

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

March 31, 2024

LOVE NOT THE WORLD

Jim Stauffer

We live in a world where everyone believes he has the right to enjoy his life in any way he chooses. Our nation is trying its best to accommodate that as we make nearly everything legal.

We legalize alcohol for consumption even though the statistics tell us many people die each year due to its effects, whether by disease, by driving an automobile under the influence or just plain violence against another while intoxicated.

We legalize marijuana even though statistics again present a picture of its effects on the lives of the people who use it as well as those associated with them. Again it alters the normal intentions of an individual and competes with his normally healthy drive to be a good and complete person.

We legalize abortion even though we know the baby in the womb is alive. This has been clearly proven by all medical knowledge available. A nation that abhors the mistreatment of dogs and cats encourages young women to abort babies. Get this straight, we encourage killing human beings because they are inconvenient to the mother or father and we do it because those adults are entitled to enjoy life to its fullest rather than being tied down to caring for this child which will indeed demand sacrifice on their part.

We encourage society from the very youngest among us to adults to accept the fact that mankind has chosen an abominable lifestyle in homosexuality as God has said. And further we tag all who try to teach what God has said as being hateful rather than warning someone of the dangers in both this life and the one to come. All this in the name of pleasure and enjoyment to which we say

one has a right.

To the Christian I say this with all encouragement. God wants us to enjoy life. But He wants us to learn to enjoy that which is good and righteous. A child of God can and will be happier sacrificing in this life to conduct himself in righteous living and sacrificial service to the Savior Who died for him than he would be serving self at the cost of all those around him.

When is the last time we saw someone in a mental institution because they made personal sacrifices to help someone else.

And ask yourself what feels better, doting on self or actually helping someone in need. I submit to you the human soul knows no greater joy than service to others. This is not a church thing, although those who serve Him are indeed members of the church He purchased with His blood. It is discipleship where we have been changed and transformed so we no longer conform ourselves to the world and its value system, but rather to the demands of righteous living which God teaches us for the enhancement and enrichment of our souls.

So, with that, let me remind each of us who strive to be obedient servants of the King of Kings, *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:13–16

Forgiveness (5th in a series)

We have been taught to forgive others *“just as God in Christ also hath forgiven you”* (Eph. 4:32), and so we have been looking at the specifics of God’s forgiveness. We’ve observed that He is ready, even anxious to forgive, but His forgiveness is granted when we meet the conditions set forth in Scripture. Once He forgives, the forgiveness is absolute and permanent. In all of these things, we should imitate our God. Furthermore . . .

It is simply amazing that God is willing to forgive us over and over – even when the same offenses are repeated again and again. The apostle John wrote, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9).

Note that these words were penned to those who were already Christians – those who had already been forgiven by God – yet the promise is that he will forgive even more. This ongoing willingness of God to extend additional forgiveness is incredible. And, we have been taught to do the same. When Peter asked Jesus, *“how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?”*, he probably thought he was being generous when he suggested *“till seven times?”* But Jesus said *“I say not unto thee, until seven times: but, until seventy times seven”* (Matthew 18:21-22). This is surely a hard thing, but God extends that sort of forgiveness to us, and we should to one another.

It is clear that our Father never grows bitter against us and never ‘nurses a grudge’, and neither can we. Grudge holding is a sin (James 5:9), and we have been ordered to rid ourselves of bitterness (Ephesians 4:31). There is no room for these things in the heart of one who seeks to forgive like God does.
(concluded next week)

by Greg Gwin

WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

By Jefferson David Tant

An old saying says there are only two things that are certain—death and taxes. And there is much truth in that. Something in today’s paper got my mind thinking about one of those certainties —death. And what about death? The word “legacy” came to mind, so I looked up its meaning: *“An amount of money or property left to someone in a will.”* Is that it? Is that really all that we

leave behind when we die? By that definition, when a poor person dies, there is nothing left. Oh, but there is something left, something that is far more meaningful than earthly possessions.

What prompted my thinking about this was reading about the death in Nashville of Willie Maupin. He is survived by 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren and 1 great-great-great grandchild. That’s 55 descendants in 5 generations! He was 99 years old. I’m pretty sure that Willie did not leave a vast fortune to be distributed to his offspring, but there is something that should be of far greater value than money or property.

The Bible frequently refers to various individuals’ deaths. Among those is Abraham’s death. *“Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people.”* (Gen. 25:8) How was he *“satisfied with life?”* Was it not because he had served God faithfully all the days of his life? Note God’s promise to Abraham. *“No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.”* (Gen. 17:5) It is obvious that God knew Abraham’s heart.

In giving a charge to Israel, God said: *“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.”* (Deut. 4:9) Note they were to make God’s will *“known to your sons and your grandsons.”*

There is no greater nor more valuable legacy that parents can leave for their children than a life lived in service to God. As I consider my own family history, we are now the fourth generation of those who are serving God since the lineage started with my grandparents, J. D. and Nannie Yater Tant, and Oscar Lorenzo and “E” Gotto, with the fifth generation now growing up.

Dear reader, as you consider your life and what you will leave behind when you die, what legacy will you leave? It’s not wrong to leave things of this world to benefit your descendants, but there is nothing greater than leaving a legacy of faithful service to God. And you need not wait until---*whenever*. Some years ago, we had a very devout older couple with us. They were an asset to the congregation. But they waited “too late.” They did not give diligence in serving God until their children were

older, and as I recall, not one of their five children were faithful Christians. We are preparing our “legacy” every day that we live. Don’t put it off until “tomorrow.”

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4). And mothers, follow the example Paul mentioned to Timothy; *“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grand-mother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.” (II Tim. 1:5)*

Denominationalism

Doy Moyer

Denominationalism today is not just about one particular doctrine, but it is about a mindset that relates to how we think about the Lord’s body. Denominational thinking perceives the church (universal) as comprised of an interconnected web of congregations instead of seeing the church as comprised of individual Christians without respect to time or location. Christians today are in the same body as Paul and Peter. They are the *“the assembly (church) of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven” (Heb 12:23)*. Local churches are also comprised of individual Christians, and each congregation exists as a lamp stand that is accountable to the Lord. Within each group there may be those who are doing right and those who are doing wrong, as **Revelation 2-3** demonstrates. In other words, having your name on a local church directory does not guarantee your salvation, and a congregation listed in a directory somewhere is no guarantee that the lamp stand won’t be removed.

But to critique denominationalism and then turn around and argue as if the church is made up of a bunch of similar congregations is to betray the concept. Each congregation should be scripturally evaluated on its own terms and each Christian should be seeking to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Yet to expect to find the flawless congregation is naive. As many problems as Corinth had, they were still called the *“church of God that is in Corinth” (1 Cor 1:2)*. That didn’t mean they could be satisfied with the problems, and they were given instructions to correct them, but the Lord is patient and gives time to repent. Be patient, be zealous, and seek the welfare of God’s people everywhere.

What is knowledge?

Opinion is from the Latin word that means “to think.” As commonly used, an opinion is a belief we hold that others need not share. Sometimes people who disagree with us will say, “That’s just your opinion,” even though we think we have very good reasons for believing as we do. We might say, “I believe it, but I wouldn’t swear to it,” which means we’re not 100 percent certain about a belief.

Is there really such a thing as knowledge that is distinct from opinion?

Maybe the way to answer is by asking: is $2 + 2 = 5$ a matter of opinion or knowledge? Is the statement “nothing comes from nothing” a matter of opinion or knowledge? What about the proposition that the moon is made of green cheese—opinion or knowledge?

The Greek philosophers believed there were some matters about which men can have genuine knowledge, and they defined such matters this way: “It is knowledge when the thing we are thinking about compels us to think of it in a certain way.” “The Cubs are the best team in baseball”—many people on the Northside of Chicago believe this, but there’s nothing that forces them to believe it; they choose to believe it. However, Cub fans (except for a few fanatics, Cubs’ fans can be that way), believe the “whole is greater than any of its parts,” because logic forces them to this conclusion.

Knowledge is that which reflects reality, the real world, whether known by reason or the discovery of facts. We know when our ideas accurately apprehend reality. Knowledge isn’t a starting point but a result (**Jn. 8.31–32**) toward which we grow (**2 Pet. 3.18**). And how do we grow in knowledge? By constantly checking our apprehensions against the reality we are coming to know.

Kenny Chumbley

Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. For, “ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.” And this is the word which was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:22–25)

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

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BIBLE CLASSES:

SUNDAY MORNING

BILL MILLER-AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY 7 PM

JIM STAUFFER-MINOR PROPHETS

SUNDAY SERMON: THE MESSAGE

OF SALVATION



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