

Second, it could be that he has done an effective job of showing what God has said on the matter. And after all, isn't that why God has instructed men to "reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." (2 Tim. 4:2)

Our **Spring Gospel Meeting** will be **May 2 through May 7 at 7:30 P.M. Mike Collier** will be presenting the lessons. Most will remember just a few years ago when Mike and Tina and the children were members here. He has spoken here on several occasions and we look forward to hearing a series of lessons designed to assist us in our walk with Him.



February 28, 2010

### HOSPITALITY REQUIRES UNSELFISHNESS Jim Stauffer

In Hebrews 13:2 the writer says, "Forget not to show love unto strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Every time I read that, the picture of Abraham and his response to the three men whose visit to him is described in Genesis 18 comes to mind.

Abraham was quick to respond to their needs. He gave them food prepared by him and his wife, Sarah. Quite an aggressive response on his part. By the way, when was the last time you had strangers drop by and you told your wife to go to the kitchen and prepare them a meal? Bet you slept on the couch that night, eh?

Well that is a microcosm of the problem I hope to explain in the next few words. Why should it be that way? Why wouldn't we and our wives be happy to prepare whatever was needed for strangers who visit us? Isn't that the point of the passage in Hebrews? It would be difficult to conclude anything else. This story of Abraham illustrates his unselfish nature. An attribute all children of God should possess.

The Bible is replete with lessons about unselfishness. Jesus teaches us to avoid the attraction of wealth throughout the Sermon on the Mount.

The early Christians pooled their resources to provide the necessities of life for all.

Paul records a story of unselfishness for us in 1&2 Corinthians and Romans when he speaks of the Gentiles of Asia Minor sending money to their brethren in Judea to help them endure hardships.

In each of these cases we are speaking of giving of our material resources for the benefit of others. This is good and must be done willingly when needed.

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Send a Copy to a Friend

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 Jim Stauffer

**MEETING TIMES**  
 Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM  
 Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM  
 Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

**Lenexa church of Christ**

We, however live in a different society with different circumstances. It is rare when we see a brother or sister destitute as James mentions in chapter 2:15.

What we often find instead are brethren so wrapped up in the affairs of this life they find themselves destitute of a relationship with their brothers and sisters in Christ.

We find them in need of the one thing most precious to us. Our time.

Listen carefully to the Apostle Peter in **1 Pet. 4:7-10**, ***“The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. <sup>8</sup> Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to one another without complaint. <sup>10</sup> As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”***

Having a fervent love for brethren and practicing hospitality by ministering among ourselves, will demand we sacrifice the use of our time.

It will mean there are things I do each day at a regular interval that will have to sometimes be put aside so I can minister to the needs of a brother or sister. Situations will demand my immediate attention and cause me to drop what I am doing and go to my brethren.

Some things are time sensitive. The mother whose child is hurt at play stops what she is doing to attend to the child now. When our brother is troubled, when he has a need, scheduling a visit to him at our convenience may well be too late. We, like the mother, need to give the necessary attention now and finish our personal affairs later.

There is one other aspect of this statement by the Apostle that bears further consideration. When brethren do not have the fervent love for each other that Peter commands we often do not even know the needs of our brethren.

John says, “My little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth.” (1 Joh. 3:18)

If we have this love, the unselfishness that leads to hospitality and to the love of the brethren will be no problem at all.

### **SELF CONTROL**

What is the value of self-control? Self-control is that which enables us to hold our tongues when we are tempted to viciously put someone in his place once and for all; or when we know a juicy bit of gossip that would be entertaining to the group and would turn us into the “life of the party”; or when an occasion almost demands that we betray a confidence that must not be betrayed under any circumstances.

Self-control is that which enables us to control our passions when another is provoking us to anger; that keeps the clenched fists in the pockets when the agitator is only half our size; that keeps the lips sealed when another is railing and swearing at us.

Self-control is that which enables us to be like our Lord “who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, he did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Pet. 2:23).

Self-control is that which enables us to maintain purity of heart and to thrust out evil thoughts before they can take root; that enables us to place the best possible construction on another person’s actions when unproven rumors could easily destroy our confidence in him; that helps us to maintain a cheerful disposition when everything around us has turned sour. Self-control is that which enables us to love the unlovable and to hate that which the world loves.

Self-control is that which enables us to rule our appetites; to say “no” when our lusts would lead us to sin or when that which is harmful to our health is placed before us. Self-control is that which enables the smoker to put down his cigarettes and the alcoholic to put down his drink and never return to it. Self-control is that which enables us to rule rather than to be enslaved.

The Bible does not glorify the indifferent and impassive. It is not our goal to be uncaring. To be like Paul, we must be able to have our spirit stirred within us when we are surrounded by evil (Acts 17:16). To be like our Lord, we must sometimes feel anger when surrounded by hypocritical self-righteousness (Mark 3:5); we must even react with occasional outbursts of goodness on occasions, as when the Lord cleansed the temple (John 2:13-17). But, all such outbursts must be tempered with self-control, that in our anger we “do not sin” (Eph. 4:26).

God does not view our uncontrolled actions with amusement. Our temper tantrums and harsh, unbridled words are soul threatening, a potential bar to the abundant entrance into the Lord’s everlasting kingdom (2 Peter 1:5-11). We must not minimize the danger. We must not surrender to this evil.

What is the value of self-control? It is one of the qualities that enable us to go to heaven. The possessor of it is rich indeed.

**- by Bill Hall**

Have you ever really considered the situation objectively when you think the preacher is aiming his lesson directly at you? There is every reason to believe that two factors are involved.

First it is very likely you need to hear the message he is preaching. It may be that you are either guilty of the sin or error that he is discussing or that you have other reasons to hear this message. Such reasons as you may know someone who is guilty and should have been corrected by you or others. If so, there is a good chance for the word of God to have its way in your life or that of another.