

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 9, 2021

“MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE”

by Jim Stauffer

“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

(Matthew 4:4)

Certainly He does not refer to the sustenance of physical life when He refers us to God’s word for life. We know this because many who have no regard for the word of God at all, continue to be sustained physically.

So, our discussion then will focus on two aspects of this passage. The life referred to by the Lord and the source of that life.

The source life then is every word that comes from God. His revealed mind given to man by the Holy Spirit to the apostles **(Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-13)**.

Jesus is the word, *.....and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us....* **John 1:14**. He is also the life **(John 1:4)**. As we follow along we see He offers the water of life **(John 4:10-14)**. And, of course, we note He is the bread of life **(John 6:35)**. The person who comes to Christ will never hunger or thirst again. Obviously we are speaking of gaining and sustaining spiritual life.

The source of life in the very beginning was God **(Gen. 1:26,27)**. Only mankind was created in the image of God. Man, therefore, was created with an eternal spirit within him and being connected to God supplied the life of that spirit. We see the separation of man from God by his sin from the very beginning **(Gen. 3:23,24; Isa. 59:1,2)**. This is further explained in the New Testament by Paul while writing to the Ephesians. *“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind,*

and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),” **(Ephesians 2:1-5)**

So, how does this work where a person comes to Christ and never hungers and thirsts again? Paul tells us in **Romans 8:9-11** that our spirit lives because we have the Spirit of God and Christ in us. The work of God’s Spirit is to reveal His mind to us **(1 Cor. 2:10-13)**. Therefore, the Spirit of God dwells in us by way of His influence through the word He has sent. And we can say with the apostle Paul, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* **(Galatians 2:20)**

By understanding the principle Jesus teaches us, we can now crucify the body of sin **(Rom. 6:3-5)** and put off the old man of sin and put on the new man of righteousness **(Eph. 4:22-24)** by feeding on His word.

One great problem in the world today is eating “bad food spiritually”. Jesus offers us the bread of life, but warns us to recognize bad trees bringing forth bad fruit **(Mat. 7:15-20)**. When we receive such food as is offered by false teachers (those teaching things opposed to His word) we have denied ourselves the spiritually sustaining word of God. As a result we will be cut off from the vine which is our source of food **(John 15:1-6)**.

First, we must learn which is more important, feeding the body or the spirit. This sets our priority correctly and we can then focus on feeding our spirit and trusting His promise to care for our physical needs. *“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* **(Matthew 6:33)**

Young People, Read The Bible!

Young men and young ladies, I urge you to read the Bible as the guide of your life. American education originated in the desire to equip young people to read the Bible. Please consider a few reasons this is so important for your life.

1. I urge you to read the Bible because it is the only book in all the world given to us by the guidance of God. *“All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17)*. Every word God gave in Scripture is true and right. The Bible is the infallible Word of God.

2. I urge you to read the Bible because it is the only book in all the history of the world protected and preserved by the providence of God. Both the Old and New Testaments contain God’s promise that He will protect His Word. *“For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever” (1 Pet. 1:24-25; Isa. 40:7-8)*. God preserves His Word so that each generation can have the opportunity to read it. He wants you to read it.

3. I urge you to read the Bible to learn the way of salvation. That is its main theme. We learn in **Genesis 3** that our greatest problem is sin. God promised to send a Savior through the seed of Abraham: *“In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3)*. The Old Testament further explains God’s promise of a Savior: *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:4-6)*.

In the New Testament, read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to learn about the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. *“These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (Jn. 20:31)*.

To better understand the way of salvation, read the Great Commission and the book of Acts. Jesus said, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mk. 16:15-16)*. The book of Acts records how the gospel was first spread and how men received it. Read Romans through Revelation to learn how we are to live, worship,

and serve God in the way of salvation.

4. There are many other reasons to read the Bible. Read **Genesis 2:24** and other passages to learn God’s plan for true married love. *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”* If you make God’s Word the foundation of your marriage, your home will be one of the greatest blessings of your life. Read Proverbs to learn words of wisdom which apply to every aspect of life. *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (1:7)*. *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (14:34)*. *“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (20:1)*. Read Ecclesiastes to learn the true meaning of life. *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil” (12:13-14)*.

I urge you to read the Bible with confidence that you can understand the one book in the world given by your Creator to guide you through life and to give you eternal life. God designed the Bible so that when we read it, we can understand His Word (**Eph. 3:4**). Young man, young lady, read the Bible as your guide in life!

By Ron Halbrook; Taken from hebronlane.com

A Challenge to Choose

Dan S. Shipley

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Josh. 24:15)

Those who claim to be Christians need confronting with this choice encouraged by Joshua in the long ago. Not, of course, that allegiance to these same false gods is the problem, but there are other kinds of “masters” that are equally effective in stealing the affections of God’s people. In fact, these modern masters may be even more dangerous because men serve them while thinking themselves to be serving the true God. Does it seem strange that professed believers should be challenged to make a choice about serving God? It shouldn’t. When have the ranks of God’s followers NOT been infected with a Laodicean-like lethargy? (except,

perhaps, in the earliest days of the church) — and, when more than NOW? Those who say and do not, the lukewarm, the vacillating, the unfaithful and undependable who call themselves Christians need to be challenged to **MAKE UP THEIR MINDS ABOUT SERVING THE LORD!**

No doubt, however, many would be insulted with such a challenge. Some have not understood the difference between being religious and serving the Lord. That's why it is not unusual to hear of "Christians" who become incensed at the suggestion that they have become unfaithful or "quit the church" just because they have not been in attendance for several months or even years. Like Joshua's audience they need to make a decision — about serving the Lord. None will ever decide a more important issue — and it's a decision in which every man must stand alone.

Accordingly, Joshua says, "as for me". He was not concerned about which way the majority may go, nor was he interested in public opinion. His was not a "second-hand" faith standing on borrowed convictions. He had made up his own mind about serving God and expected the people to do likewise. The Joshua spirit is sorely needed among God's people today! For too long, too many have allowed others to do their thinking and make their decisions, even in matters of faith. No elder, no preacher and no parent can decide a matter of faith for any man. In the lamentable division that has come between God's people, many have learned to parrot certain prejudicial and derogatory phrases with which to "answer" the other side, but have no real personal convictions based on Bible truth. Me is the only one I can decide for about anything. Therefore, me needs to be informed, me must weigh the evidence, and me must take a stand independent of all else and all others. Only then can we say with meaning, "*As for me....*". But the decision to serve the Lord is not only personal, it is urgent.

For that reason, Joshua says, "*choose you this day.*" This day is not enhanced by yesterday's victories nor tomorrow's good intentions, but only by redeeming its precious hours for the Lord.

Plain Talk, Vol.XVII No.1 Pg.3

Is there really only one right way?

Most people consider this to be a matter of opinion. We may have opinions about the question, but whether there is just one right way cannot be a matter of opinion. Either that is true or false.

I am convinced that the Bible is, actually and truly, the word of God. I believe its presentation of Jesus to be true. I believe that what Jesus teaches is the truth.

Therefore, I must believe that there is only one right way. First, because Jesus said: "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*" (**John 14:6**). Secondly, because of what Peter said about Jesus: "*...Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (**Acts 4:12**).

Truth about how many ways there are to heaven is not a matter of opinion. Either the Bible answers it truthfully or it does not. If it does not answer it correctly here, we cannot trust it in any matter. I believe that Jesus is the one way to heaven. Follow carefully!

Don Bunting

Sentence Sermons

You don't have to be listed in "Who's Who" in order to know what's what! There is nothing that will enlighten us as truth will! Only truth will lead us out of darkness! "Soft soap" will not clean up error and other evils. The only right way out is up! You cannot travel the road with "the many" and end up in the destination of "the few." In view of 1 Corinthians 10:13, true Christians should never say, "I had to sin" or "I tried but could not resist sin" or "I can't keep from sinning." Also see James 1:12-15 Every passing day is one day that is gone forever. Use it wisely. Do not confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being. Put your trust in God — obey Him. Through God's precepts we get understanding, therefore we should hate every false way! Psalm 119:104 We may not be able to add years to our life but we can add life to our years. There are two kinds of people in the church: the workers and the shirkers. Which one are you? Seven days without prayer makes one weak. A dancing foot and a praying knee do not grow on the same leg.

Taken from the Roanridge Reader

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Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ
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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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Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

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**Sunday Sermon:
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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