

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.

February  
20  
2022

## BEING ZEALOUS FOR GOOD DEEDS

Jim Stauffer

The scripture teaches us Christ sacrificed Himself *to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.* (Titus 2:14) They further teach us that those who are saved by grace through faith are, *...His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.* (Ephesians 2:10) Finally the introduction of our thoughts is made complete in the passage from **Romans 1:17**, *“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”*

Now the combined message of these passages is that the righteous man is busy working, toiling, laboring at virtuous, good, honest and worthy deeds at the instruction of God in Whom he has faith.

Let us take a look to see how we have come to this point. The passage above that reminds us we are *His workmanship*, is making reference to our change, our new birth (**John 3:3-5**). We have become a new creature in order to be changed from our unrighteous state to a condition of just or righteous. That occurred when we buried our old man of sin in baptism into the death of Christ and arose to walk in newness of life (**Romans 6:3,4 cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**). When Jesus gave His life for us (**Romans 5:6-11**), He redeemed us from the clutches of Satan in his kingdom of the flesh/world. Our sins were forgiven as we responded to His call (**Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; Colossians 1:13,14**).

This process of change and renewal is what Paul speaks to when he tells us to put off the old man of sin and *“and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”* (Ephesians 4:24) Our hearts and minds are renewed and changed from fleshly thought to spiritual (**Romans 12:1,2**). We now are able to heed the

instruction to walk as Jesus walked, to indeed follow in His footsteps (**Ephesians 5:1,2; 1 Peter 2:21-24**)

Now we are in tune with the Lord as is demanded in this passage by the apostle to the Philippians.

*“Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* (**Philippians 2:1-8**) The contrasting point of view expressed by Jesus as He spoke of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees was, *“Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. “These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.”*” (**Matthew 15:17-20**)

In all these passages notice how the emphasis in practicing good deeds is a result of our becoming like our Lord. The zealousness we need to be like Him comes as we are changed by His life and His word. The purpose of these good deeds is intended to be the result of a changed heart. When the heart is changed

*continued on page 2*

we will not be performing arduous chores, but rather those things which come from our hearts.

Yes there will be benefit for others when we serve the Lord, but the greater benefit will be in the health of our spirit and our relationship with Him. We will benefit from being zealous of good deeds far more than anyone to whom we may give our time or service.

## **Two Men React to Teaching on Morals**

**Bill Hall**

Two men listen to lessons on practical Christian living but their attitudes differ greatly.

**The first man** views all such teaching as arbitrary “church” rules. Warnings concerning dancing, mixed swimming, general immodesty, divorce for every cause, drinking, etc. are all looked upon as “Church of Christ” standards, traditions being sustained by the old-timers of the church who are out of touch with more up-to-date thinking on morals.

**The second man** is brought to understand that all such teaching is an outgrowth of genuine respect for the Bible; that warnings concerning the evils mentioned above are based on scriptures as **Matthew 5:27,28; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 2:9; Matthew 19:9; and Romans 13:12-14**; that they, therefore, are not arbitrary church rules, but are indeed a true picture of God’s will for His people.

**The first man** hates this teaching. Of course he does! Doesn’t he have just as much moral perception as another? Why should he allow some other man to decide what’s right or what’s wrong for him? He’ll do what he pleases. Nobody will find his thinking on him.

**The second man**, recognizing that the standards under consideration are God’s and not man’s gladly complies. Jesus Christ is his Lord and King. He will live whatever life his Lord wants him to live. He will make every sacrifice his Lord wants him to make. His conformity grows out of a desire to please God, not man.

**The first man** may take the form of a teenager rebelling against parental authority, or the form of a man “raised in the church,” whose church loyalty is beginning to wane; or the form of a new convert who is having difficulty defining modesty, decency, and lasciviousness in practical terms. The fault may live within the person himself. He may be wanting to break away from all restrictions, thus refusing to view objectively Bible

principles behind the teaching he is rejecting. Or the fault in some cases may lie in those who teach. They may be guilty of “establishing” their points along the lines through pulpit beating and foot stamping, rather than through sound reasoning from the scriptures; of unconsciously seeking for “church” loyalty or “preacher” loyalty rather than loyalty to the Lord. Either way, we are concerned for our first man’s soul, for he is wrong in his thinking.

Let no one misunderstand. We strongly oppose every evil mentioned above. But the truth is - no man is obligated to bow to anything **we** teach because **we** teach it; but on the other hand, he is obligated to live by every principle that is truly established upon the word of God. It is the duty of every teacher, then, to warn of these evils, but on the basis of God’s authority. It is the duty of every hearer to consider them in the light of scripture. Greater God-consciousness on the part of both teacher and hearer is the need.

## ***You Can – But You Can’t***

You can ignore God's warnings; you can refuse his blessings; you can reject all his wondrous love, but you can't go to heaven doing so.

You can believe any doctrine you choose; you can belong to the church of your choice; you can worship God as you please, but you can't please God doing so (**2 Jno. 9; Mt. 15:9,13; Rom. 10:1**).

It seems that Satan has done a remarkable job of convincing the people that their religion is a matter of their choice, not God's; that it is a matter of their being pleased.

***by Grover Stevens***

## **Walking By the Spirit. How?”**

*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh: (Galatians 5:16).*

What does it mean to walk in the Spirit? The context helps us answer the question. *"For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish" (Galatians 5:17).* We see here two influences battling for our allegiance. It is a

discussion of our behavior and what will determine what we will do. The Spirit of God is telling us what to do. The flesh is telling us what to do. These two are opposed to one another and we cannot follow both at the same time. We cannot obey the Spirit and yield to the inclinations of the flesh.

The word flesh could refer to the desires of our own physical body. That would leave out the evil inclinations of our heart and mind, including many things listed in verse twenty. As the Spirit refers to the Spirit of God (an outside influence), I believe the flesh refers to the world, worldliness and the realm of Satan (another outside influence).

The text clearly indicates we have the power to choose which influence we will follow:

- v. 13 calls for good conduct
- v. 14 *"love your neighbor"*
- v. 15 *"if you bite and devour"*
- v. 16 commanded to *"walk in"*
- v. 18 one is *"led by the Spirit"*

The Spirit leads and guides primarily by His word. We can know where the Spirit leads and what He calls for by reading the word. The flesh influences us by deceit and lies found in every place in this world. These are two forces, one opposed to the other. We will choose. May God help us choose well.

Read the text and meditate carefully. Let me know if you think I can help to understand and follow God's way.

***Don Bunting***

## **THEY MISSED HIM!**

They were looking for A Lion, He came as a Lamb, and they missed him.

They were looking for a Warrior, He came as a Peace maker, and they missed him.

They were looking for a King, He came as a Servant, and they missed him.

They were looking for Liberation from Rome, He submitted to the Roman cross, and they missed him.

They were looking for a fit to their mold, He was the mold maker, and they missed him.

They were looking for their temporal needs to be met. He came to meet their eternal needs, and they missed him.

How about you? Don't miss Him.

***-- Author Unknown***

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

***That Jesus' kingdom came shortly after He ascended to heaven:***

Jesus taught early in His ministry to seek His kingdom - **Matthew 6:33** and that those who did would be blessed - **Matthew 5:3,10**. He then promised those who were alive with Him on the earth would live to see it coming in power - **Mark 9:1**.

He indicated His church (**Matthew 16:18**), the one He purchased with His own blood (**Acts 20:28**) was the kingdom (**Matthew 16:19**).

This point is made further when we see those who obeyed the command of Peter on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2**, and were baptized for the remission of their sins were added to the church (**Acts 2:38,41,47**).

The point is complete then when Paul describes the conversion of the sinner in these verses, *"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* (**Colossians 1:13-14**)

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

***"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)***

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*

## OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-620-0563

Check out the following websites:

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

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

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Joe Hurd

### NEWS AND NOTES:

#### THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson, Tina Brofft, Matt Bassford, Cleveland Redding, David and Joanne Beckley, Mark Walker, Karen Henry, Bowen Michael Blount.

Remember the family and friends of Jimmy Moore who passed away this past week.

Bible Classes - Sunday Morning -

REVELATION - Bill Miller

Wednesday Evening - GENESIS - Jim Stauffer

Sunday Sermon - Faith Comes From Evidence



### ***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