



LENEXA EDIFIER

JANUARY

22

2017

HISTORIC LEADERS

Jim Stauffer

Watching the inauguration of an American President is both enlightening and entertaining. Of course it brings out the patriotism we all have as we observe all the pomp and circumstance.

When we listen to the new President we will hear somewhere in his speech that he wants to put the country back on the right track. It is almost obligatory that he justify his election by suggesting he will lead us to greener pastures than the man he replaced.

Most of our Presidents have had some specific cause or purpose to their campaigns for the office, but in truth most have been placeholders. If you ask most people for the leaders who have had an historic effect you most likely would get a similar list of names such as Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Lincoln, Roosevelt and maybe two or three more. Rarely do our leaders make an historic impact without extreme conditions that demand specific actions. In these cases, who are we to say those men were the only ones who could have succeeded. It may well be others could have done just as well in that circumstance.

There is a leader of men who made monumental changes in the lives of mankind that NO ONE else could have accomplished. Jesus Christ was sent to earth for that very specific task. He was the *only begotten Son* of God, the Father, to be offered as an atonement for the sins of all men (**Joh. 3:16; 1 Joh. 2:2**).

But before such a sacrifice was to be offered Jesus spent 3 years or so preaching a revolutionary message that was to guide all men who would seek the righteousness of God. He spent His life teaching the

principles of a New Covenant that was to replace the one God had established with Israel through the prophet Moses (**Col. 2:13-15; Heb. 9:15**). This New Covenant was meant to sustain the promise made to Abraham which included all nations rather than just Israel in the temporary Law of Moses (**Gal. 3**).

Not only did Jesus spend His earthly life teaching the principles of this New Covenant, He lived those same principles in the presence of all those around Him. He taught His disciples the necessity of sacrificing their will and accepting the will of God (**Mat. 16:24,25**). He then lived His life in keeping with those principles (**Lk. 9:58**).

When Jesus was falsely charged by the Jewish multitudes (**Mat.26:59-65**) He did not resort to His power as the Son of God (**Mat. 26:53**) but suffered willingly in order to be the perfect sacrifice demanded by God as atonement for the sins of man (**Isa. 53**).

We have not been redeemed by the simple act of another man of like substance as we. But rather by One who lived a righteous life in order to be the perfect *Lamb of God* (**Joh. 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:18,19**).

What we see with the sin problem of man is not the same as other historic problems dealt with by our leaders, but rather the greatest problem man has ever faced (**Rom. 3:23**).

This problem will bring to all for whom their sins are not atoned, eternal death, but Jesus is the Man of God Who only could solve this great problem. **Rom. 6:23**
For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Commenting On Prosperity Preaching

Does God promise that if you will become a Christian, you will also become rich and have great health?

Many popular religious speakers and writers say "Yes!" Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Creflo Dollar (yes, his real name), Benny Hinn, Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer, T.D. Jakes, among others, teach this. Their claim is, as a believer you put yourself in position for material goods, health, social position, career heights and debts paid. This popular religious movement has spawned sound bites that promise almost anything you want, like: "Say it; do it; receive it; tell it," (Kenneth Hagin).

First, this is based on misquoted and partially quoted passages in the Old Testament, presented without regard to context. Over and over these advocates of prosperity quote passages from the Old Testament (examples: **Deut. 29:9; 30:5; 1 Chron. 22:13**). Look closely at those, and see if the context bears out the promises they are making. God did promise prosperity and land to His people, the nation of Israel. God formed this nation from the offspring of Abraham, and maintained a unique relationship with them to bring Christ from them. That covenant and the associated material promises cannot be claimed by everybody today.

Second, prosperity preachers impose a materialistic purpose on the death of Christ. A favorite passage is **Isaiah 53**, where the claim is made that Jesus died to heal us of all our diseases (spiritual, physical, financial, emotional, etc.). By opening up this promise beyond the context of spiritual benefit, they may attract the masses but they have to ignore the New Testament fulfillment, announcing that He died for our sins.

Third, they routinely generate excitement that is primarily emotional and temporal. The televised showmanship of these preachers works on the emotions and temporal desires of their listeners. The appeal is to excitement that is emotionally shallow, spiritually empty and deceitful (many of their listeners remain in poverty, or do not recover from their illnesses). Prosperity preachers eventually tell people, they can command God: "As a believer, you have a right to make commands in the name of Jesus. Each time you stand on the Word, you are commanding God to a certain extent because it is His Word." Kenneth Copeland (*Our Covenant with God*, 1987, p. 32) Isn't it clear, religion has been commercialized, marketed and televised for audience appeal, often with a stunning profit motive? The leaders of these movements often live sumptuous lives of excess, funded by people they say are deficient in faith (thus poor and sick). If you want to know what God has to say, read His Word. He speaks plainly, and it is not about fame and fortune, it is about faith and

forgiveness.

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

by Warren E. Berkley

THE BEACON - Electronic Edition - 8/23/16

Spiritual Tragedy

Bill Hall

Melvin Gordon is dead. He loved his family, and was especially concerned for his sister who suffered from a serious kidney ailment. "I would do almost anything to restore my sister's health," he told his wife. So he drove to a local hospital, put a rifle muzzle to his head and fired one shot. Pinned to his shirt was a note, "Get my kidney within one hour." A kidney, however, to be used for a transplant, must be taken at the moment of death and kept filled with flowing blood to avoid tissue deterioration. They found him too late. His kidneys could not be used. Melvin Gordon died in vain.

What a tragic story! And the story becomes doubly tragic in the realization that had Melvin Gordon taken the time to learn the facts, he could have helped his sister while continuing to live a normal life himself! But, he acted according to his feelings, on impulse, and as a result he is dead and his sister continues to suffer from her kidney ailment. He died in vain...because he didn't take the time to learn the truth.

The tragic story of Melvin Gordon is being spiritually re-enacted in the lives of millions of people throughout the world - people who are religious; who are zealous in their religion; who are giving liberally of their time, money, and talents; who would gladly die for the cause they have espoused; who both desire and expect to go to heaven; but people who have really given little consideration to what God has said concerning that which pleases Him. In fact, while many of them read the Bible every day, they frankly admit that they have little knowledge as to what the Bible teaches. They have plunged headlong into some cause without demanding book, chapter, and verse to show God's authority behind that cause.

These people vary widely in what they are doing. One person may have done one thing "to be saved," while another may have done something entirely different. One person may be caring for the day nursery for the church while another is playing on the church softball team. But the one thing that they have in common is that they are all "doing" without having taken the time to investigate what they ought to be doing. Such action leads to spiritual tragedy. *"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to me in that*

day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Mat. 7:21-23)

In the judgment the question will not be, “Were you religious?” but, “Did you do the will of the Father in heaven?” Only those who are diligently studying God’s will and are doing it can face that judgment with confidence. Don’t give your life in vain.

~via *Perspectives; Birmingham, Alabama. Taken from the Market Street Messenger*

Premarital Wallpapering Robert Hines

We live in an age pre-occupied with sex. It is used in ads to sell books, cars, vacations and toothpaste. And so it is no wonder young people think that they need to try out marriage by "living together". We are told that the physical relationship is such an important part of marriage that the man and woman involved need to have this experience to see if the marriage will be good.

I have an alternative: let the man and woman wallpaper a room together. Let them slop paste around, spill water, get in each other's way, look at each other's work, and learn of each other's patience, or the lack of it there's the way to see what it is going to be like!

Young people: don't be fooled by what the devil preaches in books, on television, and from the mouths of his disciples. Marriage is not primarily a physical relationship. It is a life-long commitment by two people who care about each other. Love and sex are not the same thing.

Learn about each other. Spend time together. Plan as much for your marriage as you do for your wedding. Papering a room together is not as much of a joke as you think! How two people get along together and whether they have common ideas and goals make for the best of situations.

Jesus called living together “sin,” fornication. He placed the highest values on marriage, using it as the figure to describe his relationship with the church (Eph. 5). He wants you to have all the joy God gives - including that of the physical relationship in marriage. But, carefully consider that He shows a basis for marriage far beyond that of the world. In fact, it is in Him!

Taken From The Bald Knob Builder

Your Conscience: Dead Or Alive

Hardly anyone speaks of the conscience anymore. As a society, our “conscience” hardly even “bothers” us any longer. We have become so accustomed to all kinds of wrong and all types of filthiness that we don't even know how to blush. A Christian, however, is a man who lives by a properly ordered, well-trained conscience. In

fact, violation of one’s conscience is sinful (Rom. 14:23) even if there is no inherent wrong involved. Meat-eating was not sinful per se, but if a person had scruples against it, Paul said he should not eat meat. The lesson: Don't violate your conscience. If careful study of God’s word and earnest prayer causes you to change your scruples and allows you to begin eating meat, then that is perfectly fine. But if your conscience cries out in anguish at the very sight of hamburger — then leave it alone. It would be sinful for you to go contrary to this inner sense of right and wrong.

Why is Scripture so insistent that the conscience not be violated? Paul, in fact, always worked “*to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.*” (Acts 24:16) He paid attention to his conscience, made certain that he did not abuse it, and determined not to violate it. In order to secure a clean conscience, the blood of Jesus redeemed us (Heb. 9:12-14). Baptism is an “*answer of a good conscience toward God*” (1 Pet. 3:21). Concerning deacons, 1 Timothy 3:9 says they must “*hold the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.*” The conscience, therefore, is a vessel — a container in which is held the mystery of our faith.

This being so, we can understand the necessity of an unbroken, clean conscience. Deliberate violations of conscience rupture the container in which our faith is held! If we persist in violating our conscience, our faith will leak away like water from a cracked drinking glass. When you do what you know is wrong, you cannot have a pure conscience. Without an intact conscience, sensitive to the will of God (cf. 1 Tim. 4:2) we are destroying the very thing that will keep us in the faith. 1 John 3:21,22 says “*If our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things pleasing in His sight.*”

By Mark White

Taken from simplebiblestudies.com

Throughout his administration, Abraham Lincoln was a president under fire, especially during the scarring years of the Civil War. And though he knew he would make errors of office, he resolved never to compromise his integrity. So strong was this resolve that he once said, "I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me."

Today In The Word

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;

1 Pet. 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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NEWS AND NOTES: REMEMBER THE SICK IN PRAYERS AND VISITS.

JAN PATRICK, L.A. STAUFFER, STEPHEN KIMKER, CHRISTIE CARTER AND J.T. PECK.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
CHRISTIAN PARENTING - RON PECK

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS:
ECCLESIASTES - BYRON TAYLOR

SUNDAY SERMON: WHOEVER SHEDS MAN'S BLOOD



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