

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 21, 2023

## THE SABBATH DAY AND CHRISTIANS

by Jim Stauffer

*Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. (Acts 11:25–26)*

First, let us explore the term sabbath and then see how it becomes the Sabbath Day. The term sabbath is defined by Strongs Dictionary of Bible Words as; *to rest, cease*. This is illustrated by the example of God resting on the seventh day following the six days of the Creation **(Genesis 2:2-3)**.

When Moses was given the commandments on Mount Sinai, the fourth commandment was, *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.* **(Exodus 20:8–11)**

God made a direct correlation between His completion of and cessation from the Creation to the lifestyle and worshipful attitude He would demand from His people to rest from their labors on the seventh day, a holy Sabbath according to the Law.

This, then was a part of the Law of Moses, that is the covenant made between God and the people, mediated by Moses **(Exodus 24:7,8; Hebrews 9:19-21)**. Throughout the years of that covenant, the Sabbath was to be remembered on the seventh day of every week.

Even while John the Baptist and the Lord Himself were preaching the gospel of repentance and the kingdom to come, the Law of Moses ruled over God's people.

But Jesus came with a mission to seek and save that which was lost. The salvation He brought to mankind would result from the shedding of His blood for the redemption of all men from sin **(Romans 3:24-26)**. While Paul describes the sacrifice of Christ to the Romans as a propitiation or atonement for the sins of all men, he describes it to the Hebrew Christians as the sealing of a new covenant with those who have been called to the promise of an inheritance **(Hebrews 9:11-15 cf. Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Galatians 3:26-29)**.

Now the interesting thing about this new covenant is seeing the emphasis God places on the heart of man being changed by the recognition of his lost condition while also learning of the action of the Savior Who died for the very sins that have separated us from God. That news brings man from the lowest point in his life, that is the knowledge he is condemned in the eyes of God, to his greatest point when he realizes his salvation through obedience to God's commands to be saved **(Mark 16:15,16; Hebrews 5:8,9)**.

Now we are living under the constraints and promises of the new covenant. The covenant Jeremiah prophesied, a promise repeated in the epistle to the Hebrews **(Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:8-12)**. This covenant says nothing of keeping the Sabbath. In fact the writers of the New Testament tell us the Law of Moses, the law that commanded keeping the Sabbath was nailed to the Cross when Christ died **(Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 2:13-17)**.

We then discover the Christians, the disciples of Christ, met to worship on the first day of the week. There is no more observance of the seventh day of the week **(Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2)**. To practice and observe the tenets of the Law of Moses, a covenant mediated by Moses at Sinai with the blood of animals, as worship to God and Christ Who have mediated a new covenant with the blood of the Son of God is a grave

insult to this superior sacrifice and superior covenant.

We cannot, yea, must not, turn back to those things to attempt to improve what He has instructed us to do in worship to Him. For when we do we are guilty in the eyes of the writer of the book of Hebrews. *Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (Hebrews 10:29)*

The Sabbath and its honorable observance was a very important tenet under the Law of Moses. However, if we are to respond to the plea of our Savior to believe and obey the gospel of salvation designed for all, we must realize it was and will always be a crucial part of a covenant that has been replaced by a superior covenant through the blood shed by Jesus Christ on Calvary.

## IT DOESN'T SAY "NOT TO"

*by Greg Gwin*

Imagine this: you walk into a fast-food restaurant and order a hamburger, fries, and a coke - the all-American meal! But then, you notice that it seems to take an unusually long time to get your food. Finally, the gal at the counter brings up your order - piles of food on three separate trays! "What's all of this?" you ask. "Well," answers the waitress, "it's one of every item on our menu. Your bill comes to \$85.68." You protest: "I didn't tell you to bring me all of that food!" "But," she replies, "you didn't tell me not to."

Could this happen? Of course not! We all know that when you specify what you want, you automatically eliminate other options. We operate with this understanding every day. In fact, this logic is so standard, that we don't even think about it. When you order something from a catalog, or call in a pizza, or write a grocery list, you naturally assume that it is understood that you want only what is specified, and nothing else.

What's the point of all this? Simply that in religious matters we ought to employ the same logic. God has perfectly revealed through His word what He wants us to do in His service. We should naturally assume that since He has told us what He wants, other things ought to be left out!

For instance: What about music in worship? The New Testament specifies singing - there is no mention of instrumental music in New Testament worship. Since

God has told us to sing, and nothing else, we ought to do just that. Someone answers, "But it doesn't say not to play instruments." The Scriptures don't have to say "not to" - that's the whole point!

## **BLESSING IN READING REVELATION**

*"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near" (Revelation 1:3, NIV).*

The book of Revelation was never meant to be the personal property of scholars. You, too, can read and understand it. This verse reminds us that we will be blessed by reading this last book of the Bible.

Why has there been so much confusion about the book of Revelation? Let me give you three reasons quickly. First, people can misunderstand or become overwhelmed by the heavy symbolism. I have been asked if I take the Bible literally. Yes, I believe I do. But to read it literally is to read it as it is written. Symbols are to be recognized as such. When Jesus said, *"I am the door" (John 10:7)*, He didn't mean, "I'm a nine-foot plank with a knob." We are to understand the figure of speech; the picture. He is the door in that He provides access.

Secondly, people overlook the historical context. This book can't mean to us what it didn't mean to the people for whom it was originally written. The book of Revelation is Jesus' message to Christians who were suffering under the Roman persecution of the first century. They were suffering for their faith. They were in prison and being tortured. They were persecuted because of their allegiance to Jesus Christ. Some of them were beheaded, burned at the stake, or fed to the beasts. Some of us believe that we're not going to suffer; that if we have God everything's going to be perfect and great. A lot of the wrong theology about Revelation is rooted in a wrong perception of what God really promises about the Christian life. Keeping the original audience and context in mind will help us to understand.

Thirdly, people often miss the fact that there are frequent Old Testament allusions and quotes in John's writing. We don't know the Old Testament well enough, so when we're reading Revelation we just say, "Oh, I think it means this." If we ignore the way the Old Testament explains Revelation, our understanding will

be off the mark.

If we avoid these three errors in reading Revelation, we can expect to experience God's promised blessing on our lives.

**Ken Green**

## Homosexuality

**What does the Bible say about such things?** Many folks are of the opinion that Jesus in fact condones the practice, but our faith should not be based on opinion. No. *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom 10:17)*. That is our standard by which we will be judged - God's will, not man's. So then, what does the good book say?

**A man shall be joined to his wife (Matt 19:5).** *"Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female" (Matt 19:4)*. Jesus is defining marriage. Courts do not define marriage. God does. Courts can either uphold what is right or they can uphold what is wrong. That is up to them, but God will hold them accountable. The Lord defining marriage this way it excludes any other way. Husband and husband or wife and wife are not abiding by God's will. It is man and wife.

**The entire Bible is the word of God.** We mention this because people will say "Jesus never said homosexuality is a sin". We have considered what Jesus said in Matthew. Jesus also said the Holy spirit would guide the apostles, *"into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak"* (John 16:13). The whole Bible is God's will, not just the red letters. So, what do we find considering that fact?

**"The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor 6:9).** Ok, unrighteous like how? *"Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites... will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor 6:9)*. This is God's will, or we should say, these people are living in violation of God's will. Do not be deceived. Sin is sin.

**Homosexuality is sexual immorality.** All sexual immorality is sin. The teenagers who sow their wild oats in pre-marital sex; They're sinning. The spouse who flirts and fools around with someone other than their mate; They're sinning. All sexual immorality is unrighteousness.

**Thankfully, God has made a way of escape.** The Corinthians who were caught up in these sinful ways had put them aside. *"And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were*

*justified in the name of our Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor 6:11)*. Praise be to God that we do have a choice. We can resist the devil's ways. We weren't born in or to sin. We were created in God's image.

**25th Street Bulletin**

## Tolerating Black Shoes

I like brown shoes and wear them most of the time. However, if you insist upon wearing black shoes, I will not argue the point. Go right ahead! I'm a very tolerant man with respect to shoes.

But some of my friends tell me I am intolerant in religious matters. They just can't understand why a kindhearted, tolerant fellow like me would say that they *must* obey God's commands and practice in religion *only* that which God has authorized. (Well, maybe that is the way they put it.) Sometimes they find it difficult to tolerate my intolerance.

Some intolerance is born of egotism - the product of self-centered individuals who think they are the center of the universe, and that their ways must be accepted by all. This is very bad (**Jas. 4:11-12**).

And there is an intolerance of sort, which is born of love. I love my granddaughter and insist that she not eat the shoe polish (the brown, that is). I can't bring myself to be unconcerned about this matter.

And there is an intolerance born of respect for authority and deep concern for those who fail to respect the divine will. Paul contended with the Israelites frequently because (a) he loved them, and (b) he knew they could not be saved while they followed their own erroneous ways. Paul's convictions, and his concern for men, made him seem intolerant (**Rom. 10:1ff**).

People who really *believe* something - strongly enough to work for it, teach it, and practice it - are often called "narrow" or "bigoted." Meanwhile, the shallow-thinking, crowd-following, spineless fellow is likely to mistake his own lack of conviction for broadmindedness and congratulate himself for being such a wonderful person.

It is well and good to be tolerant in matters of indifference - where the rights of men are equal. But to tolerate sin and transgression of God's law is to assume the right to judge that law (**Jas. 2:9ff**), or to relegate divine matters to the category of black and brown shoes.

In the final analysis, tolerance is often a disguise for the lack of conviction and concern. In their liberal attitude toward shoe colors, men forget to prepare for a robe and a crown.

**by Robert F. Turner**

**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**

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### Elders:

Ron Peck  
Jim Stauffer

### Deacons:

Bill Miller  
Troy Armstrong

## NEWS AND NOTES:

### THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD, WAYNE MOODY, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK WALKER, PAT MFCLOUD, JAN PATRICK IS AT NOTTINGHAM IN OLATHE, PENNY STAUFFER AND ELLIE GOLDSTON.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning  
**Prayer - Ron Peck**

Wednesday Evening - **Minor Prophets - Jim Stauffer**

Sunday Sermon: **Compromising out of Fear**



## **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