

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.

August  
29  
2021

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Ana Surface 2010

## TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

by Jim Stauffer

*“As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.” (John 6:66–68)*

The question remains today, *“To whom shall we go?”*

It is imperative we accept Jesus as the authority on what we must do to be saved from our sins and receive the eternal inheritance in heaven when this life is over. And after all, is that not what everyone expects when they die. How many times have we heard someone speak at a funeral and indicate the person either did not desire to be in heaven or had not lived in such a way as to have an expectation of such?

Three well known verses set forth Jesus as the ultimate authority to be heard and followed. First, He said, “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*

**(Matthew 28:18)** Paul spoke this about Christ as He was elevated by God, *“and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”* **(Ephesians 1:19–21)** And finally, the writer of the Book of Hebrews says this about Christ, *“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,”* **(Hebrews 5:8–9)**

It is therefore, Christ we must give an answer to **(Acts 17:31; John 12:48)** when we face Him in

judgment. It is perfectly logical for the One Who died for the church/kingdom to be the One to judge those who would enter.

Now this leads us to challenge the reasoning of those who would turn to the Old Testament for support of things they do in worship of God. This was a problem the Jewish leaders had with Christ while He was on the earth. They wanted to dismiss Him and His authority and cling to the authority of Moses. However, the purpose of Jesus’ ministry was to show them He was the prophet Moses said they must obey **(Deuteronomy 18:15-18; Acts 3:22-26)**.

Now how is this to be applied as we view religious conduct today. Well, first of all, the church that people believe they are members of is the one Jesus died to purchase **(Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28)**. If that is to be the case, He must be the One Who authorizes the work and worship of that church. Now it is a fact that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide those apostles word for word as they revealed the mind of God **(John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:10-13)**. Since that is the foundational fact concerning the Bible, we must then find in the writings of those inspired men the authority for the things we practice.

A litany of things could be cited but let us just refer to a few things which will serve to illustrate the point we make. That point is that people today have not gone to Jesus for their authority religiously as Peter said in the verses we cited opening this brief article.

Baptism, Jesus said is a new birth into the kingdom **(John 3:3-5)**. Inspired writers tell us John the Baptizer began this process during his preaching and performed it on the Lord Himself. This baptism was immersion in water and designated by Christ and the apostles for salvation from sins **(Mk. 16:15,16; Acts 2:38)**.

To whom shall we go for information about the purpose and the method of baptism? Peter says we should go to Christ.

The headquarters of authority for the church is another issue where we must accept Christ as its head (**Eph. 1:22,23; 5:23**). When we designate Christ as the head of the church we acknowledge He has all authority over it. There can be no manmade headquarters on earth that decides what the church should do. Each church (local congregation of the church) has those who are designated as its overseers (**1 Tim. 3; Titus 1; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1,2**). Each local congregation then is autonomous. There can be no hierarchy on earth that dictates what they should do. A perfect example of this is when the Presbyterian church decided to accept homosexuals and then to accept them even as leaders in the church, it was not done so by the authority of Christ carried out by scripturally designated overseers, but rather by a human organization that decided to overrule Scripture on that subject due to social acceptance of homosexuality.

Now the list could go on and on, but you can by these examples see how men have violated the authority of Christ.

Ask yourself, To whom shall I go?

## “THEN HE BELIEVED IN THE LORD”

*by Sean Cavender*

In the Bible, Abraham becomes a model of true, saving faith. The Scripture testifies of Abraham's faith in **Genesis 15:6**, *“Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.”* Although this verse explicitly states Abraham's faith in God's promise, this is not the first expression of Abraham's faith. Abraham began his journey of faith when God called him to leave his home (**Genesis 12:4; Hebrews 11:8**).

**Genesis 15:6** is an essential passage in the New Testament since it is quoted to defend justification by grace through faith. The apostle Paul quotes it a few times (**Romans 4:3, 22; Galatians 3:6**), as does James (**James 2:23**). Therefore, this verse is crucial for our understanding of salvation by God's grace. But, what does it teach us?

1. We learn that walking by faith is a lifelong journey. **Genesis 15** is not “the” single moment in Abraham's life that he began to walk by faith. No, he had already been walking by faith since **Genesis 12**. Yet, Abraham's journey was not without troubles. He lied to Pharaoh and Abimelech. He committed adultery with Hagar.

Abraham supposed he might appoint Eliezer as an adopted heir. Yet God corrected Abraham's misguided thoughts by assuring him that he would have a biological son. And Abraham believed God! When Abraham received the sign of circumcision, he acted by faith (**Romans 4:11**). Then the most significant test of faith that Abraham ever had was to offer the promised son as a burnt offering — and he proved his faith by his obedience (**James 2:22-23**). The test to leave his homeland paled in comparison with the trial to offer up his son. These different tests ought to impress upon us the growth of Abraham's faith throughout his life.

2. God saw Abraham's faith and counted him as righteous. Abraham did not earn a righteous status before God. God saw his faith and graciously counted Abraham as righteous. Paul argues in **Romans 4** that justification and righteousness are credited to believers by God's forgiveness of sins (**Romans 4:5-8**). Abraham received a great blessing from God when He forgave Abraham of his sins and misguided efforts. And so do we! We are blessed when God does not hold our sins against us anymore and forgives us. When we believe in the saving power of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are made righteous by God's grace (**Romans 4:22-25**). God forgives our sins and justifies us through the sacrifice of Jesus.

3. We must understand faith comprehensively. While faith involves emotional trust in God's word and acceptance of certain truths, it is never used in contrast to inactivity. The New Testament expresses the idea of faith as the *“obedience of faith”* (**Romans 1:5; 16:26**). Faith, rightly understood, is “faithfulness,” “fidelity,” or “allegiance.” Arndt and Gingrich define ‘faith’ as “the state of being someone in whom confidence can be placed, faithfulness, reliability, fidelity, commitment” (A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, 818). Paul demonstrates that Abraham was obedient to God when he was circumcised (**Romans 4:11**). Furthermore, Paul admonishes us to walk *“in the steps of the faith”* of Abraham (**Romans 4:12**). James agreed with Paul when he contended that faith without works is dead (**James 2:20-24**). We must recognize the holistic and comprehensive nature of faith to include emotional trust, acceptance of certain truths, and obedience to God's word. Abraham's example demonstrates each of these things as the true expression of faith.

4. Faith is how we enter the family of God. Paul appeals to Abraham's faith in **Galatians 3:6** and how Abraham believed God's word, citing the passage in **Genesis 15**. God blessed Abraham by counting Him as righteous,

and so are all people who believe in God. All people who have faith are blessed with Abraham and by Abraham's Seed, who is Christ (**Galatians 3:7-9, 14, 16**). We must believe that Jesus is the Seed of Abraham that would bless all nations with salvation. When we believe, we become part of the family of God (**Galatians 3:26-27**). God adopts us as His children (**Galatians 4:5**). Therefore, we must believe in God and His Son Jesus Christ to gain status in God's family.

The statement about Abraham's faith in **Genesis 15:6** becomes an impetus for helping us understand the nature of saving faith. We must believe in God, trust His word, and obey His commands. When we do so, we can enjoy the same blessing that Abraham enjoyed — forgiveness of sins!

## Seeking God

God wants everyone to seek him and come to him.

**2 Peter 3:9** *"...but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

We should seek after God like we are feeling around in the dark (which is what life feels like a lot of times).

**Acts 17:26-27** *"And (God) hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; (27) That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us."*

God rewards those who do more than just seek him casually. **Hebrews 11:6** *"... for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*

The reason to seek God so diligently is that our focus is not primarily on what is going on in the here and now.

**Hebrews 11:14-16** *"For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. (15) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. (16) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."*

Our daily focus should be on the things that will affect us long after we are dead and free from the physical, every day lives that seem so pressing now. **Colossians 3:1-2** *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."* Sometimes the Scriptures speak best for themselves! The lives of Christians are always interesting as we figure out how to seek God first with

every new challenge that comes along! **1 Corinthians 10:33** *"...just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."* Let this be your mission as well!

**Matt Hodge**

## C.S. Lewis; The problem of pain

Any consideration of the goodness of God at once threatens us with the following dilemma. On the one hand, if God is wiser than we, His judgement must differ from ours on many things, and not least on good and evil. What seems to us good may therefore not be good in His eyes, and what seems to us evil may not be evil.

On the other hand, if God's moral judgement differs from ours so that our "black" may be His "white", we can mean nothing by calling Him good; for to say "God is good," while asserting that His goodness is wholly other than ours, is really only to say "God is we know not what". And an utterly unknown quality in God cannot give us moral grounds for loving or obeying Him.

If He is not (in our sense) "good" we shall obey, if at all, only through fear — and should be equally ready to obey an omnipotent Fiend. The doctrine of total depravity — when the consequence is drawn that, since we are totally depraved, our idea of good is worth simply nothing — may thus turn Christianity into a form of devil-worship

***We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.***

***Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ***

***We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.***

***Things people do not believe that are taught in the Bible!***

***Did you know that the Bible does not mention any denominational churches. Only "the church" He said He would establish and died to purchase is mentioned in God's word.***

***Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.***

**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**

**Deacons: Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Joe Hurd**

## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-620-0563

**Check out the following websites:**

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

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

### **News and Notes:**

#### **Sick in need of Prayers:**

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick,  
Denese Goring, Pat Gaines,  
Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy  
Richardson, Jordan Moody,  
Don Craig, Tina Brofft, Ken  
Green, Matt Bassford, Tim  
Young and Judy Root.

**Leta Richardson, the Mother  
of Dale Richardson, passed  
away Thursday night.**

#### **Bible Classes:**

**Sunday Morning - Hebrews -  
Jim Stauffer**

**Wednesday Evening - 1&2**

**Peter and Jude - Ron Peck**

#### **Sunday Sermon:**

*God's Everlasting Love*



## **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