Anderson

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.

Many teach in churches teach the kingdom of God and Christ is yet to come.

Did you know the Bible does not teach this concept but instead rejects it?

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19)

"And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power." (Mark 9:1)

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

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.
Lenexa, Kansas 66216
913-620-0563

Check out the following websites

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

**Elders: Ron Peck
Jim Stauffer
Deacons: Bill Miller
Joe Hurd**

NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

JAN PATRICK, ALMA
BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING,
BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY
RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD,
DAVID & JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK
WALKER, STEVE WIMP, ERNESTINE
BYERS, NICK COOPER, RUTH ANN
SIMCOSKY, EVALEE DARNALL (THE
SISTER OF DAISY DARNALL) DIED
MAY 9TH - FUNERAL MAY 14TH.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
**SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA -
RON PECK**

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS
GENESIS - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:
**GOD'S LOVE BRINGS
SALVATION**



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