



# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

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

December  
4  
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## THOSE INCONVENIENT DETAILS

Jim Stauffer

Ever had a discussion with someone on any subject where strong opinions varied and defenses for positions were often just emotional rants about how one thinks things ought to be?

I have and have also been one of those who express an opinion based on emotion that I believed was sound reason. I am a college football fan. So, when the first grouping of 4 teams for the championship playoff were announced I was disappointed and immediately forged an argument against one of the teams. My complaint was that Ohio State (don't be upset, Buckeye fans) was selected in spite of the fact they had not won either their division in the Big Ten but as a result they would not be eligible to win the Big Ten Championship. This seemed unfair to me and so my rant was in full power. The problem with my argument is the committee had no such criteria where a team had to win its own conference to qualify. That did not matter to me, it just wasn't right in my mind.

That is exactly what I mean by those sticky little details that often determine the correct answer in a discussion. If we are not careful, our emotions begin to rule our intellect and we make a lot of noise in defense of our position without any real substantive evidence.

For a long time now men have discussed just how our Universe came about and how the animals all the way up to mankind came to be. Emotion has often been the engine behind both sides of this discussion. What we have to honor though are some of those sticky details.

Believers in God have for years made very rational defenses of the existence of God. He is their answer to such questions as, "Who is the cause behind the effect we see in the world around us"? There has to have been a force with sufficient power to place all of this in the ordered system it currently exists. To this everyone agrees. Now we must determine what that power is.

There are some things men have learned from a study of the Universe that enables them to give rational consideration to certain arguments. Scientists now know there is a limited amount of energy in our Universe. It

will not of its own power create any more than currently exists. They further understand from their knowledge concerning energy, it can be converted from one source to another, but still this only reduces the original amount available for transfer. It does not add to the original total of energy. As a result they have concluded that the natural processes of our Universe lead not to greater and higher forms of organization but to a deterioration of organization. They call this entropy.

In spite of this knowledge they press on and put forth the idea that a living organism somewhere at sometime mutated in order to better survive its current environment. These mutations continued and changes in the organism continued on such a long and large scale that one species mutated into another and so forth until you have us standing here arguing about football playoffs in 2016.

Science clearly tells us this cannot be the answer. It simply cannot happen. No one has ever observed such a thing and reported on it to others of his generation. But their objection to an omnipotent God who could have and did create all this we see and are a part of is so strong they will overlook those sticky details to avoid submission to such a God.

**Gen. 1** tells us, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* **Gen. 1:26** says, *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness....* **John chapter 1** and **Colossians 1** both teach Jesus was a part of the God who created all these things.

God recognized man would need evidence of His power to believe in Him. The powerful workings of God are recorded not only in the Bible but in the writings of the current generations in which they occurred. He destroyed the earth with a great flood (**Gen. 6-9**). He completely controlled the powers of the heavens and earth in the 10 plagues carried out against Egypt as He delivered His people from the oppression of Pharaoh. These events were spoken of by the generations who lived at the time they occurred. Archaeology has

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provided evidence of events described in the Bible. For many years men denied the existence of Sargon of Assyria, of Belshazzar of Babylon, The Hittite nation and on and on it goes. Yet, here comes the archaeologist and digs up evidence of each and every one of these things the Bible simply states as facts in the story of the Israelites.

These then become more of those sticky details that simply do not fit the story science often tries to put forth.

Time will march on. There have been other complaints about Biblical stories and their verity and as has been thus far, the Bible story will never be controverted as has been the case up to now.

It is time for me to accept Ohio State into the playoff just as the evolutionist should admit his position is without basis in history or the many fields of science.

Al Gore used the title *AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH* to set forth his theory on climate change. The evolutionist needs to acknowledge those inconvenient details in the discussion of the origin of this Universe.

## Take the Long Term View

People today, and I include myself in this number, seem obsessed with getting things done quickly. Why spend two hours doing something when you can get similar results in 30 minutes? It's a 'no-brainer', right? Well, all things being equal, yes. The problem is that often all things are not equal and we become blinded by the quick fix and ignore the importance of taking the long-term view.

For example take a person who has been injured and laid up for a while or one who has back problems. With the onset of excruciating pain the only desire is for the relief of the pain so we take a painkiller, and thank God for them! But that is only a short term solution. It doesn't FIX the PROBLEM! The long term solution is exercising the back to prevent the problem (me) or physical therapy to get one back to where they once were. Both are painful. Both involve swallowing some pride. And they work!

The Scriptures are full of exhortations to take the long term view of things, most notably the first eleven verses of **Hebrews 12**. The eleventh verse states, *"All chastening seems for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yields peaceable fruit unto them that have been exercised thereby, even the fruit of righteousness."* In other words you put up with short term difficulties in order to enjoy long term blessings. Even Jesus did that according to verse two, enduring the cross to obtain the joy which came afterward. The writer encourages us to do the same. A wise man once said, "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to obtain that which he cannot lose." That is what you call taking the long term view.

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## The Lord Has A Church

**Bill Robinson, Jr.**

The Lord has a church in the New Testament. It is identified as a: body (**Ephesians 1:21-22**); household (**Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15**); temple (**Ephesians 2:20-21**); and kingdom (**Colossians 1:13**).

The church as a body is made up of members. *"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another"* (**Romans 12:4-5**). Thus, the Lord has a church (body) made up of members subordinate to Him as the *"head over all things to the church, which is His body..."* (**Ephesians 1:22-23**). Not a single thing pertaining to the body is to be done without the authority of Christ. - He is head over **all things** to the church. If all good people respected the authority of Christ in **all things** unity would prevail in the religious world and there would be no party (denominational) names. All who truly desire to serve Christ would unite under the name (authority) of Christ. *"For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"* (**Acts 4:12**). We could all be members of that same (one) body of which we read: *"Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body"* (**Ephesians 5:23**).

The church, this body, is a household indicating it is a familial relationship which it sustains to God. The Hebrew writer declared, *"Christ as a Son of God over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end"* (**3:6**). Thus, the New Testament teaches that the Lord's family is His church. The church, God's family, was established by the blood. God adopts us as his children when we conform our wills to do His will (**Ephesians 1:5-14; Romans 8:29-30**).

The church, the body, the house is also presented to us in the imagery of a temple. *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are"* (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17**). The word translated temple is a rich image to picture. The temple in the Old Testament was where Deity dwelt and where priests ministered and attended the altars of sacrifice and praise to God. The Lord has a temple (figuratively speaking) made up of priests, who minister and attend the altar according to direction of their High Priest who is Christ (**Hebrews 3:1**) and where the Spirit of God dwells (**Ephesians 2:20-23**) – it is the church of Christ.

Thus, only those who serve and worship God *"in spirit and in truth"* (**John 4:24**) comprise the temple of God.

Finally, the church, the body, the house, the temple is identified as the kingdom. Jesus as King of Kings

**(1 Timothy 6:15)** must have a kingdom. The perfect expression of that kingdom is found in the church. *“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Hebrews 12:28).* The Lord has a kingdom over which His rule is manifested and respected by those who are citizens of His kingdom – it is His church. For as His church is made up of the saved *“He has delivered [them] from the power of darkness and conveyed [them] into the kingdom...” (Colossians 1:13).*

Yes the Lord has a church and depending on what characteristic you want to discuss it is referred to in the New Testament as the body, family, temple and a kingdom. Yet, it is clear that whatever imagery we use one must be born again to enter into the body, family, and kingdom to serve as a priest in the temple of God **(1 Corinthians 12:13; John 3:3-5; Galatians 3:26-27)**. Have you been born again, baptized into Christ to have your sins washed away and forgiven? **(Colossians 2:12-13)**.

The New Testament makes it clear, the Lord has a church. Are you a member of the Lord’s church?  
*~via Power Talk; Lexington, Kentucky.*

### **Reject those who cause division... Titus 3:10-11**

**Titus 3:10** *Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.*

The work that Titus had been given was to set in order the things that were lacking on the Isle of Crete and to change the spiritual environment. The environment that he was assigned to work in was infested with the negative influence of Jewish false teachers who were teaching things that they ought not for dishonest gain **(Titus 1:10-11)**. It likewise consisted of a people who were known as liars, evil beast and lazy gluttons **(Titus 1:12)**; this accusation came from one of their own prophets (Epimenides) and Paul affirms that his testimony was true **(Titus 1:13)**.

**The tasks Titus was given within the before mentioned environment:** **1:5** ...ordain elders in every city, **1:11** ...stop the mouths of false teachers, **1:13** ... administer sharp rebuke, **1:14** ... to not give heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. **2:1-6** ...teach things that are consistent with sound doctrine; instruct the aged men and women to be an example and teach the young men and women how they were to behave, **2:7** ...show himself a pattern of good works, **2:9** ...exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, **2:15** ...speak, exhort, and rebuke with all authority, **3:1-2** ...remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be

peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men, **3:3-7** ...to remind them who they were and how they were saved, **3:8** ...to constantly affirm these things that the Cretan Christians may maintain good works, **3:9** ...avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As this letter comes to a close Paul instructs Titus to **3:10** ...reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition. Titus was given a very difficult work when assigned to work on the Isle of Crete; one who was divisive or contentious would be a great hindrance to his efforts to carry out the afore mentioned tasks.

Divisiveness within a local church can erase years of hard work in very short amount of time. Unity was very important to our Lord, so important that with the crucifixion bearing down on Him, He was praying for the disciples that the Father had given Him and He was praying for you and I that we would have the unity that He and the Father shared **(John 17:17-23)**. One who is divisive whether it be in the form of false doctrine, greedy for power, being a gossip, being rude, discouraging etc... those who are guilty of these things and such like are detrimental to the very thing that was on our Lord’s mind before He went to the cross. Paul wasn’t instructing Titus to be, nor are we, being unkind or harsh to one who continues to show themselves to be divisive after being admonished, when we refuse their divisive ways, reject their factious attitude and make the decision to decline their participation and fellowship within the local church that we are members of; we are simply attempting to preserve what Jesus prayed to the Father that we have as his people. **Titus 3:10** *Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.*

**Jay Dixon, university church.org**

### **Welcome aboard:**

*A warm welcome to recent additions to our membership.*

*Brandon, Jessica and Sabriel Jimison  
Casey, Sara and Sam and Olivia Dent  
Lindia Jackson*

*To our members, please add these folks to your rosters at home.*

**Acts 9:26** *When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.*

**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

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 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 and Jim Stauffer**

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**Check out the following websites**

[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist/](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist/)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

**NEWS AND NOTES:** REMEMBER THE SICK IN PRAYERS AND VISITS. JAN PATRICK, AND L.A. STAUFFER, THE FATHER OF EMALI PRICE, STEPHEN KIMKER. STEVE WIMP IS IN ST JOHNS HOSPITAL, LEAVENWORTH AND J.R. DANIEL IS IN ST. LUKE'S SOUTH.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: CHRISTIAN PARENTING - RON PECK

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS: THE BOOK OF ROMANS - J STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: FAITH IS DIFFICULT TO MASTER



## **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