

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

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

May 31, 2020

## We Must Truly Deny Ourselves

by Jim Stauffer

*“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10)*

When the subject of faithfulness is discussed in Scripture the picture of persecution comes immediately to mind. Faithfulness without trials and tribulations would be completely unverifiable. That is the reason Peter says what he does, *“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;” (1 Peter 1:6–7).*

Serving in the kingdom of God is an honor and it is an honor to serve even in the face of such persecution. Yet even the apostle Paul affirmed for all to hear that death that removes one from persecution and places that person in the presence of the Lord is preferred to the persecuted life of His servant. **(Philippians 1:21–24)** But as the apostle says, it is not the decision of the servant but rather the choice of the King. And because we are serving the One Who saved us from condemnation we can actually minimize the suffering here in our search for glory there. *“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Cor. 4:16–18; Rom. 8:18)*

Now I fear all such talk about how the early Christians suffered for the cause and did so happily is easily lost on a generation of people who have every comfort of life at their very beck and call. Yet we of that generation have the exact same admonition given if we are to be faithful unto death. We will be tried. We will suffer tribulation. There will be efforts on the part of Satan to discourage us. Efforts we are told will be met with an avenue of escape if that is our desire **(1 Cor. 10:13).**

I recently watched a documentary about the reception and treatment believers received in Romania in 1944 with the Communist occupation. I will put a link to that documentary in this article.

I encourage you to dismiss any immediate criticism of doctrinal failures on the part of those claiming to be Christians and simply view this example of what denying oneself really means. Link below.

<https://www.persecution.com/tfcmovieevent/?share=mt>

### MOCKING CREATIONISM IN CANADA

This summer I have been teaching a class on Sunday evenings at Wellandport on “Evidences for our Faith.” We are demonstrating that there is solid, sound evidence for rational thinking people to be Creationists, to believe in the Bible as the Word of God and to accept the Deity of Jesus.

Through the course, we have cited many scientists who reject The General Theory of Evolution and believe in Intelligent Design. Following a recent study, one of the members suggested I check out a speech by Canada’s recently appointed Governor General, Julie Payette. Given last fall to scientists at an Ottawa convention, Ms. Payette mocked Creationists and religion in general. It

was reported by those who heard that speech that her “delivery was theatrical, her tone incredulous.”

“And we are still debating and still questioning whether life was a divine intervention or whether it was coming out of a natural process let alone, oh my goodness, a random process.”

She continued by mocking people of faith by saying, “And so many people — I’m sure you know many of them — still believe, want to believe, that maybe taking a sugar pill will cure cancer if you will it!” Most believed she was referring to people who prayed about their illnesses.

As I googled her speech and the reaction, much has been written about her insensitivity to religious people. One writer called her “mean-spirited.” Especially since she is a representative of the Crown and expected to be apolitical.

As I pointed out in our classes unbelievers and evolutionists often resort to ridicule instead of an honest intellectual study of the evidence. Our young people are subjected to science teachers and university professors who express contempt for Christianity, mock the Genesis account, and caricature Christians as backwoods, uneducated buffoons.

One response to Ms Payette was especially thoughtful by Dr. John Nufeld. “As a Christian, I have several thoughts. For one, I wonder if Ms. Payette would include Francis Collins, the former Director of the Genome Institute, in her list of people who believed in a sugar pill? Or would she acknowledge that Denis Alexander, Supervisor of the research group in cancer and immunology at the Babraham Institute, is not working on sugar pills, yet believes in God? I would commend her to read John Lennox, a mathematician at Oxford, specifically his book, *God’s Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* She might find it interesting to actually read a book from one of the “sugar pill” people!” By the way, just for the record, surveys indicate the 65% of Canadians and 68% of Americans believe in God. While those numbers are down from past years, a significant segment of our people do not agree with the likes of Ms. Payette.

In 2009 President Barack Obama nominated the geneticist Francis Collins to head the National Institutes of Health. In an essay for CNN Collins wrote, “I have found there is a wonderful harmony in the complementary truths of science and faith. The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome. God can be found in the cathedral or in the laboratory. By investigating God’s majestic and awesome creation, science can actually be a means of worship.”

While some American scientists questioned whether someone who professed a strong belief in God was qualified to lead the largest biomedical research agency in the world, apparently he has succeeded since President Trump retained him in that position last year. In a 2017 Huffington Post article, “12 Famous Scientists on the Possibility of God,” writer Carol Kuruvilla reports a survey that says 51% of scientists believe in God or some form of a Higher Power.

There are many who would echo the sentiments of Dr. Joseph H. Taylor, a 1993 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, “A scientific discovery is also a religious discovery. There is no conflict between science and religion. Our knowledge of God is made larger with every discovery we make about the world.”

Taylor’s approach is in line with what Paul wrote in **Romans 1:20**. *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”*

Indeed further scientific discovery and knowledge about our cosmos lead us to exclaim with the Psalmist, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”*

I believe, as do many men and women of science that *“in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1)*

**Ken Weliever, The Preacherman**

## THE WOMAN SINNER

*“Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, ‘If this man were a prophet, He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner’” (Luke 7:36-39).*

Mary’s hymn (**Luke 1:46-55**) said the Messiah would bring down “rulers from their thrones, exalt those who were humble and fill the hungry with good things” and send “away the rich empty-handed?” (**1:52-53**). Jesus preached the gospel to the poor (**Luke 7:22**). He healed the sick; He fed the hungry. He did for others what they

could not do for themselves. But the help Jesus gives illustrates what kind of people we need to be in order to be in His kingdom. The centurion with a sick servant, the widow with a dead son, and the woman sinner were poor people. Were they in abject poverty? Maybe or maybe not. They did recognize that only Jesus could fill their need. They came to Jesus in faith, trusting Him. That is the only thing poor people can do; that is the only thing that brings about restoration. To their credit the Gentile, the widow, and the woman sinner realized their condition.

Jesus was dining in the home of a Pharisee. Evidently the woman who came and anointed Jesus' feet was well-known in "the city." Was she a woman of the "night?" Luke doesn't say. But she did have a reputation as a sinner. How could she walk into the party? Evidence from the 1st C. Tells us that her actions were not uncommon; when a well-known teacher was present in someone's house, outsiders might linger at the doorway in order to listen or to acknowledge the greatness of the honored guest. The greater concern was the fact that she approached Jesus and made contact with Him.

The woman sinner used costly perfume to anoint Jesus' feet. The cost of the oil was great. Besides the oil were her tears—tears of joy, thankfulness, contrition; she kissed Jesus' feet. Her actions aroused ire and suspicion among the seated guests; Simon the Pharisee is exposed. If Jesus was really a prophet, He would have known who this woman was. Jesus then teaches again about being poor. There was a creditor with two debtors, one owing lots of money, the other a smaller sum. Both were forgiven. Which debtor loved his benefactor the most? *"I suppose the one whom he forgave the most."* That was the right answer.

How much do we love Jesus? Just a little bit? Are we overwhelmed with thankfulness and tears and expressions of contrition because of our spiritual poverty? Do we know we will always be poor without Jesus? Great forgiveness should result in great love. The woman provided all the right responses in coming to Jesus that Simon failed to provide. Love, contrition, tears, a costly gift—all with no expectation—only the joy of being with Jesus—that was enough. He is always enough.

***Randy Harshbarger***

## **All Mothers Are Working Mothers**

Did you know, ladies, that by the time a mother of three rears her children to age eighteen that she will

have put in more than 18,000 hours of child-generated work? That's work you wouldn't have to do if you had no children.

The mother who invests her time and talents in the rearing of her own children is too often unappreciated by the man and children she tries so desperately to serve. How could a little four-year-old girl or boy understand the importance of what Mommy is trying to do? We can only hope that each passing year and the maturity it brings will help children to understand. And we can only pray that a man who finds himself so fortunate will express his love and appreciation for such a wife.

We wish that every mother could understand how precious the days they invest in child-rearing really are. No job anywhere could be any tougher; no job anywhere could be more important!

***by Mark White; Taken from the Beacon Electronic Edition; Colledgevue church of Christ***

## **Going the Second Mile**

It would be a gross understatement to suggest that the Jews resented the Roman occupation of their land. They hated it beyond all possible measure! That's why publicans (tax collectors) were counted on the level of prostitutes in their estimation (**Matthew 21:31**). One of the reasons for this was that a Roman legionnaire could, while on the march, compel any male to carry his baggage for a distance of one mile, giving the legionnaire a break. Usually the thus constrained subject would grouse and complain the whole time and at the end of the mile, not one inch further, would drop the load unceremoniously and head homeward, having done what the law required him to do.

When Jesus comes along with the Gospel, instead of telling the Jews to refuse service he says, **Mt 5:38-42** *"You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' 'But I say to you, do not resist an evil person; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 'If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.'" The unbeliever scoffs but the believer who obeys finds less reason to complain the whole way for he serves a loving master and not the Roman Taskmaster. Giving more than demanded or expected softens the heart of the Roman thus served and makes for a brighter day for everyone involved.*

This principle still works today! It works on the playing field. It works at home, and in the workplace, try it!

***Cleveland Reddinger***

**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.

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## **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