

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.

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THE LENEXA EDIFIER

“BE WHERE YOUR FEET ARE”

by Jim Stauffer

A very unique and interesting expression I have heard more than once recently. It seems this means to be sufficiently confident in what you believe about yourself that you remain uninfluenced by those around you. Kind of saying we are secure in who we really are. This brings to my mind two passages of Scripture that should reflect on this for the child of God. First, *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”* (Galatians 2:20) Of course this passage represents a commitment to following Christ. Seeing His footsteps as a guide for our lives. Next, *“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”* (Colossians 3:2-3)

These two passages tell us where our feet are. Who we are and what we plan to do with our lives. When Jesus corrected His disciples who desired places of rank in His kingdom, He reminded them the people of the world, the Gentiles, are lorded over by their rulers. *“It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* (Matthew 20:26-28) Jesus came to serve mankind. It required sacrificing His life to accomplish God’s will in that regard.

Now, let us ask ourselves if we, indeed, know where our feet are and are committed to a life of service in His kingdom, a life that places that service above our very lives (1 Pet. 2:21-24).

In Jesus’ great teaching He often made plain the level of commitment it took to follow Him. Remember

the rich young ruler who turned away when he saw the cost of discipleship? Notice the extent of Jesus teaching in **John 13:34,35**. Here He teaches His disciples to love one another as He has loved them. If we read this text too quickly, we may miss the fact that His love for them led Him to Calvary. If we are to demonstrate His love to the world as He teaches in this text, that love carries a commitment that exceeds even life on earth.

It is then we can see the necessity of Christ living in us (**Rom. 8:9,10**). The things above, that is God, heaven and His will must be the most important things in our lives.

The application of this principle to our lives then means we must put His cause above all earthly relationships. That is what He means when He speaks of bringing a sword and separating family members (**Mat. 10:34-39**). His cause will create problematic relationships between those who are totally committed to Him and those who are not.

This is the depth of the relationship between the apostle Paul and Christ that led him to say prior to his death, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”* (2 Timothy 4:7-8) The only fitting epitaph for the child of God.

The life Paul lived can be attained when we think like he and our Lord thought. *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.”* (Romans 8:18-19)

Know who you are and live accordingly.

Expelling Unbelief

John Hines

The world is full of skeptical unbelief when it comes to Scripture. This unbelief can even creep into the church. The creation account is mocked and compromised. The resurrection of the dead is mocked and compromised. Judgment day is mocked and compromised. “Well, it doesn’t mean what it says.” Why not? Why can people, even some Christians, not simply believe what Scripture says? Well, because it’s unbelievable!

How can we believe the unbelievable? We can learn from those who expelled their unbelief, like Abraham. While he is the father of the faithful, that does not mean that he did not have bouts of unbelief. He certainly did. Let’s look at his life, especially focusing on **chapter 17**. The Lord, once again, tells Abraham that he would have children, this time specifying it would be through Sarah. *“Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, ‘Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old bear a child?’” (vs. 17)*. The whole thing seemed unbelievable, and Abraham laughed at it. Why?

• It is fantastic! – God created man from dirt? Jonah was swallowed by a fish? A virgin gave birth? The Son of God died? And was resurrected? Why are all of these treated as mere fantasies? It is because they are fantastic. Why did Abraham not initially believe? For the same reason.

• Have you seen us? – What must Abraham and Sarah have looked like? Old? Weathered? Wrinkled? And they would have a child? “Have you seen what we look like?” They were, *“as good as dead” (Heb. 11:12)*. Can the *“as good as dead”* come back to life? It seemed unbelievable to Abraham.

• It hasn’t happened yet! – Abraham is 99 years old **ch. 17**. The initial promise of descendants had happened 24 years prior. How long had Sarah been barren? Longer than that. “Sarah’s going to have a child.” Uh, yeah, they had undoubtedly been trying in the decades gone by. Why have doubts now? Well, it hadn’t happened yet.

What happens when people, like Abraham, disbelieve? They cling to lies rather than the truth (**12:10-20**). They use their wisdom to try to fulfill God’s promises (**16**). They bring others into their sin (Pharaoh, Sarah, Hagar, Abimelech). All in all, it is just a mess.

But Abraham would learn. He would expel his

disbelief. We see it in **ch. 22** as God commanded him to offer up Isaac. Abraham had not believed before, falling on his face laughing. He’s not laughing now. He is believing. Why? Hebrews says that he was, *“concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead...” (11:19)*. How could he believe that? Why could he believe?

➤ God had done it before – Abraham had seen the dead come back to life. Isaac was proof of that. Dead wombs had been given life.

➤ The promise had been made – If the Seed would come through Isaac, and Isaac died childless, he would have to be raised from the dead.

➤ Nothing is too hard for God – God was able (**Gen. 18:13**). Nothing is too fantastic for God. Believe it.

Some people will only believe God’s power if they see it for themselves (**Jn. 20:25**). For us, that’s not how faith works (**Heb. 11:1**). Whether it is creation, judgment, or the resurrection, we better expel our disbelief. Abraham did.

Don’t Think It Won’t Happen Here!

I am quite sure that we have all been watching the events as they unfold in Afghanistan. It’s distressing, to say the least, seeing our government making promises to our Afghan allies and then breaking them four days later. While that is heartbreaking it is far more so to understand what this means for the many Afghans who have come to believe in Jesus over the last twenty years. The Taliban are Islamic purists and they will not hesitate to kill those who will not submit to their religious decrees. There have already been reports of people being executed for having Bibles on their phone. I must admit, in the interests of fairness, that I have no means of verifying these reports. I have spoken with several who have had dealings with Taliban while serving there and I have no problem believing they’re true. But that’s over THERE, right? It’s so far away from me and mine!

Several weeks ago in Portland, Oregon, a group of believers were having a peaceful prayer meeting in a public park when they were attacked and sprayed by members of Antifa in their black uniform and face masks. There have been large numbers of church building arsons over the US and Canada in the last two years, and the number is rising. The media is increasingly hostile to Christianity, Christians and

Christian values. Don't believe me? Just watch the headlines on *Yahoo* over the next few weeks and see what they promote.

This shouldn't surprise us. Jesus said in **John 15:18-20**, *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also."* America is not immune to the activities of Satan and his followers. He has been working toward this era for a long time and it seems like it is finally coming. We need to understand and be ready. **2 Timothy 2:19** *"Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, 'The Lord knows those who are His,'"*

Cleveland Reddinger

What do the miracles of Jesus tell us about Jesus?

Matthew, chapters eight and nine, introduce the miracles of Jesus. Later in the book, there are accounts of many more but here is a long list. What do the miracles tell us about Jesus?

The miracles speak of the divine power of Jesus. By definition, all miracles are super-natural. That means they are above, beyond, outside of the power of nature. Nothing in the material world is miraculous because all things that happen in nature are natural. They are according to the laws and rules of the natural realm.

Healing an incurable skin disease by touching it is not natural. That is accomplished by a higher power. To heal a man of a life-threatening disease who is miles away by declaring it to be done is something divine, out of this world. To cause a storm to cease by rebuking it can only be done by super-natural power.

All these miracles of Jesus were done publicly. Many witnesses were present who knew of the disease, the storm, the paralysis, the death. The witnesses also saw the change, the effect, the healing that occurred at the word or touch of Jesus. The miracles illustrate the power of Jesus, even without revealing the full extent of his power.

The miracles of Jesus reveal more than his power. The miracles show his compassion for people suffering

and sorrowing. Not only did Jesus heal the man of leprosy, he touched him. Because of his leprosy no one had touched him since he became sick. Jesus did.

When multitudes of sick were brought to him it brought to mind the prophecy *"He himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses"* (**Matthew 8:16-17**). Jesus told a paralyzed man, *"Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven"* (**Matthew 9:2**). Then Jesus goes on to heal him of his paralysis. A woman with a flow of blood that was both unclean and an embarrassment to her tried to touch Jesus without bothering him. However, Jesus knew she was there, turned and spoke to her, *"Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well."* (**Matthew 9:22**). We see the compassion of Christ in his look, his word, his touch and his care in every miracle.

His care for us may be the greatest miracle of all.

Don Bunting

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 teaches one who is carried away with teaching that does not comply with the Bible can be lost? Read Galatians 1:6-9 and Galatians 5:4.

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

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Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

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OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-620-0563

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News and Notes:

Sick in need of Prayers:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick,
Denese Goring, Brooklyn
Boyer, Tracy Richardson,
Jordan Moody, Don Craig, Tina
Brofft, Ken Green, Matt
Bassford, Tim Young, Judy
Root, Beth Armstrong and Mary
Davis, the Aunt of Tracy
Richardson.

Bible Classes:

Sunday Morning - Hebrews -

Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening - 1&2

Peter and Jude - Ron Peck

Sunday Sermon:

Pray for/with a Purpose



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