

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.

July
11
2021

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Anne Surace 2010

THE GIFT OF SALVATION IS CONDITIONAL

by Jim Stauffer

When God presents us with a gift it is not necessarily without contingencies. He said to Joshua,*“See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. (Joshua 6:2)* God speaks in the past tense concerning this gift. The promised gift of **verse 2** is followed immediately by the contingencies of **verses 3-5**, *““You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. “Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. “It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead.”*

He has already extended the offer of this gift. That offer was rejected by the 10 spies who went with Joshua and Caleb to spy out the land earlier. As a result the gift was not given to that generation and they wandered in the wilderness of Sinai until they all had died before He would then complete his gift to the people led by Joshua.

Now why did all this unfold as the Bible story teaches us? Because the people did not trust God sufficiently. Because they did not listen to His words and understand He meant what He said.

God’s gifts to men are often contingent upon obedience. We can see in this example and others that obedience is a part of faith. It is illogical to claim to believe something and then act inconsistently with the advice it affords.

The same is true of God today and unfortunately the same reaction to His instruction by mankind seems

often to be the same as those who failed to have faith and were unable to enter the promised land due to unbelief (**Heb. 3:19**).

God offers salvation to all men (**Mat. 11:28-30**), today and yet the contingencies are often denied by those who claim to have laid hold on that salvation. If there were not contingencies all men would be saved and there would be no need to teach men to avoid the condemnation associated with sin (**Luke 19:10**). But we know that is not true because Jesus said there would be many who would not be saved (**Mat. 7:13,14; 25:46; John 5:28,29**).

The contingencies of God are that we first decide to hear what Jesus has to say (**Mat. 17:1-5**). When the Bible speaks of hearing the Lord, it means to accept what He says and obey it.

Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth and that truth would be His word (**John 16:13ff**). Therefore, when the apostles give us instruction, we are to treat it as the word of Christ, which it is.

The apostles and prophets of New Testament days told the Jews on Pentecost to,*repent and be baptized.....* and they told the Ethiopian to be baptized. They also told Cornelius to be baptized. The apostle Paul was told upon his conversion baptism was necessary for the remission of sins. Lydia was baptized as was the Philippian jailer.

There is no question the Scriptures teach one needs to be baptized and that baptism is immersion in water after he has repented and confessed Jesus as the resurrected Lord in order to be saved.

And yet the world is filled with religions that teach the fundamental principle that these contingencies of salvation are as unnecessary. What about Jericho?

RE-POSTED FROM 2017

First it was “homosexual.” It covered both genders. That was back when there were just two genders. Then it was “gays,” hijacking a good adjective and messing up a lot of old, nostalgic songs.

Then it was decided by someone I guess that homosexual or gay women needed their own label so the old word, “lesbian” was trotted out and it became “lesbians and gays.”

Then it was realized that likely the majority of these actually have sex with males and females and perhaps others so they are given the label, “bi-sexual.”

Then, it was apparently determined that men who think they are women and vice versa are not crazy after all and by that time we needed an acronym so it became LGBT: which seems to mean “Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender.

Recently I’ve been noticing that it’s now become LGBTQ. Scholars disagree on what the Q stands for. Some say it means “queer” which was considered pejorative and not politically correct not too long ago. But some have been accepting the term as a badge of honor. Others say it means “questioning” which means they don’t know what they are. The other day I saw the acronym in the newspaper with a couple of other initials tacked on. I meant to look it up but lost it.

But before we’re through we’ll have to add several more. There’s “beastiality”: those who have sex with animals. If you don’t think there are organizations promoting this you can do a google search. (It probably wouldn’t be a good idea to open any of the sites.)

There’s “pedophilia.” It’s going to be more difficult to make that one okay because children are involved. But the age of consent is being chipped away in some states. Pedophiles like Michael Jackson are winked at by fans. And, after all, they’re born that way you know, and can’t help it.

There’s “masochism” and sexual “sadism.” Remember how wildly popular the “Fifty Shades of Gray” novels were?

There’s “voyeurism” for peeping toms and porn addicts.

There are all kinds of “fetishism.” These are just a few

of the sexual deviances and the psychologists are not calling them that anymore.

Let’s see now. That would make it LGBTQBPMSVF. You know something? The Democratic Party will be joyfully promoting every one of these. And most of the Republicans will be afraid to say anything lest they’re called a hater, a bigot, and a LGBTQBPMSVFphobic. .

This or something close to it will happen more quickly than we think. Christians will be like Lot in Sodom. Maybe we should adopt David M Haynes's suggestion and start calling people normalphobic.

Ken Green

What About “Faith Alone”?

In last week’s article I spent some time explaining why so many folks think, when a preacher points out that Peter says plainly *“baptism now saves you”* (**1 Peter 3:21**), that we are somehow meaning that “baptism alone” saves us, which is a patent falsehood. Much of the Christian world teaches that we are saved by faith alone and they put it into their books and creeds in phrases such as “By Grace alone through Faith alone”. If you look at that statement, it is just patently self – contradictory! If it is by Grace alone then Faith is meaningless, and, if it is by Faith alone then Grace is unnecessary!

So, where did the idea of ‘Faith Alone’ come from? I believe the evidence shows that it was around in the first century because James, the Lord’s younger brother, deals with it as a false doctrine in **James 2:14-26**. This is the ONLY place in scripture where the words ‘faith’ and ‘alone’ are found together as *‘faith alone’* and James says *“You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.”* (**vs. 24**) In case you’re wondering whether or not James is speaking of salvation you simply need to look at the introduction to the passage, **verse 14**, *“What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?”* He is **most definitely** talking of salvation and going to heaven!

James points to Abraham, the Father of all who believe (**Romans 4:11**) whose faith was ‘perfected’ (meaning completed) by his works in the offering up of Isaac on

the altar (21) and Rahab who was justified by receiving the spies (vs 25 and Joshua 2:1-21). All of these had their faith perfected by their works and were thus justified.

In order to believe in 'faith alone' I must believe all of the following:

1. I can be saved by a 'dead faith', **James 2:17, 26.**
2. I can be saved by an invisible faith, **James 2:18.**
3. I can be saved by a 'useless faith', **James 2:20.**
4. I can be saved by an incomplete, unperfected faith, **James 2:22.**
5. You must believe that James, the Lord's younger brother, did not know what he was talking about.
6. The Scriptures contain Doctrinal Contradictions (and what does that say about God?).

Unless you are willing to accept all of these conclusions you can not believe in the doctrine of 'faith alone'!

Cleveland Reddinger

The Great Choice We Face

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh this will mean fruitful labor for me, and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better
(Philippians 1:21-23)

This is truly a marvelous statement, one that we should pause from time to time and give some serious, soul searching thought to as it regards our life. You see, as a child of God, we are faced with the same dilemma as Paul faced, life or death. He was prepared for either one. The question for us becomes, are we prepared for either one?

If we are going to be prepared for either life or death, then Christ must mean everything to us in this life. I love the thought expressed in the song, He is My Everything: "He is my everything, He is my all. He is my everything both great and small." When we make Him our everything, we live our life by faith in the Son of God who loved us so much He died on the cross of Calvary, shedding His blood to make it possible for us to be cleansed of our sins and truly live (**Galatians 2:20; Romans 5:8-9; Colossians 1:12-14; John 10:9-11**).

If we give our lives to Him, do what the Lord says

(**Col 3:17; John 2:1-5**), strive each day to prove that we are His friend (**John 15:14**), and by word and deed recommend Him to others (**1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:6-8**), then one day when we come to the end of life's journey we will gain the greatest victory imaginable as we go home to be with the Lord (**2 Cor. 5:8**).

The prayer of my heart for all who read these words is expressed so well in the first verse of the song, Hold To God's Unchanging Hand: "Time is filled with swift transition-Naught of earth unmoved can stand-Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God's unchanging hand." Hear the words of John, "*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on! Yes, says the Spirit, so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.*" To God be the glory!

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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.

When we study the Bible, many things we have taken for granted as the truth throughout our lives are shown to be untrue.

An example: Peter was the first Pope of the Catholic Church. When we examine the Scriptures, the word Pope does not appear. There is no mention of anyone being the Vicar of Christ on earth.

If we believe the Bible is the word of God, a discovery such as this demands a change in what we believe and practice. Therefore, we recommend studying His word instead of taking the word of men.

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

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Dan Edmonds.

Bible Classes:

Sunday Morning - Hebrews -
Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening - 1&2

Peter and Jude - Ron Peck

Sunday Sermon: Faith is the
Substance...the Conviction



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