

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

Anno Surface 2010

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

June
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IS YOUR AUTHORITY AUTHORITATIVE?

by Jim Stauffer

One of the very first things we learn in reading the Scriptures is the story of Adam and Eve and how Eve was deceived by Satan (**Genesis 3:4-6; 2 Corinthians 11:3**). This sin on their part resulted from accepting the word of someone other than God. They took Satan's word when he said God did not mean what He said. In the very beginning we see the need to hear God's word and heed it regardless of what anyone else may say.

Jesus said God's word is the truth (**John 17:17**). He said He will judge us by His word and that judgment will be according to righteousness (**John 12:48; Acts 17:31**).

One would think it would be very clear that the judgments of God upon mankind, both during life on the earth and in the final judgment would be based on what He has communicated to us through His Son (**Hebrew 1:1,2**). Especially in light of the history of the Jews in the Old Testament. Both the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah were punished by the captivity of their enemies because they failed to honor the Law He gave them.

But men in our generation just as in those of the past continue to trust in authority that exists outside the domain of God Himself. Listen to Jesus following His resurrection, *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"* (**Matthew 28:18**) The apostle Paul confirms that as he speaks by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the letter to the Ephesians. **Chapter 1:18-23** states that God demonstrated His great might when *....He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the nearly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,*

which is His body, the fullness of Him who fill all in all.

Yet today churches across this country and the world are guided by decisions at their earthly headquarters to conduct themselves in ways that contradict what God has revealed to us as the Holy Spirit presents His thoughts in Scripture (**1 Corinthians 2:10-13**).

Let's illustrate this point by using one single example that should bring the principle clearly into focus. The Catholic Church has authorized a system of hierarchy never mentioned in Scripture. They have Priests over the local church, overseen by Bishops who rule over many of these local churches in a diocese. Then the Cardinals which eventually lead to a Universal Bishop, the Pope. Now, in each of these levels of authority it is demanded these men remain single and celibate. This leads to rules and regulations above and beyond what Scripture authorizes, that is what Jesus authorizes as the One Who has *all authority ...in heaven and earth* and is *...head over all things to the church, which is His body.*

Let us notice some of these deviations from Scripture. We will start from the top down. It is stated by the church Peter is the first Pope. First to be noted is nowhere in Scripture is Peter designated as having authority over the church except as authorized by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel. Second, Peter was not single or celibate (**Matthew 8:14,15**). Third, the terms Pope is not mentioned in Scripture. As for Cardinals to rule over Bishops, there simply is no mention. Much like the writer of Hebrews says of Jesus being a priest of the Law of Moses. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah of which nothing is mentioned in Scripture concerning the priesthood (**Hebrews 7:14**). The silence of the Scripture on this matter was proof Jesus could not be a priest

under that Law. Can we see it could not be unless authorized in the Bible? Bishops in the New Testament serve to oversee the local church only. They were to serve as elders, bishops, pastors over the *flock among them* (**1 Peter 5:1,2; Acts 20:28**). As for priests or any single person overseeing any congregation, it simply does not comport with Scriptural authority because in every case there are elders over a church there is a plurality. Never is one man placed in any authority over the local congregation of God's people.

But we are told these things have been authorized by the Church. Simply stated the church is to be the pillar and ground of the truth (**1 Timothy 3:15**) and the truth comes from God and Christ (**John 17:17; 18:37**).

Who has authorized what you are practicing religiously? Is it the One Who has all authority or are you being deceived just as Eve was in the garden. Please realize the ultimate source of all deceit. Isaiah pleads with us to, *Come now and let us reason together, says the Lord....* **Isaiah 1:18**. Please read for yourself what the Almighty God has spoken for you to follow. He will judge you in the end according to what He has spoken.

The Reality of Zooming

Chuck Bartlett

The Assembly

We, like many other churches, offer Zoom as an option when folks are not gathered with the congregation to worship. It should go without saying that this is NOT offered as a replacement for attending. Clearly Christians are to come together to worship (**I Cor. 11:17-18; Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7 etc.**). Having said that, we must acknowledge some truths concerning Zoom watchers. Let's be aware of the good and possible bad.

Those who want to gather but are unable (there are some valid reasons). What a comfort and encouragement it is to be able to watch services streamed when one can't be there. They know this doesn't replace attending. It's such a joy to be able to hear the word of God and stay connected with the church family (**I Cor. 12:12**), even if it is from afar.

Those who are not members but want to watch and learn. As a tool for evangelism, how wonderful it is that there are those who are getting to hear the word of God. Just like a visitor who may attend in person, listens and observes (**I Cor. 14:23**), the same can be

said for those online.

Those who don't want to gather with the saints but will tune in. As wrong as this is, the good news is that they are getting to hear the word of God. With the power of the gospel (**Rom. 1:16**), this person will, hopefully, realize the need to gather with the saints and get their heart right (**Heb 10:25**).

Those who say they can't come, when they could, and say they will Zoom, but they really don't. Such people have a serious heart problem and are only fooling themselves. It is true that brethren will give others the benefit of the doubt, and they might deceive brethren. However, no one can pull one over on God, He knows everything about man and that includes his actions and thoughts (**Heb. 4:13**).

The good far outweighs the bad when it comes to offering Zoom. It doesn't make it any better for a person to attend when they really don't want to. May we all do what we can to serve our Lord the best we can (**Romans 12:1,2**).

Caleb's Request

Now then, give me this hill country about which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the Lord will be with me and I will drive them out as the Lord has spoken (**Joshua 14:12**).

Some forty-five years have passed since Caleb and Joshua along with ten other men were sent to spy out the land of Canaan (**Num. 13**). You remember well how because of their failure to trust in God, the people had to endure a 40 year wandering in the wilderness before they could enter the promised land (**Num. 14**).

Now, after all those years of hardship, Caleb is about to receive his inheritance in the promised land. His inheritance is occupied by a strong, fierce people that he must conquer. Caleb is 85 years old and he is not afraid to jump right into this great task. Caleb's faith and trust is in the Lord and he knows that so long as he follows the Lord his God fully, then he knows that regardless of how difficult the task may be, the inheritance will be his just as God had promised. Caleb's faith and trust in God comes down the corridor of time and stands as a great example for you and me today.

Like Caleb. we often find ourselves facing some formidable tasks on this journey of life. Sometimes the cares and burdens of this life seem almost unbearable. I think often about the words of **Romans 8:28**: "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose.*" We can and often do quote this passage yet because of our weak, frail human frame, we sometimes struggle to live by it. There is great comfort and hope extended to us in this struggle when we consider the **31st verse of Romans 8**, "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*". I love the words of **Isaiah 12:2**, "*Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation.*"

And who can ever forget the beautiful words of **Isaiah 40:31**, "*Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and get tired, they will walk and not become weary.*" My friends, there is no task, no burden, no sorrow, no heartache that we cannot overcome because of the help that comes to us from our God when we fully follow the Lord (**1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 5:7; Heb. 13:5; Heb. 4:13-16; Phil. 4:6-7**).

As faithful children of God, we walk with the King and so long as we do so there is nothing that can prevail against us (**Romans 8:31-39; Heb. 12:1-3**).

To God be the glory forever and ever, Amen
Charles Hicks, White House Tennessee
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OMG! Who am I talking to?

"Oh my God!" This must be the most often repeated phrase in America today. It is an expression used thoughtlessly. Please think with me for a moment.

These words are a call to God for His attention to some matter. In this phrase I am calling on the Lord. What a good and wonderful statement, when I sincerely, humbly, earnestly call on God for help, for deliverance, in thanksgiving, in joy and praise. Is that what I am doing when I say the words, "*Oh my God...?*" It is an honor to God when I call on His name properly and sincerely.

What happens when I call out, "*Oh my God,*" without truly thinking about Him, talking to Him, praying to Him or talking respectfully about Him? When I cry out with

God's name, without any real thought about Him, His name has become a by-word, like wow or whoooweee. They are near meaningless words simply used to build up some emotion and excitement in my silly speech. The name of our Creator, Savior and God deserves better.

God said, in **Exodus 20:7**, "*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*" That is simply using His name without regard for His person, using His name without truly speaking to Him or about Him.

If I am going to call out: *Oh, my God*, I had better be reverently praying to Him, or preaching about Him.

Don Bunting

ANVIL SPARKS

R.L. Whiteside

A church is losing its grip on the gospel when it puts more stress on "a good mixer" than it does on a good preacher. Beware of the serpent - he was a good mixer.

A good mixer sometimes mixes up a terrible mess.

If Absalom were living today, he would be in great demand, for he was the best mixer in the kingdom.

You may flatter people into mutual admiration society, but only the pure gospel will bring them into the kingdom.

When one who loves to flatter meets one who love to be flattered, you have the proper combination - the slobberer and his bib.

There is a difference between encouraging people for their good and flattering them for your gain.

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

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SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE
CLASS: **SEVEN CHURCHES
OF ASIA - RON PECK**

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE
CLASS **EXODUS TO SINAI -
JIM STAUFFER**

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:
A MAN AFTER MY HEART



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