



THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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

November
6
2016

THE WORLD HATES THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Jim Stauffer

It is true the world hates the servants of Christ and His Kingdom. Why do I believe this? Christ said so, **John 15:18** *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.* Now, our task is to understand the degree to which this hate is held and the reasons for it.

In the New Testament the same word for hate is used for those who oppose and become the enemies of a person or a cause as well as to indicate a reduced loyalty for one thing versus another. Example: **Luke 14:26** *"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.* Here the Lord is teaching the needed commitment to be a disciple. One cannot allow his earthly loyalties to compete with his obligation as a servant in the kingdom. This is the same principle Jesus taught when He said, *If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, shall find it.* (**Mat. 16:24,25**)

What Jesus speaks of in **John 15:18,19** is different from simply choosing one thing above another. It is full blown opposition. **Luke 6:22** *"Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.* There are those who serve the mission opposed to the Kingdom of God. Paul says Satan *fashioneth himself into an angel of light. It is no great thing therefore if his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness whose end shall be according to their works.* (**2 Cor. 11:14,15**) Jesus then explains what their end shall be. **Matt. 25:41** *"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.*

Paul helps clear the picture for us when he reminds

us we have been redeemed from a sinful life of opposition to God's cause. He tells us we once served Satan when we were guided by the lusts of our flesh (**Eph. 2:1-3**).

What is going on is the defense of a way of life by Satan and his angels. They continue to be guided by the desires and demands of the flesh. Why would a person defend abortion, homosexuality and a lifestyle of fornication? Why would the world recommend to us as honorable, those who have cheated and schemed their way to power and wealth? There is only one reason. They are on the same team. They desire some of the same achievements. Your neighbor and mine who are well respected, law abiding citizens in this earthly nation reject the mission to which Christ has called us. They do so because it would demand they love this earthly life less than the eternal life one would receive for faithful service in God's Kingdom.

Now, we have come full cycle on our word hate. The world hates, that is completely opposes the disciples of Christ because of their inability to hate, that is love less, this earthly life compared to the eternal life promised to His faithful disciples.

One final chapter in this hate discussion for today. Jesus said, *Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you* (**Mat. 5:44**). We have established those of the world as enemies of the cross (**Phil. 3:18**). Yet our Lord tells us to love those people. We are indeed expected to be the adults in the room. We are to understand the big picture and as a result overcome the desires of the flesh and lead others to follow us. We are the ones who are to retain our focus on the greater good. We are to use our influence to lead the world to Christ. **Matt. 5:13,14,16** *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;..... 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

The Soul of Obedience

by Robert F. Turner

Remember the old story about the man who was going on a journey, and asked his son to lay out the farm according to his instructions? Corn was to be planted in this field, beans in that, the garden here, a shed built there. The boy put the corn where his father wanted it, and the beans where the father said. But he changed places for the shed and garden. When his father returned and objected to his son's disobedience, the boy argued he had done half of what his father ordered; but the father said, "No, you did nothing in obedience. It is obvious that you only put the corn and beans where you did, because you thought they should go there."

We might well ask ourselves the question, "WHY do we live as we do?" "Is it out of respect for God and His laws, or are we simply following a pattern of mores that we approve, and which represents no higher authority than our own traditions?" The motive for obedience is an aspect of law that has been somewhat ignored.

In Paul's arguments on law versus faith (**Romans and Galatians**) he certainly does not rule out law. He says faith establishes law (**Romans 3:31**); and he says the law is "*holy, just and good*" (**Romans 7:12**). Its weakness was by virtue of its subjects, men (**Romans 8:3**); but even then, it served to bring them unto Christ — aware of their need for mercy and forgiveness (**Galatians 3:24**).

One cannot accept the existence of God and ignore the expression of His will; and acknowledging the relation of creature to Creator imposes an obligation to submit to His hand (**Romans 1:20-21; 9:20-21**). There is a close correlation between keeping the commands of God and abiding in God, and He in us (**John 14:23; 1 John 2:3-6**).

Christ is the "*author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him*" (**Hebrews 5:9**); and saving faith is an obedient faith (**James 2:24**) "*which worketh by love*" (**Galatians 5:6**). The principle here is not that of law meritoriously obeyed (which would demand perfection) but because obedience from the heart demonstrates our attitude toward Him who made and gave the law. How else could the breaking of one law make a man "*guilty of all*"? James explains, "*He that said, Do not commit adultery said also, Do not kill*" (**James 2:10-12; 4:10-11**). To select from all God said those parts we approve and are willing to obey, assumes a position above that of God. It is to imagine ourselves judges OF the law, hence OF God, instead of realizing we are subject to and are judged **by** the law, hence **by** God. Without the proper attitude toward God, no obedience (?) is acceptable to Him.

Some have suggested these Bible approved motives for obedience: fear of punishment, appreciation

of our position as clay to Potter, and varying degrees of love for God. Paul says, "*the love of Christ* (our recognition of His love for us) *constrains us*" (**2 Corinthians 5:14**). However you list them, they start with faith "*that God is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*" (**Hebrews 11:6**). Perhaps we are failing to elicit more obedience to God because we do not work hard enough at preparing the soil, or stirring proper motives.

~via **Auburn Beacon; Auburn, Alabama. Taken from the Market Street Messenger**

The Importance of Love

The primal source of teaching in the New Testament on the subject of Spiritual Gifts of the Supernatural kind is found in **1 Corinthians 12-14**. These three chapters address the Corinthians' misuse and misunderstanding of the gifts bestowed upon Christians in the first century. They had the idea that the gifts were an end in and of themselves and Paul includes this section to help them understand things properly and put things into the proper perspective.

Right smack dab in the center of this context is the Love Chapter of the Bible where Paul, actually, the Holy Spirit, spends thirteen verses talking about what love is and why it is important. He begins by saying, **Vs 1**, *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. Vs 2, And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. Vs 3, And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing.* In other words, the only reason these gifts were given to men is so that they can show their love for their fellow men by using them for their benefit. The gifts were never an end in themselves but simply a means to an end. The Corinthians were being like the man who collects all kinds of tools, but hasn't the appreciation of using them for their intended purpose, work. They are nice and shiny — and useless for their intended purpose. The spiritual gifts were to build up and serve the end of love among the brethren, and they missed that point!

Cleveland Redding

Be Strong and Courageous

by Marshall McDaniel

During his years as premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev denounced many of the policies and atrocities of Joseph Stalin. Once, as Khrushchev was criticizing Stalin in a public meeting, a heckler in the audience interrupted with a shout, "You were one of Stalin's colleagues. Why didn't you stop him?" "Who said that?" roared Khrushchev. An agonizing silence

followed. Then Khrushchev replied quietly, “Now you know why” (“Today in the Word,” July 13, 1993).

Courage was the missing element. It is a virtue that is continually assaulted by the wicked and always in danger of fading from human experience. Indeed, if it is not revived in the hearts of individuals in each successive generation, wicked “policies” and terrible “atrocities” will reign supreme in this world. Moreover, the lack of courage results in dread and dismay (see **Josh. 1:9**), yet, when it is present, there is “*power*” and “*love*” and “*sound mind*” (**2 Tim. 1:7, KJV**). “We must build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear” (Martin Luther King, Jr.). Courage is, therefore, at least partly, the mainstay of all other virtues: “You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor” (Aristotle).

This “quality of mind” is somewhat difficult to define and is often better understood by experience—either positively by seeing it modeled in others or negatively by feeling the effects of its absence. The Scriptures do, however, supply helpful descriptions and illustrations of this important attitude and action. In the New Testament, the word “courage” translates a variety of Greek terms which all carry with them ideas of “confidence,” “boldness,” and “resolution.” Thus, courage is not the absolute absence of fear but “resistance to fear” and “mastery of fear” (Mark Twain). Where terror silences those worthy attitudes within us, courage expresses them. It is the characteristic that undergirds and motivates godly thinking and living.

It is no surprise, therefore, that God has perpetually expected His people to “*be strong and courageous*.” This command is not, however, given without qualification; where the Lord makes demands, He provides instruction—found in Scripture (see **2 Tim. 3:16-17**). Courage is developed, according to the Bible, when we place our confidence fully in the Lord and His power, understand the nature of our spiritual struggle and the schemes of the adversary, and choose to put on the heavenly armor, standing firm in the midst of the fight and fright (see **Eph. 6:10-12**). Indeed, courage is ours for the taking, because “[He has] *overcome the world*” (**John 16:33, NASB**).

As with any matter of the mind (attitude), courage is a choice we make: Will we sit in silence, like Nikita Khrushchev, while the battle for right rages around us, or will we confidently stand with the Lord, casting our fears on Him, strengthening our hearts with faith, and preparing our minds for action?

*Be strong and courageous;
through God you will win,
Though great be the armies of error and sin.
Your captain will lead you to conquer the land;
His arm cannot fail you, and they cannot stand.
Be strong and courageous, and conquer the foe!
The Lord God is with you wherever you go!*

(Glenda Schales and Matthew Bassford)

Taken from preachertrainingclasses.com

MORALS AND ETHICS

by Eric T Stauffer

In the society we live in we have, in the last generation or so, seen a noticeable downturn in morality and ethics in those who have not committed themselves to Christ. You would think that an article like this would not have to start with definitions, but in a society that lacks as much as this one does we must. There is one passage that uses the word **morals**. That is **1 Cor. 15:33** “*Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.*”(ASV). The Greek word used there is **ETHOS**. That is the only appearance for that word in the entire New Testament. The second definition for this word is “custom, usage, morals, character”- *Strong’s Dictionary of New Testament Words*. The Greek word that brought us the English word **ethics** is **ITHIKI** (ay-thik-ay). For all that we are given in the New Testament, we are not given much regarding these two specific words. However, we are given much to help us develop both good morals AND good ethics.

Having a moral code suitable for God is taught in the letter to the Galatians. In **Gal. 5:19-21** we are taught what will not inherit the kingdom of God. We see in **1 Cor. 6:9-10** another list of characteristics that will not inherit the kingdom of God. In developing these good morals that have us please God we develop good ethics, or character. The problem for us, in this society, is there is little to encourage it in our everyday lives. We live in a world that readily accepts divorce, adulterous behavior, and other examples of dishonest behavior. Due to that influence we have to take great care to keep ourselves from the world and its influences so that we can be seen as set apart in ALL parts of our lives.

As Christians, we need to check those who are in our lives and see that we take to heart the teaching of **1 Cor. 15:33**. If we are going to be what we ought to be as Christians we need to seek “*wisdom that is from above.*” **James 3:17**. That wisdom teaches us how to live and what to do and if we are going to keep ourselves pure, as we need to, then we must stay away from worldly behavior in any area of our lives.

As we live day to day let us keep in our hearts the implanted word of God and remember that worldly friendships and behavior will corrupt us and keep us from heaven. We need to remember and apply this principle to our lives daily in our service to God. Also consider this in your lives, **James** writes in **chapter 4:4** “*Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God*”. If the most important people in our lives are worldly then what will we become? Paul and James are in agreement on this and we need to keep this in our minds as we serve God each and every day.

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

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

Check out the following websites

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist/

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES: REMEMBER THE SICK IN PRAYERS AND VISITS. J.R. DANIEL, JAN PATRICK, STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP, L.A. STAUFFER AND CHIP MILES. THE AUNT OF EMMANUEL LARREA HAS PASSED AWAY IN MEXICO.

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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS: THE BOOK OF ROMANS - J STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:AND A BRUISED REED HE SHALL NOT BREAK



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