

# LENEXA EDIFIER

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

September 24, 2023

## GOSPEL MEETING

September 24-27, 2023

Sunday 9:30 AM *Jesus is God*

Sunday 10:20 AM *Jesus Will Set You Free*

Sunday 5 PM *Satan's Devices*

Monday 7 PM *Jesus, Sin and Sinners*

Tuesday 7 PM *Not Jesus*

Wednesday 7 PM *Jesus is Worthy*

Please accept our sincere invitation to attend this series of lessons and hear the word of God offered as the answer to the problems of life.

## “Humble Yourselves”

**2 Kings 22:1-23:30** summarizes the reign of King Josiah of Judah. Josiah *“did that which was right in the sight of the Lord”* (**2 Kings 22:2**). One thing Josiah did was order the repairing of the temple (**verses 3-7**). Hilkiah the high priest was charged with leading this repair. In the temple, Hilkiah found the book of the Law (**verse 8**). The book was read to King Josiah (**verses 9-10**), after which the king rent his clothes in remorse upon recognizing his nation's sin (**verse 11**).

Josiah commanded his servants to inquire of God when he recognized his kingdom's severe disobedience (**verses 12-13**). His servants did so, and learned of the coming wrath against Judah (**verses 14-17**). Despite God's anger at Judah, God promised Josiah that he would not see the wrath that would come against his nation. The reason for this: Josiah's *“heart was tender”* when he learned God's truth, and he *“humbled [himself] before the Lord”* (**verse 19**).

In the Bible, “humility” is used at times as a noun to describe a characteristic we should possess (**1 Peter 5:5**). Often, though, “humble” is used as a verb to describe something we must do.

**Matthew 23:12** says *“He that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”* **James 4:10** commands *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord...”* **Philippians 2:8** says Jesus *“humbled himself.”*

The word translated *“humble yourselves”* means “to make low, bring low.” It can mean “to assign a lower rank or place to” (see Strong G5013 & Thayer). This may not sound like an action that makes a person strong. Yet, those who humble themselves can stand strong in the Lord. They bring themselves low so that God may be exalted.

The humble admit their helplessness without God and dependence on Him. They are thus willing to be fully subject to His will.

Those who choose pride choose instead to exalt themselves. God warns that those who choose such self-exaltation are foolish, and will be humbled by Him. Notice the first part of **Matthew 23:12**: *And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased...*

King Josiah was spared from Jewish captivity because he chose the opposite of this. He brought himself low. He chose to allow people to see the mighty king mourn in hopelessness instead of pretending to be too “strong” to be moved by the words of Almighty God.

Josiah chose to humble himself in submissiveness to God's will instead of exalting his own will. His heart was tender, instead of hardened. His actions showed a resolve to make things right.

This type of heart is one God has sought throughout all dispensations. His desire for humility is stressed throughout both the Old and New Testaments.

God knows He deserves all honor, praise, and glory, and mankind does not. He wants us to recognize this and humbly take our place under His mighty hand.

As **1 Peter 5:6** says, *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”*

**Michael Hickox**

## WHAT HAS FASHIONED YOUR ATTITUDE?

The attitude described in the article before this is one of humility. Humility, as described by Michael in that article is an appropriate perspective of just where we stand in the final analysis of all things. God and Christ rule over the entire Universe (**Ephesians 1:20-23**). The sooner one realizes that, the sooner he can come to grips with just who he is and where he stands in the hierarchy of this world.

The fact of the matter is each and every one of us has sinned and as a result separated himself from God (**Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1,2**). The result of that separation leads to eternal destruction from the face of God (**2 Thessalonians 1:8-10**). Fortunately for each of us there is an opportunity to avoid that destruction. It comes to us because God so loved us He sent Jesus to die for us (**John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4,5**). That is Jesus paid the price to ransom us from our determined destruction (**Romans 5:6-10**).

Now, the answer to our question comes into play. What is our mindset about life in general? Do we believe in life hereafter? If we do, upon what do we base that belief? The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that is Jesus of Nazareth is well documented. The support of that fact is easy to find. Scripture tells us of many occasions during the 40 days He spent on the earth following His resurrection where multiple persons saw Him alive again (**John 20,21; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8**). Secular historians as well attest to these facts. Now, as the hymn we sing suggests, What will you do with Jesus? What will your answer be?

God has provided a process intended to guide you to the decision that will give you the hope of an eternal inheritance with Him (**Ephesians 1:7-14**). That process is outlined by the apostle Paul in **Romans 10:13-17**. This text tells us that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. It then further tells us how that will come about in the heart and mind of an individual. First, Paul says, that person must believe in the Lord to call on Him for salvation. But before he can believe in Him, he must have heard the good news of the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation (**Romans 1:16**). But Paul raises the question as to how a person will hear about Jesus without a preacher, or someone to bring this news to him. Then finally, he says there will be no preacher to bring this news if he is not sent by someone.

I submit to you, the Lenexa church of Christ has brought to our community such a preacher. One who has come to teach folks about Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ Who died for the sins of the world. That opportunity exists for all to whom we can send this message.

What then is the purpose of this series of lessons? These lessons are presented to allow those who hear them to obey the commands of that gospel message that has the power to save. Just as people in New Testament times did, we also can believe in Jesus, repent of our sins, confess Him as Lord and as the risen Son of God and finally be baptized, putting Him on and receiving the forgiveness of sins. By doing this we gain that hope of eternity with Him when this life is over.

As a recommendation of one who followed this path as an example for each of us, let me recommend you read in your Bibles, the story of the Philippian jailer in **Acts 16:25-34**. When you read that, you will see a man who learned humility, who was able to see himself in an appropriate perspective, and then take advantage of the opportunity God has provided for a man who can humble himself in the sight of the Lord.

*Jim Stauffer*

## GAMBLING # 3 WE ARE WHAT WE THINK ABOUT

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21)*. The Sermon on the Mount sets forth kingdom principles. Kingdom citizens think and act in certain, specific ways; in fact, our thinking will determine our actions. Other people see how we act, dress, and where we go. Our money, possessions, and clothing say things about us; these are indicators of our hearts. Jesus said: *"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!"* Jesus speaks about goodness, or soundness, or singleness. This is what a person who is wholly devoted to the Lord looks like! The eyes (heart) are focused on the Lord.

What does this have to do with gambling? Just this: Christians are supposed to be people who are focused solely on the Lord. Our trust must be in God. Are we trusting in our possessions? What are our core values? Where are our loyalties? What motivates us more than

anything else? Are we trusting in God who does not fail? Are we trusting in things that rust and fail and can easily be lost?

**Malachi 3:16** says: *“Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; so, a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.”* People who fear God put their faith and trust in Him. They find strength in the realization that God is far greater than any earthly pursuit. The “name of the Lord” is greatly revered by such people. God’s person, character, ethics, and doctrine are the things that God-fearers aspire to.

We must realize that the heart is our most valuable possession. Hearts that are turned to the Lord are not focused on the possibility of winning huge jackpots, or the sports pool at work, or, whatever the fantasy may be. The problem is that there is simply too much attachment to this world. Attachment to the world gets in the way of total commitment to God. Possessions can be owned; do not be owned by possessions. Food is good; even the ant stores up provision for his family (**Proverbs 6:6-8**); the unbeliever stands condemned (**1 Timothy 5:8**). The selfish accumulation of more and more defines us in ways that are not good.

Is our thinking right when our focus is on wanting more and more? Is this kingdom thinking? Are our eyes cloudy because of “things?” Do you want moths, and rust, and decay, and break-ins? If you do, then get it now!

**Randy Harshbarger**

## The Importance of the Apostles

**Gary Henry**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”* (**Acts 1:8**).

**In God’s Plan To Save Us From Our Sins, The Apostles Had An Importance That Needs To Be Understood.** The entire message of the gospel depended on the resurrection of Christ (**1 Corinthians 15:13–17**), and the apostles served, first and foremost, as eyewitnesses of that event. Each of them had seen Jesus after He had been raised (**Acts 1:21-22**). And while the apostles were not the only eyewitnesses (**1 Corinthians 15:3–8**), their testimony was invested with nothing less than the authority of Christ Himself

(**Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8**). In addition, the apostles could perform miracles that guaranteed the truthfulness of their account (**Hebrews 2:3-4**). So, the apostles were not just disciples or followers of Christ; they were the definitive, authoritative emissaries of Christ. They could regulate the practice of the church in its foundational period. And what we have today in the New Testament is the written record of their definitive teachings. These documents provide the permanent, unchangeable “constitution” of the Lord’s church.

In the first century, of course, many people claimed to be apostles who were not. So, to separate the false apostles from those actually appointed by Christ, the true apostles were able to miraculously confirm their authority. Paul wrote to the Corinthians (some of whom were questioning his apostleship), *“The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works”* (**2 Corinthians 12:12**).

Jesus said that after His resurrection the Holy Spirit would finish revealing to the apostles the things He had only just begun to teach them (**John 14:25- 26; 16:12–15**). So, to get all of Jesus’ teaching, we have to study not only what He personally taught, but also what was revealed to His apostles. Taken together, this body of teaching is definitive. It is authoritative and foundational. So we must not say, as many do, that we should ignore the apostles and only study the teachings of Jesus. The truth is, we can’t have Jesus without the apostles. They were His designated, not-to-be-ignored spokesmen.

*~via Custer Connections; Plano, Texas*

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sa. 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**

**OUR ADDRESS IS:**

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**lenexachurchofchrist.org**

**Evangelist and Editor:** Jim Stauffer

**Elders:**

Ron Peck  
Jim Stauffer

**Deacons:**

Bill Miller  
Troy Armstrong

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**NEWS AND NOTES:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD, WAYNE MOODY, BOB OWEN, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK WALKER, PAT M-CLOUD. PENNY STAUFFER, ELLIE GOLDSTON, WINNIE RAWSON, STEVE WIMP AND DALE RICHARDSON WHO IS IN ADVENT HOSPITAL.

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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:

**PRAYER - RON PECK**

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS:

**MINOR PROPHETS - JIM STAUFFER**

SUNDAY SERMON: **THE GOSPEL MEETING SCHEDULE**

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**