

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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LET US NOT BE DECEIVED

by Jim Stauffer

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.” (Ephesians 5:6–12)

This passage follows an admonition to walk in love as Christ did in giving Himself for us to redeem us from our sin. The next verses that immediately precede these then encourage us to avoid immorality, impurity, greed, covetousness and idolatry. We are told this is the conduct of the sons of disobedience and will incur the wrath of God.

The passage indicates the child of God will fall into this disreputable conduct when he is deceived. The point being, he knows better but if not careful can be tempted to engage in such conduct with those of the world (darkness). We are reminded the darkness he speaks of is the place from which we have come. Being partakers indicates the world initiates these concepts of immorality and encourages us to become partakers.

How do we become partakers and what is the effect on our relationship with God? Second John verse 9 tells us we do so by accepting and encouraging their conduct. This passage differentiates clearly between darkness and light. We know we are to be the light of the world from the teaching of Jesus (**Matt. 5:14-16**). Our light ceases to shine if we do not distinguish clearly for all to see the difference in walking in love as Christ did and this immoral conduct of the world.

As we all know, the accepted and promoted morality of the world is in sharp contrast to that of our Lord.

Our passage teaches us we are not only to avoid participating in the evil deeds of the world, but we are to expose them.

In this day and age, it is not politically correct to challenge the morality promoted in society. But we must realize politically correctness is not the guideline for being the light of the world. When the world begins to say it is acceptable for man to change the order God has set for us, we must oppose that vigorously. It is not sufficient for us privately hold “our opinion” on such matters, it is imperative that we embrace the morality of God and Christ. Notice these verses in this text; *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Ephesians 5:1–2)* If we imitate God and walk in love as Christ did, we will not fear the recriminations of those in the world. We must truly be His disciples.

The way we take our stand is by being converted from the heart to His form of teaching (**1 Cor. 6:17**). *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)*

If we are indeed the brethren of the apostle and joint heirs with Christ (**Rom. 8:16,17**), we must be willing to suffer with Him in order to be glorified with Him.

The differentiation God calls for between His children and the world is clear. But it also brings with it persecution on many different levels. We should be proud to suffer in His name (**Acts 5:41; 1 Peter 4:14,16**), Who gave us our name, Christian. Let us tell the world in word and deed the message of Christ.

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I consider the following message found on Facebook, from Russ Bowman to be of supreme value to all servants in the Kingdom of God. (Editor)

In the bible, the phrase "the day of the LORD" is noted in thirty verses. The concept is first expressed in the OT prophets, where it addresses a day of judgment, of separation, of testing. It consistently exposes those who lack real trust in God and becomes the impetus to their destruction - sometimes physically but always spiritually. But it also serves as a day of deliverance and identification for the faithful remnant (and, again consistently, it is but a remnant who maintain their trust). The specific circumstance may vary - the Assyrian invasion (Isaiah; Amos); the Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah; Ezekiel; Zephaniah); a locust plague (Joel); the introduction of the gospel (Peter); the final judgment (Paul; Peter) - but each event serves to identify and divide the unfaithful from the remnant. And they all prefigure the ultimate eternal separation of the just and unjust by the Lord Himself.

I'm no prophet and only God can reveal what circumstances truly serve as divine efforts at refining mankind. But nothing in my lifetime has so identified and distinguished persons of real faith like the present pandemic. I don't know if COVID is a true "day of the Lord" event, the latest and most effective effort of Satan to undermine real trust and discipleship, or simply the experience of life under the sun. Regardless of which is true, this much is certain - now is the time for people of faith to stand up, be counted, be active, and persevere. God's people are not to cower in fear nor subsist in selfish hypocrisy.

Regardless of the events in the world around us, we are to serve, worship, influence, love, and sacrifice. Our King rules. We either trust Him completely or we don't. Let's start living like people of faith - not pretenders.

Two Men Serve the Lord **by Bill Hall**

Two men serve the Lord. The first is motivated by his love for the local church as an institution. He enthusiastically supports its program of activities. He works diligently to get others to be baptized, for he is interested in this organization of which he is a part, and he wants to see it grow.

He attends all the meetings, gives liberally of his money, and really does his part in support of the local church.

The other is motivated by his love for the Lord. He, too, works to convert others, but he does so because

he is concerned for their souls. He, too, attends all the meetings, for in doing so he is drawn closer to the Lord whom he loves, and has opportunity to glorify His name. He also gives liberally of his money, for he loves the Lord and is interested in doing his part in financing His work. He loves the church and rejoices when it grows but his love reaches far more deeply than does that of the first man; in fact, he would serve the Lord if there were not another Christian on earth nor prospects that there would ever be another.

The first man's enthusiasm is dependent to a great degree on others. While the congregation is growing and active, his enthusiasm continues strong; but when problems arise, or his favorite preacher moves on, or some of his brethren don't "pull their weight," or someone criticizes him, or the congregation just generally faces a difficult period his enthusiasm begins to wane and he becomes "unfaithful."

The second man is stable and unwavering. Brethren come and go; the congregation of which he is a part has its periods of depression; problems arise from time to time; but this man's enthusiasm remains constant through it all, for it is centered on Him who never changes, the One who has promised, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Let us take heed the, how we build **(1 Corinthians 3:10)**. Perhaps the title of this article should read, *One Man Serves the Lord*, for it is very doubtful that the first man serves the Lord at all.

Another Excuse: Let George Do It!

It's amazing how many excuses we humans can develop! No matter how overwhelming the need or the evidence may be we seem to always be able to come up with a "reason" to go our own way.

Today's excuse is given to us in the scriptures by no less a personage than Moses himself. In the book of Exodus where God appeared to Moses in the Burning Bush (chapters 3&4) God gives Moses his commission, to return to Egypt and bring the children of Israel out to the Promised Land. He then gives Moses three miracles to perform before the people that they may believe him, for God NEVER ACCEPTS BLIND FAITH. He always gives us REASONS TO BELIEVE. Then, in **Exodus 4:13** Moses said, *"Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will."* In other words, let someone else do it!

Now, to be fair, Moses had good reason to not want to go back to Egypt. He had tried to lead the children of

Israel out of slavery before and was rejected, **Acts 7:25**. Also, he was guilty of killing an Egyptian and fleeing Pharaoh's wrath, **Exodus 2:11-15**. This had made him a traitor to Egypt. Yes, Moses was right to fear a return to Egypt, from a purely human perspective. But when God gives a command, that supersedes all merely human concerns. God made this abundantly clear to Moses and he succeeded in bringing the Israelites to their promised homeland.

Aren't we today just so much like Moses. "Yes, it surely needs to be done and, Yes it's important to a whole lot of people, but, I don't want to be the one who has to do it! I will volunteer my wife's brother, though! I wouldn't want anyone to think I'm irresponsible."

Our society is in the shape it's in today precisely because many do not step forward and accept the responsibility for seeing that what needs to be done gets done. Males have abdicated home and fatherhood. Women have busied themselves with trying to do everything that men do and forgotten they were created to do all the things men CAN'T do. Letting someone else do it doesn't work! It doesn't work in society, the home or the church. Surely we can do better!

Cleveland Reddinger

But He Lingered

As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, *"Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city (Gen. 19:15-16)*

But he lingered--these words were spoken about a man named Lot. Lot was living in the city of Sodom as a result of pitching his tent toward Sodom and the well watered plains of Jordan when he and Abraham parted ways (**Gen. 13**). Sodom was an exceedingly wicked city (**Gen. 13:13**) and now God has decided to destroy it (**Gen. 18**). Two angels who have taken on the appearance of men come to Sodom and tell Lot about the impending destruction, urging him to take his family and flee quickly lest he be destroyed along with the punishment of the city (**Gen. 19:12-16**). Some very powerful influences are brought to bear on Lot to induce him to leave Sodom. Had it not been for the mercy of God, Lot would have perished with the rest of Sodom.

Why should we wonder and be amazed that Lot lingered in availing himself of the opportunity to be saved? Lot has his counterpart in every place where the true word of God is proclaimed. Men are told of God's

goodness as well as His severity (**Rom. 11:22**). Men are told what to do to be saved as well as what to do to keep saved as is evidenced throughout the pages of the New Testament. Men are warned to flee the wrath that is to come (**2 Thess. 1:7-9**). Yet they still linger, procrastinate, put off doing what they know they should do.

There is a record being kept of all the deeds we do in this body, good or bad and one day that record will testify either for us or against us (**Rev. 20:12; 2 Cor. 5:10**). Oh, how careful we should be each day. What has been recorded on our record thus far? Is it recorded that we have and are now working out our salvation with fear and trembling according to God's word (**Phil. 2:12**). Is it recorded that everything we say and do is in or by the authority of Christ (**Col. 3:15-17**). Does our record now testify that we are seeking those things above with our affections set on things above (**Col. 3:1-2; Matt. 6:19-21; Matt. 6:33; Heb. 12:1-3**)? Does our record bear testimony that we are an example of the believer, fighting the good fight of faith (**1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Tim. 6:12**)? Or does our record show that we are following in the footsteps of Lot, lingering, hesitating, dragging our feet in doing those things that must be done in order to lay hold on eternal life?

Friends; all of us need to pause and think seriously about what God is recording in His book about us. I leave you with these words from the Preacher. *"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going" (Eccl. 9:10).*

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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.

Things not taught in the Bible that people believe, and foster false teaching as a result.

Women Preachers - 1 Cor.14:34; 1 Tim. 2:12

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

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Wednesday Evening - GENESIS -
Jim Stauffer

Sunday Sermon - PURE RELIGION



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