



THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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

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BEING WARY OF WORLDLY INFLUENCE

Jim Stauffer

When John teaches us to *love not the world*, he is concerned with the temptation to follow the lead of worldly minds in the conduct of our lives. Paul is concerned about the same concept of worldly influence when he says, *bad company corrupts good morals* (1 Cor. 15:33).

When we contrast this teaching with that of Peter, **1 Pet. 1:15** *but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."* and Paul, **Eph. 5:1** *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*, we can see our guidance is to come from God, Christ and the Holy Spirit as we pattern our lives after righteousness.

This has come to mind with the crude and ugly speech that has dominated the election process this year. I am not even suggesting the candidates have not spoken the truth about each other. The concern is more with the manner and attitude with which those things have been said. By the way, this does not only apply to those at the top of each ticket but also the candidates down ballot, who have been just as disrespectful in many cases.

We understand the teaching of Scripture that condemns such conduct, *love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*, is the command of the Lord. He says when we do we will be, *perfect* (complete), *as your heavenly Father is perfect* (Mat. 5:43ff). We are further instructed by the apostle Peter to add certain attributes to our faith in our spiritual growth. Among those are self-control, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. One can hardly claim possession of these as he gives his fellow man such shabby treatment as we have witnessed in these campaigns.

You ask then, "What is the concern? What can we do?" the answer, of course, is to be sure we do what we are supposed to do. There is little doubt when people of supposed high stature socially, who carry sufficient reputation to be heard by the nation, conduct

themselves this way, many will follow their lead. In many cases civility will devolve into disrespect for one another simply because we disagree on political matters.

If we are to be the *salt of the earth* and *the light of the world*, we must learn to act rather than react. By doing some can fulfill our responsibility to prevent such conduct from spreading to the common man.

Many are concerned about the moral direction of our country. We can only influence the moral code of our nation by affecting one person at a time. While I cannot sway the nation as a whole I can teach my neighbor with the word of God and the example of my life. If we all wield the influence with those we know we will have done our part. We are instructed to put on the armor of God. **Eph. 6:14** *Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* Paul says there is a reason, **Eph. 6:13** *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.*

Something needs to be done. God's children need to live exemplary before the world in order to have an influence over it.

We must avoid the angry and ugly discourse of the world. **Col. 4:6** *Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.* Then let us show them the love the Lord has for all mankind and allow them to see Him working in us. **Phil. 2:12** *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

Why No Miracles Today, Conclusion

For the last several weeks we have examined miracles and their place in Christianity, specifically, “Did they occur as recorded in the Scriptures?” Yes! And, “Do men work miracles today as they were recorded doing in the Scriptures?” No! I pointed out that we do not deny God’s power but are simply explaining the will of God. He could grow apples on a barbed wire fence if He so desired, but doesn’t. An argument based on **Acts 8** helps explain this.

In **Acts 8** Phillip has brought the Gospel to Samaria and many men and women are obedient, **vs. 12**. When Jerusalem heard about it they sent Peter and John. Why? *“When they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: for as yet it was fallen upon none of them: only they had been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Vs 15f)* What happened? They laid their hands on them and gave them the Holy Spirit. Question: Why didn’t Phillip do that and save the Apostles the trip? Because, as *“Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given.” (Vs 18)* Phillip could not do it, he was no apostle.

Since the Apostles were the only ones who could bestow the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands and there are no apostles alive today it follows necessarily that the Holy Spirit is not given in that sense today. That is: Men do no miraculous works today by the power of the Holy Spirit. Why? Because they are absolutely unnecessary! We have the word of God in the New Testament Scriptures and that is sufficient to produce saving faith. (**Romans 10:17 & Luke 8:11**)

Cleveland Reddinger

Temporary Home Michael Hickox

James 4:13-14: *Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

Those who desire to please God should be described as *“strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13; cf. 1 Peter 2:11)*, living for something beyond the here and now. Such should not be difficult when we consider how brief our time on earth is.

The title of a famous song summarizes the brevity of our lives on earth very well. The song is titled “Temporary Home.”

Before experiencing physical death, it can be easy to look at this life and think that things will continue as they have for a seemingly long time. It can seem almost

“surreal” to imagine our lives on earth ending, much less the earth itself being burned up (**2 Peter 3:10-11**). Yet, the Holy Spirit teaches that *“it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27)*. Our lives on earth will end at some point, and we must prepare.

When our souls have arrived at their eternal destination, be it *“everlasting punishment”* with the devil and his angels or *“life eternal”* with God (**Matthew 25:46**), we will realize that our time on earth was short, and all that mattered was whether or not we chose to serve God the best we could.

This view of life causes so much of what people dedicate their time to to seem foolish.

Why dedicate one’s life to fulfilling temporal purposes that won’t matter for eternity? Why focus our lives on building material wealth, when the earth will be burned up? Why seek to gratify the flesh in ways that will cause us to be in a furnace of fire forever?

Why focus on “winning” arguments to temporarily feed our egos at the risk of losing our soul for eternity? Why let fear of having a temporarily uncomfortable discussion with someone hinder us from pointing out things that could save their soul?

The answer to any of these questions, be it the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life, are all answers of foolishness. But they are all examples of prioritizing temporary wants ahead of eternal needs. A Christian can sing “This World Is Not My Home” every Sunday morning, but if he or she is treating life as though all of the temporary things the world deems as important are what matters, he or she is treating this temporary home as a permanent home.

Those who *“died in faith” (Hebrews 11:13)* saw their lives from a very different perspective. They suffered a number of hardships that make what Christians go through today seem light. They had no unfair advantage that made their lives easier than ours, but they realized that obeying was much more important than temporary circumstances.

This is the view of those who remember continuously that this world is our temporary home. Because it is our temporary home, we must ask ourselves each day, “what will be eternally profitable?” instead of only asking “what will profit me today?” or “what will profit me on this earth?” The right answer to what is eternally profitable is clear (**Colossians 3:17**).

May we all realize the foolishness of setting our affection on temporary things of this earth. May we instead devote our lives to God’s everlasting purpose, seeking to serve Him and dwell with Him for eternity.

***Taken from the Sincere Milk of the God’s Word
the sinceremilkofgod’sword.com***

U.S. Presidents on Islam

by Dave Miller, Ph.D.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

“You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and **above all, the religion of Jesus Christ**. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are. Congress will do everything they can to assist you in this wise intention.”¹

“While we are zealously performing the duties of good Citizens and soldiers we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of Religion. To the distinguished Character of Patriot, **it should be our highest Glory to add the more distinguished Character of Christian.**”²

THOMAS JEFFERSON AND JOHN ADAMS

“We took the liberty to make some inquiries concerning the grounds of their pretensions to make war upon nations who had done them no injury, and observed that we considered all mankind as our Friends who had done us no wrong, nor had given us any provocation. The Ambassador answered us that it was founded on **the laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Koran** that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that **it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as prisoners**; and **that every Musselman who should be slain in battle was sure to go to Paradise.**”³

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

“In the seventh century of the Christian era, a wandering Arab of the lineage of Hagar, the Egyptian, combining the powers of transcendent genius, with the preternatural energy of a fanatic, and **the fraudulent spirit of an impostor**, proclaimed himself as a messenger from Heaven, and **spread desolation and delusion over an extensive portion of the earth**. Adopting from the sublime conception of the Mosaic law, the doctrine of one omnipotent God; he connected indissolubly with it, **the audacious falsehood, that he was himself his prophet and apostle**.... [H]e declared **undistinguishing and exterminating war**, as a part of his religion, against all the rest of mankind.... **The precept of the koran is, perpetual war against all who deny, that Mahomet is the prophet of God.**”⁴

BARACK OBAMA

“Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism—it is an important part of promoting peace.”⁵

ENDNOTES

¹ George Washington (1779), “Speech to the Delaware Chiefs,” in *The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources 1745-1799*, ed. John C. Fitzpatrick, 15:55, emp. added, <http://preview.tinyurl.com/Washington-G-1779>. The author assumes that Washington’s belief in the priority of the Christian religion would apply to the Muslim as well as the Native American.

² George Washington (1778), “General Orders, May 2, 1778,” *George Washington Papers at the Library of Congress*, emp. added, <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mgw3&fileName=mgw3g/gwpage003.db&recNum=181>. Again, it is assumed that, if Washington considered being a Christian a person’s highest glory, being a Muslim would not be so considered.

³ “American Peace Commissioners to John Jay” (1786), *The Thomas Jefferson Papers Series 1. General Correspondence. 1651-1827*, Library of Congress, March 28, <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mtj.mtjbib001849>. The letter refers to Jefferson and Adam’s meeting with the Ambassador from the Muslim country of Tripoli.

⁴ Joseph Blunt (1830), *The American Annual Register for the Years 1827-8-9* (New York: E. & G.W. Blunt), 29:269, emp. added, <http://www.archive.org/stream/p1americanannual29blunuoft>.

⁵ Barack Obama (2009), “Remarks by the President on a New Beginning,” The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt, June 4, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-cairo-university-6-04-09>.

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Editor’s note: It is not our intent for these brief articles to become incendiary; rather to show when our country was founded, those to whom we have often given the highest regard demonstrated by their comments they believed God and Christ of the Bible were intended to be the guiding light of the lives of men and would so be if allowed entrance into the heart of any man, regardless of who he was or from what corner of the earth he came.

Salvation is offered by the God in heaven. It is offered to all men because all men are lost in sin. It has then, the power to save all men regardless of who they are and what sin they have committed prior to being cleansed by the blood of Christ. Just as surely, no other religion or plan can save the souls of men who were created by the God of heaven who now offers the hope of eternal life.

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*”

Eph. 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

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

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NEWS AND NOTES:

REMEMBER THOSE ON THE PRAYER LIST: J.R. DANIEL, JAN PATRICK, STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP AND RICK AND EULA HARRIS ARE MOURNING THE DEATH OF RICK'S BROTHER.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
A STUDY OF PRAYER - RON PECK

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS:
THE BOOK OF ROMANS
JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY EVENING SERMON: NOW
THE DEEDS OF THE FLESH ARE
EVIDENT: IMMORALITY



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