

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

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

APRIL 7, 2024

UNDERSTANDING CONTENTMENT

Jim Stauffer

But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. (1 Timothy 6:6–8) There is much to be said about being content in this life. There is less anxiety and unrest in the life of one who can be satisfied with his needs cared for. The apostle Paul expresses his ability to be satisfied with that which sustains him. *But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. (Philippians 4:10–12)* He urged the Corinthians to trust in God to care for them as they cared for needy brethren. His message to them was that God will enable you to have the sufficiency to help those you see in need (**2 Cor. 9:6-9**). And, of course, the Hebrew writer confirms God's loyalty to us if we refrain from the love of money (**Heb. 13:5,6**).

Contentment in the Scriptures pertains to material matters to guide us away from being covetous. Having been saved by the gospel (**Romans 1:16**), we become saints, children of God, who are set apart from the common world and consecrated to the One Who sits at God's right hand (**Acts 2:32-36**). When we become obsessed with financial and other worldly matters and strive to achieve more and more wealth or material security, we are distracted from our spiritual

responsibilities and soon gravitate toward all the evil selfishness can bring.

We then, must as the Corinthians did, use our material possessions to serve the Lord's causes, such as helping the needy both materially and spiritually. We must be sure we are supporters of the gospel in every way. We cannot be satisfied to give what we place in the collection basket on Sunday, but instead consider all the people who need the gospel and all the ways we can assist those who take it to them.

When we consider the apostle Paul as an example, we see one whose plan was always to be teaching the lost wherever he found himself. He tells the Philippians, *All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. (Philippians 4:22)* How do you suppose those members of Caesar's household became Christians? If ever one should have rested on his laurels or shrank from preaching the gospel out of depression, here was one who was content even in prison. As a result of his contentment with his personal situation he was able to focus on his spiritual responsibilities.

Let me encourage all brethren across this country of ours to give less attention to your well being materially and realize your capability to preach and teach the word or if unable to do that, give financial support to those who do. And yes, to do so above and beyond your weekly contribution to the Lord's cause.

When you achieve contentment in this earthly life, you too will be able to be give your attention to glorifying God with your ability to contribute to the cause.

Forgiveness (6th / final in a series)

Since we are to forgive others *“just as God in Christ also hath forgiven you”* (Eph. 4:32), it seems very appropriate to study how God forgives. We’ve learned that He 1) is willing to forgive, 2) is ‘aggressive’ in forgiving us, 3) places conditions on us in order to be forgiven, 4) forgives absolutely, 5) forgives permanently, and 6) forgives repeatedly. We should imitate Him in all these ways when others sin against us.

Finally, let us observe that forgiveness does not always remove all the consequences of our misdeeds. Some examples will illustrate our meaning:

1) A man is abusive of his wife and children. For years he is negligent and mean. Finally he ‘comes to himself’, repents, and asks their forgiveness. They forgive him, but it is unreasonable to imagine that his family will ever be rid of the terrible scars that have been inflicted. He is forgiven, by his family and by God, but that family has been changed forever by his wrongs.

2) Another man cheats on his wife. Thankfully he realizes how horribly he has sinned against her and God. He begs forgiveness, and it is granted by both. But things are not the same as before he made those wicked choices. She decides to divorce him (her rightful choice). He is forgiven, but he must live alone the rest of his life.

3) In a moment of uncontrolled rage, a man strikes another. The blow inflicts a mortal wound. He is arrested, convicted, sentenced. He mourns, repents, and seeks forgiveness. Can he be forgiven? Of course! But he must still suffer the consequences of his deed.

Forgiveness is a wonderful thing - but, how much better to live so as to limit the need to approach God and man seeking it.

by Greg Gwin

Give Me This Mountain

Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there; and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said (Joshua 14:12).

Caleb is eighty-five years old and is about to be given

the inheritance that was promised to him forty-five years earlier (**Joshua 14:6-13, Numbers 14:21-24**). His inheritance is Hebron, now occupied by a strong and fierce people who must be driven out. He faces a tremendous task yet his trust in God for the strength and courage to be able to drive the Anakims out is so great, he is not afraid to jump right into this great task. Caleb’s attitude, if the Lord is with me, I shall be able, is a soul stirring thought for you and I to consider today.

Sometimes in this life, we too, face some formidable tasks. There are times when we feel tired and weary because the cares and burdens of this life weigh so heavily on our shoulders. Times when disappointments, failures, pain and heartache become our companion. Times when a feeling of loneliness sweeps down over our soul bringing with it loneliness and emptiness that strikes deep into our heart. Thanks be to God, the faithful child of God is never alone and because of that, there is nothing that strikes our human frame that cannot be overcome with the help of him with whom we have to do (**Hebrews 13:5-6, Romans 8:26-28, 31, 35-39, Hebrews 4:13-16**). As a faithful child of God, we can with the greatest of confidence say, *“Give me this mountain, the Lord will be with me.”* **Psalms 118:6, The Lord is on my side, I will not fear—Psalms 56:11, In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid—Isaiah 12:2, Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and song.** If a spirit of fear dominates us, then we will fail; if a feeling of dread is with us every day, if a feeling of inadequacy takes residency in our heart, if we develop a defeatist attitude, then we are doomed to failure.

As we face the mountains of this life, we must keep our eyes glued on the goal set before us (**Philippians 3:13-14**). Our eyes must be fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (**Hebrews 12:1-3**). Paul gives us some great advice in **Colossians 3:1-3** when he says, *“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”*

I find comfort and peace in a passage from **Psalms 34:17-19**, *“The righteous cry and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”* I suppose that in a feeble way, what I am trying to say is simply this: so long

as God is with us, there is absolutely nothing on the face of this earth that can prevail against us. There is no limit to the power of God, his hand is never shortened, we can safely leave it all in his hands (**Psalms 55:22, 1 Peter 5:6-7, Psalms 23**). To God be the glory forever and forever!

Charles Hicks, Gallatin Tennessee
Swabbie5256@gmail.com

*Found this in my files and thought it well expressed
but did not have an author attributed*

“WOULD I BE A BETTER PERSON IF I WENT TO CHURCH?”

To answer the question, “Would I be a better person if I went to church?”, we must back up and start with a more basic question. “**Does God want me to go to church?**” Sometimes the best way to answer a question is to ask related questions that lead us to the proper answer.

Does God exist? The evidence in the intelligent design of the universe and the evidence in the Bible answers, “Yes.” **Genesis 1:1** is true.

Is the Bible the Word of God? The evidence in the Bible itself answers, “Yes.” For instance, the Bible was written over a period of several hundred years by many different authors, and yet it tells a perfectly unified story of God’s plan to save man from sin through Jesus Christ. There is not a single contradiction in all the Bible. The Bible gave many prophecies concerning ancient nations and concerning the coming of Christ, and all of them have been perfectly fulfilled. The only possible explanation is the one given in **2 Timothy 3:16-17**.

Is Jesus Christ the Son of God? The evidence given in the Bible clearly answers, “Yes.” Many prophecies of him were given hundreds of years before he came, and every one of them was perfectly fulfilled. For instance, the Savior was promised through the seed or descendants of Abraham, to be born of a virgin, and to be born in Bethlehem (**Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2**). Read **Matthew chapters 1-2** to see the fulfillment. Also, he did many miracles which are recorded, and not even his enemies could ever deny this even when they hated him for rebuking their sins. Read **John 20:30-31**. Also, he arose from the grave.

Read **Matthew 28**. Yes, he is truly the Son of God and Savior of the world.

Have we sinned against God, against His Word, and against His Son? Yes, we all know we have.
Read **Romans 3:23**.

After Jesus died as the perfect sacrifice for our sins and arose from the grave, what did he teach us to do to have our sins forgiven? He teaches we must believe in him (**John 3:16**), repent of our sins (**Luke 13:3**), confess him as God’s Son (**Matthew 10:32-33**), and be immersed in water by his authority (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**).

What does God’s Word teach us to do after we are baptized? We are to learn all the other things Jesus teaches (**Matthew 28:20**). Through his Apostles, Jesus teaches us to gather with God’s people and to worship God (**Acts 2:42; 20:7; Hebrews 10:23-25**). This helps us to grow spiritually (**2 Peter 1:5-11**). In this way, we thank, praise, and glorify God, and encourage each other to be better Christians (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16-17**).

God created us to love, serve, and obey Him. He blesses our obedience, but our disobedience brings us to punishment and destruction. God plainly teaches there is a heaven where we will spend eternity loving and serving Him, and there is a hell where we will spend eternity in torment with Satan. God does not force anyone to obey Him, but there are consequences to obedience and to disobedience. We must make the choice.

Anvil Sparks
R.L. Whiteside

All evidence goes to show that the reverse of evolution is true, For instance, we have all seen men making monkeys of themselves, but no one ever saw a monkey making a man of himself.

Evolutionists claim that our tonsils are the remnants of the gills of our fish ancestors. Well, I knew all the time that there was something fishy about evolution.

Darwinism teaches the survival of the fit; the gospel teaches the revival of the unfit.

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. 9:00 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:00 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

Elders:

Ron Peck

Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Troy Armstrong

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-620-0563

Check out the following websites

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER ALMA
BAUMGARTNER, BROOKLYN BOYER,
DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY,
WAYNE MOODY, BOB OWEN, PAT
MCCLOUD, ELLIE GOLDSTON, WINNIE
RAWSON, GENE MCCLUNG, ZACH
FLAXBEARD, JORDAN MOODY, JADE
BLOUNT, DALE AND TRACY
RICHARDSON AND SCOTT
LINDEMAN

BIBLE CLASSES:

SUNDAY MORNING

BILL MILLER-AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY 7 PM

JIM STAUFFER-MINOR PROPHETS

SUNDAY SERMON: JUDGES 21:25



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