

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”

March 24, 2024

A FLESHLY MORALITY

Jim Stauffer

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15–17) Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (Romans 8:1–2) When we combine these passages we understand we are to conduct ourselves differently than those who have not been set free by the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

We are to be a people for God’s own possession (1 Peter 2:9). We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1,2). We are to mind or give attention to the things of the spirit and not the flesh (Romans 8:5). We are to deny ourselves and take up His cross and follow Him if we wish to save our lives (Matthew 16:24,25).

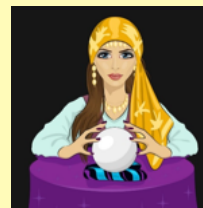
If we wish to be the disciple pictured above, we must then set ourselves apart from worldly concepts and practices. We are entering another Spring-Fall time on the calendar. Weather is nice, warm, sun shining and the people of the world begin to disrobe in public. Skimpy outfits, usually for females, but not always, are the daily apparel in public or private. No regard for the respect they should have for themselves and certainly no regard for the desires of the opposite sex they could engender with such dress.

How can we with rational thinking participate in such styles of dress, attend events and places that call for

such and still claim to be what the above Scriptures say we are. Brethren, it is hypocrisy for the child of God to claim godly behavior, a holy life and dress in such a way as to display their body for all to see and place temptation before those who view them.

When the child of God does so it clearly says, I am not walking by the spirit (Gal. 5:16,17), but have chosen to indulge the flesh. Not only do you risk your own soul but that of others you may never even know. Please consider these words from the apostle Paul, *so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, (Philippians 2:15)*

What Is Your Future? By Jefferson David Tant



There is something that I believe comes into the minds of every living being from time to time. And that “something” is “What is in the future for me—tomorrow, next week, next year, ten years?” Some seeking to know go to fortune tellers, as pictured above, who are only good at guessing. Then there are some who carefully make plans for their future.

For many young people, the future may simply involve what's going to be done during the summer vacation, or what career should be pursued, and obviously of importance is the question concerning who to marry.

But far and above all these questions is the question **"Where will I spend eternity?"** That is the ultimate "future."

I'm afraid that far too often, eternity is not in the minds of many young people. If they have any interest in eternity at all, it is something for the future, when they get older. There are three serious problems with this thinking.

(1) Some young people don't make it to their older years. I can't count the number of young people in their teens, or even younger, who have died and gone to their eternal reward, and sadly, some may not have been prepared to die. Oh, they may have intended to become a Christian and serve God someday, but "someday" never came. It's not on the calendar.

(2) Another problem with delay is the fact that at times they get so caught up in the world that they cannot escape it's hold on them. It may be that Satan has so enticed them with sin that they cannot seem to break loose. Or it may simply be that things of the world that may not be sinful in themselves, whether riches or earthly pleasures consume their thoughts and time, so that there is little, if any, time for God.

(3) The end may come at any moment in time. We are not told when the world will come to an end, but it will happen. And when that moment comes, it will obviously be too late to make any preparation.

Wise King Solomon wrote some words of wisdom in **Ecclesiastes 11:9**: *"Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things."*

Obviously, it is not wrong to rejoice and experience pleasant days, but be sure that the course you pursue is in keeping with God's guidelines.

This is not to say that there will not be any days of trouble or discouragement that will come. Satan doesn't give up easily.

Christ told the story of a rich man who had everything he could want, but his riches did not provide for his eternity.

Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:15-21)

The rich man may have been thinking, "I have it all. I've got riches and a good life. What else would I need?" Sadly, he found out what else he needed, but it was too late. It would have been good if he had heeded the words of wisdom that God's Word has given us. *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." (James 4:13-15)*

The young man or woman who is not committed to Christ may be thinking, "I've got plenty of time. I'll get my life on the right track later." But as James said in the preceding verses, you don't know for certain what tomorrow or next month or next year will bring. There are two things that could happen. (1) You could die from some unexpected disease or accident, or (2) Christ may return. Remember that He said that the end would be sudden and unannounced. *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." (Matthew 24:35-36)*

The words of the wise Solomon should be taken to heart, as he encouraged young people to *"Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1)*
You can't go wrong in following Solomon's admonition.

Forgiveness (4th in a series)

Under instructions to forgive others *“just as God in Christ also hath forgiven you”* (Eph. 4:32), we have observed that God is 1) willing to forgive, 2) anxious to forgive, but 3) He forgives only when we have met His conditions of forgiveness, including repentance. We continue our study with some additional and important points about God’s forgiveness.

It is clear that when God forgives it is an absolute and total form of forgiveness. To often men never really get over something. Past wrongs and offenses remain an issue and are allowed to fester like an open wound. People are heard to say things like, “I’ll never forget what he did to me.” But, thankfully, God is not that way, and we need to imitate Him. The Psalmist wrote (103:8-12): *“The Lord is merciful and gracious . . . He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”* We should be extremely grateful for His absolute forgiveness, and we should treat others the same way.

Furthermore, God’s forgiveness is permanent. Once forgiven, He never calls up our past sins again. The Hebrew writer quoted the promise made by the prophet Jeremiah: *“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”* (Hebrews 10:16-17.) Too often we will tentatively ‘forgive’ someone who wrongs us, but are quick to dredge up these old sins if that same person ever crosses us again. It is not that way with God, and it cannot be so with us.

(continued next week)

by Greg Gwin

Mark 14:66-72

Let him that thinketh he standeth

. . . When Christ was arrested in Gethsemane, His disciples *“all left Him and fled”* (Mk. 14.50). Peter, however, showed some courage and followed the mob *“at a distance”* (14.54). He ended up warming himself with others at a courtyard fire, maybe thinking he would be lost in the crowd. If so, he was wrong.

When a servant girl of the high priest saw Peter, she said, *“You also were with Jesus of Nazareth”* (v 67). I suspect the mood around the fire changed considerably. Caught by surprise, suddenly under scrutiny, Peter tried to bluff his way through with a, *“I don’t know what you’re talking about”* (v 68).

Leaving the light of the fire, Peter sought shelter in the shade of a porch (v 68). But he was again accused by the same girl, *“This is one of them”* (v 69); Matthew and Luke indicate it was a different girl who made the second charge). Peter again denied the accusation; it was still his word against hers.

Peter always talked too much, and about an hour later, it caught up with him, *“Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it”* (v 70). Frantic with fright, Peter *“began to curse and swear, ‘I do not know this Man of whom you speak!’”* (v 71). His reaction apparently silenced his accusers; as James Stalker said, “they did not believe Peter’s assertion, but they could not help believing his sins.”

At that very moment, a rooster crowed, Peter heard it, remembered what Christ had predicted, and was filled with guilt and shame like he had never known.

I have no stones to throw at Peter; he was no coward (I would have been with the nine disciples who were nowhere to be found). If he had had his way in the Garden, the mob would have only seized Jesus over his dead body.

Peter is a warning to the strong, not the weak. He was overconfident; the others might turn traitor, but he wouldn’t (14.29). He didn’t need to watch and pray in the Garden. He didn’t need to pray, *“Lead me not into temptation.”*

We should never underestimate our weakness. We should never see how close we can get to the edge without going over. If Peter played a leading role in the early church (which he did), it wasn’t because he earned it by loyalty under fire. It was by grace, pure and simple.

There but for the grace of God go I.

Kenny Chumbley

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

1 Corinthians 10:12

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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Sunday A.M. 10:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

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BIBLE CLASSES:

SUNDAY MORNING

BILL MILLER-AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY 7 PM

JIM STAUFFER-MINOR PROPHETS

SUNDAY SERMON:

GUEST SPEAKER



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