

Rom. 14:19
"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."

John 8:32
"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

August
20
2023

SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

by Jim Stauffer

There is an undeniable truth about truth itself. If it is true anything contrary to it is untrue.

Jesus said, *and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*" (John 8:32) Now, if it is truth that sets us free from the bondage of sin as He has said, nothing else will accomplish that.

Now consider this statement He also made.

"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." (John 17:17) Now we must, if we are to accept the Bible as the word of God, understand it is first of all, true and second the message that will free us from sin.

God's word is true. Any rational mind must recognize that. Why then do we see people use many different messages than what we read about in the Bible as the way to please God and go to heaven?

This is the very principle Jesus condemned with the religious leaders of His day, *'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'*"

(Matthew 15:9) Now these were the leaders among the people of the Covenant made between Israel and God at Mount Sinai.

Why would we believe we can worship Him today according to the ideas men have proposed? What does the apostle Peter mean when he says, *Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves*

is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11) Is he not repeating the principle Jesus spoke earlier that our worship is vain if we are worshiping according to our wishes instead of learning how to worship and serve the Lord from the writings of men inspired by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 2 Peter 1:20,21)?

When we decide how to worship and serve God we become just like those Jesus spoke of in this text. *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 'Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 'And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'*" (Matthew 7:21-23)

"Back To School"

Jarrod M. Jacobs

This month is when many of our young people return to school and college. Grayson County schools started last week, and Butler and Ohio counties start this week. Soon our colleges will begin their fall semesters. As Christians (those in school and their parents), we must remember that we are still responsible to God during the school year.

We Are Responsible To Study.

It is understood that our school teachers expect students to study. They must study and understand the material for classes and for upcoming quizzes and tests. Let us remember, though, that we must also make time for studying the book of God daily! In addition to this, we have times of Bible study on Sunday and Wednesday here. Students (and parents), do not ignore or dismiss the Bible study we have here in favor of school studies. Yes, there is time to do both; we must remember that. Not getting your school work done might result in a lower grade or points deducted in class, but ignoring your Bible study can mean losing your home in Heaven! Which one is most important (**II Tim. 3:16-17**)?

Dear ones, Judgment Day is coming, and we need to be ready! Paul said, *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (**II Tim. 2:15**). When one spends time reading God’s book, he can be knowledgeable *“in the mystery of Christ”* (**Eph. 3:4**). True wisdom comes from spending time in the Bible (**Ps. 119:98-100**). If one neglects the study of God’s word, he will not be the kind of person he ought to be at school or anywhere else. Let us not brush aside Bible study when we are studying for school!

We Are Responsible To Attend.

Make sure and do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together during the school year. We need to understand that this is a command — a *“thou shalt not”* (**Heb. 10:25**)! Yes, sometimes, practices (sports, band, etc.), school functions, homework, and other things can make for a hectic week. However, the answer to your problems is not to remove worshipping God from your life. Forsaking the assembling of the saints does not help but adds to your problems!

I have lived through those days, and I realize that making sure you do not forsake the assembling of the saints is hard. It is hard when you are met with stares, unkind looks, and even harsh words from fellow students, teachers, or coaches. It is hard when you hear “there is nothing more important than (class, recital, practice/game night)” from authorities while your heart is screaming, “Yes, there is something more important than these (**Matt. 6:33; Ecc. 12:13**)!” While young people need to be respectful of those in authority, we must still stand like Daniel and his friends at times (**Dan. 1:8, 3:18**) and be like Ezekiel and not be *“dismayed at their looks”* (**Ezek. 3:9**) or their words.

During the school year and all year long, put the Lord and His kingdom first (**Matt. 6:33**). Do not forsake the assembling of the saints regardless of what other people say or think of you! Your teacher or coach is not responsible for your soul — you are!

We Are Responsible To Pray.

How can we truly have a relationship with the God of Heaven if we refuse to talk to Him? Friends, we ought to never stop praying (**I Thess. 5:17; Lk. 18:1**). Let us be like Jesus, and pray often to our Father (**Mk. 1:35; Lk. 4, 5, 6; Jn. 17**). Let us be as Hezekiah and *“lay everything out”* before God when we pray (**Isa. 37:14**). Let us do as Jesus said, and not be praying for men’s praise, but genuinely, and sincerely pray to the God of Heaven daily (**Matt. 6:5-6**).

Pray for your enemies, those who hate you, and those who talk “trash” about you at school (**Matt. 5:44**). This is a hard thing to do, but it can be done, and when it is done, we will see God’s providence in helping us overcome. Pray about your tests and your other worries and fears (**I Pet. 5:7**). Take all of this to the Lord who loves you and wants the best for you! Don’t stop praying (**I Thess. 5:17**)!

Conclusion

Let’s remember the Lord as we start a new school year! Christians have responsibilities before God, and we dare not shirk them (**Jn. 14:15; Rev. 22:14; I Cor. 15:58**).

Furthermore, let us not hide our “lights” (**Matt. 5:14-16**). Let us not be ashamed of the Lord, or He will be ashamed of us (**Mk. 8:38**). Let us confess the Lord openly, both in words and in deeds (**Matt. 10:32; Titus 1:16**). Who knows, but perhaps because of your willingness to stand for the Lord and His way, you could bring a lost soul to Him? Who knows, but your good example could lead a schoolmate away from a sinful and even a life-threatening lifestyle? We will never know unless we try (**Est. 4:14**). Let us live up to our responsibilities before God this school year (**Col. 3:17**).

SAINTS IN A STRANGE SETTING

Sometimes the hard circumstances in life cause some Christians to grow tired of living the life God demands; their despair leads them to give up all together.

Persecution, peer pressure, lack of faith, opposition from family, etc., can cause some Christians to think it is impossible to fight the good fight and remain faithful. This problem is not new. Christians of the 1st century were plagued with the same obstacles Christians in the 21st century face.

Consider the Christians at Philippi. In Philippians, Paul says that you can be a Christian regardless of the circumstances in life. *"Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren that are with me salute you. All the saints salute you, especially they that are of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit" (4:21- 23)*. Saints are people set apart to the Lord. With faith in Christ and His word, the Christians at Philippi demonstrated this. Roman Caesars were not known for their spirituality. Nero was an avowed enemy of Christ and His church. Yet, the Christians in Caesar's household were able to remain faithful; they even demonstrated love and concern for those in other places.

Another example of someone who stood alone is Joseph. At the hand of ungodly brothers, Joseph was sold into Egyptian slavery; he was forced to serve people who had only contempt for the God of heaven. An ungodly woman sought to lead Joseph into sin. He suffered doing right. But Joseph did not lose God's respect!

What about the three Hebrew boys who were thrown into the fiery furnace? Surely they had the right to say: "Well, everybody else is doing it!" Remember Daniel who faced certain death in the lion's den. He stood and faced the crowd with "open windows."

There are saints in Caesar's household today. In the home relationship only one mate is faithful to God and faces an uphill battle to remain faithful. Often ungodly companions present strong pressures to give up. Paul believed that women could be faithful despite their unfavorable circumstances (**1 Corinthians 7:12-14**). Peter says that godly wives can use their influence to convert their husbands (**1 Peter 3:1-3**). Christians work with those who curse and swear. The pressure to drink alcohol is strong. But many withstand this type of pressure. Men and women in military service are exposed to many temptations. Cornelius was a military man and was also dedicated to God. Young people are tempted to conform. Pressure of peers to dance, engage in drug abuse, and illicit relationships is strong.

Remember: *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12)*. We can do right if the determination is strong enough. *"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."*

Randy Harshbarger

ACTING BEFORE KNOWING

If you've ever worked for a boss who reacts before getting the facts and thinking things through, you will love this!

Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?" The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself, the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Dominos Pizza."

Well, the young man got a good tip for delivering pizza that day.

JD Tant Jr.

Are you interested in studying the Bible? Maybe there are things in life you feel you do not have answers for and have not been able to find satisfaction in the usual places people in society seek.

If you believe in Jesus or even if you are interested in investigating what He has offered for our comfort and relief of the problems we have in our daily lives, contact me at : 913-620-0563 or jim.stauffer71@gmail.com

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

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders:

Ron Peck
Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller
Troy Armstrong

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD, WAYNE MOODY, TONY MAUCK, BOB OWEN, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK WALKER, PAT AND ED MCLOUD, PENNY STAUFFER, ELLIE GOLDSTON. AND WINNIE RAWSON.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning
Prayer - Ron Peck

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

Sunday Sermon: **What are You Saying Jesus**



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