

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 24, 2022

TWO SOURCES OF AUTHORITY

Jim Stauffer

Jesus teaches the Pharisees and us as well in **Matthew 21:23-27**, there are two sources of authority. One is heaven and one is man. This was His answer when he was challenged about His authority to teach and work miracles among His people.

Now later, Paul teaches the same principle to the brethren at Thessalonica. *“For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.”*

(1 Thessalonians 2:13)

There is so much reality expressed and exposed with this verse as Paul speaks to the church at Thessalonica.

He first addresses a very appropriate mentality of mankind as he speaks to accepting the word of God as truly coming from Him. The flip side of that is accepting the words of men as if they came from God. Let me illustrate this point with a story of a Building Contractor. His task was erecting a house of worship for a very popular denomination. This particular denomination was led by a Pastor. Pastor in that sentence is singular. As he met with the committee in charge of designing the contract for the work he made them an offer. He promised to build their building at no expense to them if they could show him Scriptural authority for a congregation to have one pastor over the flock. They became very excited about the prospect of a free building. Their excitement seemed to gradually die down and they never approached him with evidence as time went on with the construction. These men have traditionally for many years accepted the word of men as if it was the word of God.

Paul commends the Thessalonians for doing the opposite. For accepting his word as the word of God.

Why should they? Paul says the words he spoke were given to him verbatim by the Holy Spirit as planned by the Lord. *““But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”* **(John 16:13)** Now Paul tells us how it actually worked, *“For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”* **(1 Corinthians 2:10-13)**

I am not sure how to reach people with the simple point that truth matters. It is what frees man from the bondage of sin **(John 8:32)**. The only word we can assume to be true since by nature it is, is the word of God **(John 17:17)**.

We are seeing a time when not just in spiritual matters but in social, health and nearly all matters people are choosing to believe what makes them comfortable rather than insisting on the truth.

This reminds me of my exercise program. I exercise until it makes me uncomfortable. I am told that is the point where progress begins, but far too often I opt for comfort rather than the mantra, “no pain, no gain”. This is exactly what we find when we bring the truth of God’s word to folks who are practicing things contrary to it.

The cold hard fact is this, Jesus is the author of eternal salvation. And He authors it to those who obey

Him. John tells us when we go beyond the doctrine of Christ, we no longer have God and Christ. How much bolder can the word be than to say as Jesus did, *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ‘Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ‘And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”* (Matthew 7:21–23)

This is exactly the group of people who accept the words of uninspired men as if they are truth instead of embracing the words of the Lord, spoken through His chosen apostles.

The Providence of God by David A Cox

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28) In this verse, Paul is attesting to the certain fact of the providence of God. Providence is the work God does as the Creator’s care and maintenance of the balance of the natural world. Through providence, God is working to provide a result He desires. Though God is acting or working, does not require any action that would violate any of the laws of nature. As individuals, we regularly work to bring a desired result to pass. If we can work things to obtain a desired result without miracles, why can’t God do the same? He can!

What is Providence?

The word “providence” is of Latin origin (providentia), which simply means “to foresee.” Providence involves God seeing a need or desired result and arranging things to produce the outcome. Paul speaks of providence as he wrote, *“all things work together for good.”* Providence is God working through His provision in the natural and spiritual realms. In working in these realms, God does not violate man’s free will, nor is there any violation of natural or spiritual laws.

Examples of Providence in Scripture.

The scriptures record many examples of miracles performed by God. However, there are also many examples of God working providentially, through natural laws, to bring desired results to pass.

- There are many examples of women who were unable to bear children in the Old Testament, and God blessed them and opened their wombs. After this, they were able to conceive and bear children: Sarah

(Genesis 21:1), Rebekah (Genesis 25:21), Rachel (Genesis 30:22), and Hannah (1 Samuel 1:5, 20). These women did not conceive through miraculous means. Still, through natural laws and healing, all of these women could conceive, carry, and give birth to children in a natural way.

- In 2 Kings 20:1-7, 18, King Hezekiah was told that he was sick and would die due to his illness. He prays to God to be healed. The Lord heals him, but Hezekiah is told to receive medical treatment to be healed. God worked to bring healing to Hezekiah through the laws of nature.

- In Acts 27, Paul is on a ship headed for Rome. He had desired to see the brethren for some time (Romans 1:9-10). He has prayed that he would be able to see them and asked the brethren in Rome to join him in praying that he would see them (Romans 15:32-30-32). God providentially brings Paul to Rome, as Paul’s life was spared when a Jewish mob was bent on killing him, and he was sent to Caesarea by night (Acts 23:31-ff). For two years, Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea. Paul uses his right as a Roman citizen to appeal his case to Caesar (Acts 25:11). On the journey to Rome, the ship is caught in a terrible storm and suffers a shipwreck, but lives are spared (Acts 27:24). Finally, Paul arrives in Rome. Is this mere chance or the providence of God? Paul writes to the church at Philippi about the things that have occurred and says, *“I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel”* (Philippians 1:12). There is no doubt that Paul suffered many things, but God was working to bring to pass the opportunity for Paul to preach the gospel in Rome. We know that God acted and worked in each circumstance in the examples above, but we do not know-how. Just because we do not understand how God works does not negate that He is working.

The providence of God is when He is working through nature to work out the result He desires. How thankful we should be that God works today through nature, men, and other natural means to bring to pass what He desires and the good things for those who love Him.

Four Thieves of the Crucifixion Gary Puryear

1 – The thief who regretted (Jn. 12:6) – Oh the advantages that Judas had! He had been selected by Jesus to be an apostle, was entrusted by his peers with the position of treasurer, and observed many of the

Lord's miracles (**Matt. 11:5**). It was this Judas who betrayed the Lord for money. His betrayal turned to regret (**Matt. 27:3**), but rather than look forward to forgiveness, he only looked back and hanged himself. True repentance means more than feeling sorry for a wrong. It is the desire to change and do better (**2 Cor. 7:10**).

2 – The thief who was replaced – It was customary to release a prisoner at the Passover. Thus Pilate offered the crowd either Jesus or Barabbas. They requested the notorious murderer and robber rather than Jesus (**Matt. 27:15,16**). Barabbas had someone else (Jesus) take his punishment for him. Barabbas could say that Jesus died in his place. Of course, we can say it too (**2 Cor. 5: 20,21**).

3 – The thief who rebelled – At first both thieves crucified with Christ spoke against Him (**Matt. 27:41-44**), but only one kept on doing it (**Lk. 23:39**). This thief remained impenitent because he forgot God, ignored death at hand, and justly deserved what he was receiving (**Lk. 23:40,41**). This man died in a state of rebellion in spite of the rebuke and repentance of the other thief and a Savior close at hand.

4 – The thief who repented – The thief had a change of heart (**Lk. 23:40-4**). He admitted his sinfulness and Jesus' innocence (**41,42**). His repentance did not bring escape from death but did bring relief and fellowship with Jesus in the next life (**43**).

All of us are represented by one of these thieves. Have you let Jesus down? Have you allowed Jesus to take your place? Are you rebellious? Have you repented? Which are you?

Taken from the 25th Street Bulletin

God Rejects Much Worship!

We live in a time when many people clearly think that they can offer to God any worship they want to give and God will be pleased with it. Apparently they feel God wants men's worship so desperately He'll take what He can get! This has never been the case as a mere cursory look at the scriptures will show.

Cain and Abel were brothers, raised in the same household, and yet God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's (**Genesis 4:4f**). Why? Because Abel's offering was made by faith (**Hebrews 11:4**) and Cain's was not! In other words, according to **Romans 10:17** Abel listened to what God told him to offer and did just exactly that while Cain did not listen and offered what HE WANTED to offer, and thus it was rejected.

Nadab and Abihu were brothers in **Leviticus 10:1, 2**, "*Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.*" God had told them specifically what to offer and how and they apparently figured "fire is fire, so any fire will do". But Jehovah God clearly had other ideas on the matter! He even forbade Aaron from public mourning over the matter, **vs 6**.

Paul told us in **Romans 15:4**, "*For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*" The Old Testament scriptures were given to teach us about the God we worship that we might approach Him with absolute reverence and not as an equal.

Cleveland Reddinger

Did you know this is not taught in the Bible?

That Christians worshiped on the Sabbath?

See Acts 20:7 and 1 Corinthians 16:1,2

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.

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

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

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**Elders: Ron Peck
Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons: Bill Miller
Joe Hurd**

NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

JAN PATRICK, ALMA
BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING,
BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY
RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD,
DAVID & JOANNE, BECKLEY, MARK
WALKER, STEVE WIMP, ERNESTINE
BYERS AND NICK COOPER.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
REVELATION - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS
GENESIS - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:
**ASSEMBLE TO STIMULATE
AND ENCOURAGE**



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