

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

April 10, 2022

SALVATION AND THE CHURCH

Jim Stauffer

“Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” (Acts 2:47) Those spoken of in this text had responded to the preaching of Peter on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They had asked what they needed to do to make amends for their complicity in the crucifixion of Jesus. They knew their conduct placed them in a desperate condition with the God of heaven.

It is crucial to understand that the salvation spoken of in Scripture is a deliverance from our sins and from the bondage of that sin (**John 8:32; Col. 1:13,14**). If we are to be saved by the gospel (**Rom. 1:16**), which is by the power of God, we must listen to God concerning our relationship with Him following our deliverance. Simply stated, we are added to the church He promised to build (**Matthew 16:18**), the church He purchased with His own blood (**Acts 20:28**).

As members of the church, (which is His body **Ephesians 1:22,23**) we then must heed the instruction given in His word to those who hold such membership.

It is apparent the world has a very different concept of just what the church is. A different concept of how one becomes added to the church. And they have come to that belief not from reading the Scriptures but rather by listening to the ideas of men (**Galatians 1:6-9**). Suddenly we hear people say they can worship from their home and have no need of being a part of a local group of saints who constitute the church in their community. It has been expressed they can meet the worship requirements of songs, prayer, Lord's Supper and any other acts of worship set forth by Apostolic teaching. This is a sad situation and heart breaking when a new convert believes all they needed to do was be baptized and then continue “worshiping” as they have

in the past with no assembling with their brethren needed.

As sad as this is with folks in the world, I fear we have brethren who have now begun to devalue congregating with brethren to worship just as those brethren in the New Testament did. Zoom is a wonderful thing to these folks. Please be certain we are not addressing those whose health prevents them from assembling. We are addressing those who CHOOSE to listen in on Zoom rather than assemble with the saints. They fail to understand the value of*“speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”....* (**Ephesians 5:19**). They fail to understand the Lord's Supper is observed in a congregational setting (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11**). They do not contribute to the work of the Lord on the first day of the week as New Testament Christians were instructed (**1 Corinthians 16:1,2**).

They fail to realize the arrogance demonstrated when one says, I can do it this way and it will be just as pleasing to God. They should consult the story of David, Uzza and the Ark of the Covenant in **1 Chronicles 13**. If and when they do they will learn God does not overlook our ignorance in this day and age (**Acts 17:30**).

Our salvation is in Christ Jesus (**2 Thessalonians 2:10**, the Christ Who purchased the church (**Acts 20:28**) and did so by purchasing the souls of those who make up the church (**Titus 2:11-14**). We cannot be saved outside the church and being in the church brings with it responsibilities to assemble to work and worship with the saints. We are simply not wise enough to determine the right way for ourselves, *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death.”* (**Proverbs 14:12**)

What's Wrong With 'Situation Ethics'?

Joseph Fletcher (1905-1991), an Episcopal priest, was the most famous proponent of "situation ethics." In a book entitled "Situation Ethics: The New Morality" he formalized a view that is commonly accepted by many individuals.

Here are some quotes from Fletcher's book:

"For the situationist there are no rules - none at all." p. 55

"And therefore what is sometimes good may at other times be evil, and what is sometimes wrong may sometimes be right when it serves a good enough end - depending on the situation." p. 123

"Any act - even lying, premarital sex, abortion, adultery, and murder - could be right, depending on the circumstances."

"The new morality, situation ethics, declares that anything and everything is right or wrong, according to the situation." p. 55

The concept of "situation ethics" has been widely accepted in our culture.

So, what's wrong with Situation Ethics?

1. It assumes that man is able to know what to do any given situation without God's guidance.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12)

"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jeremiah 10:23)

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8,9)

2. It ignores the many absolute prohibitions in the Bible.

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9,10)

3. It ignores the many Bible examples which show that "the end DOES NOT justify the means".

- King Saul (1 Sam. 15)
- Uzzah (2 Sam. 6:3-7)

4. It insults God and His Word

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" (2 Peter 1:3)

5. It obscures right and wrong.

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isaiah 5:20,21)

- by Greg Gwin

Self Control

What is the value of self-control? Self-control is that which enables us to hold our tongues when we are tempted to viciously put someone in his place once and for all; or when we know a juicy bit of gossip that would be entertaining to the group and would turn us into the "life of the party"; or when an occasion almost demands that we betray a confidence that must not be betrayed under any circumstances.

Self-control is that which enables us to control our passions when another is provoking us to anger; that keeps the clenched fists in the pockets when the agitator is only half our size; that keeps the lips sealed when another is railing and swearing at us. Self-control is that which enables us to be like our Lord *"who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously"* (1 Peter 2:23).

Self-control is that which enables us to maintain purity of heart and to thrust out evil thoughts before they can take root; that enables us to place the best possible construction on another person's actions when unproven rumors could easily destroy our confidence in him; that helps us to maintain a cheerful disposition when everything around us has turned sour. Self-control is that which enables us to love the unlovable and to hate that which the world loves.

Self-control is that which enables us to rule our appetites; to say "no" when our lusts would lead us to sin or when that which is harmful to our health is placed before us. Self-control is that which enables the smoker to put down his cigarettes and the alcoholic to put down his drink and never return to it. Self-control is that which enables us to rule rather than to be enslaved.

The Bible does not glorify the indifferent and impassive. It is not our goal to be uncaring. To be like Paul, we must be able to have our spirit stirred within us when we are surrounded by evil (**Acts 17:16**). To be like our Lord, we must sometimes feel anger when surrounded by hypocritical self-righteousness (**Mark 3:5**); we must even react with occasional outbursts of goodness on occasions, as when the Lord cleansed the temple (**John 2:13-17**). But, all such outbursts must be tempered with self-control, that in our anger we *“do not sin”* (**Ephesians 4:26**).

God does not view our uncontrolled actions with amusement. Our temper tantrums and harsh, unbridled words are soul threatening, a potential bar to the abundant entrance into the Lord’s everlasting kingdom (**II Peter 1:5-11**). We must not minimize the danger. We must not surrender to this evil.

What is the value of self-control? It is one of the qualities that enable us to go to heaven. The possessor of it is rich indeed.

by Bill Hall

Following is a daily journal with commentary on the lyrics of the hymn, Day By Day, No. 147 in Hymns For Worship.

This journal is provided for us by Caleb Anderson.
Day 1

“Day by day and with each passing moment, strength I find to meet my trials here.....”

Lamentations 3:22 is one of my favorite verses, saying, *“through the LORD’S mercies, we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning.”* God provides us with enough strength to overcome our obstacles for each day as we live. Every morning they are new. **Matthew 6:34** tells us, *“do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own trouble.”* This paired with the verses from Lamentations, serve as a simple reminder to live day by day, using God’s strength of the day to focus on today. If He woke you up today, He has a purpose for you today, and He wants you to rely on Him to get you through the day. His strength will get you through. *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13). “Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)*

"When Do I Die, Daddy?"

A family had a tragic accident involving the youngest son, Jody. He was in desperate need of a transfusion. Jody's big brother, barely eight years old, had the same rare blood type. The father sat down and carefully tried to explain to the big brother how this blood transfusion was needed, and how wonderful it would be for his little brother. Finally, after some silence, the big brother seriously responded, "Ok, Daddy, I'll give my blood to Jody so he will get well!" After courageously giving a pint of his blood, the father was silently standing by the side of his son. Much to the shock of the father, the boy, with tears in his eyes said, "When do I die, Daddy?" In utter amazement, the father reeled with the realization that in his whole feeble attempt to explain the giving of blood, his son had misunderstood. He thought that he would die as soon as the transfusion was over! He thought he had given all of his blood! What brotherly love!

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.

Did you know this is not taught in the Bible?

God decides who is lost and saved and man has no free-will.

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned.”

(Mark 16:15–16)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

(John 3:16)

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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WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS
GENESIS - JIM STAUFFER

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**THE LOVE AND POWER OF
GOD**



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