

Rom. 14:19
"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."

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

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MEAT FOR THE BRETHREN

by Jim Stauffer

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. (Hebrews 5:12–14)

We hear brethren say from time to time, "He needs to put more meat into his lessons." When the Hebrew writer called for these Jewish Christians to mature in order to digest solid food, he was saying the child of God needs to progress after receiving the food for infants (**1 Peter 2:2**), to be able to handle more complex spiritual sustenance.

However, it concerns me when some of our brethren who call for "more meat" fail to understand what that meat really is. The Hebrew writer follows this in the next chapter by indicating there are elementary or foundational teachings about Christ and the gospel that must be understood so one can move on to *maturity* (perfection). This would be learning more and more about Christ and the salvation He offers in order to, *...lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.* (**Philippians 3:12**)

Now Paul elaborates on this growth to maturity or perfection in the verses prior to the one above. He tells us he needs to give up the earthly things that were a gain to him in order to truly know Christ and gain the righteousness Christ offers to the faithful. He further says, *...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being*

conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (**Philippians 3:10–11**)

Often times when brethren call for the preacher to give them "more meat" in his sermons and bible classes, they are really calling for "red meat". What they really want to hear is all those lessons that tell them they are right and the rest of the religious world is wrong and the details of why. Yes, we need to know and understand the doctrine of Christ in order to defend the truth against religious error. But brethren *...our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.* (**Ephesians 6:12**) This struggle includes more than simply identifying error and denouncing it. Paul says it involves personal growth of a spiritual nature. Drawing closer to God.

What we must understand about the "meat" for which we cry is it is largely up to us to digest this total commitment Paul has so clearly identified for us as this is the real "meat" of the gospel. We must truly seek to follow in the steps of Jesus (**1 Peter 2:21-24**) by embracing what we know and living it daily, instead of just taking pride in knowing the truth from error and attacking it constantly from the pulpit. It is a bit reminiscent of the sports theory we often hear from coaches when they say they need to spend more of their time perfecting their own skills and techniques than devoting too much time to find weaknesses in the opponent. We too, will overcome Satan and those *spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places* by strengthening ourselves with a diet of solid spiritual food rather than spending the majority of our time denigrating those who adhere to false doctrine.

Herodias' Daughter

Matt.14:6-7 - *"But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask."*

John the Baptist was killed due in great part to Herod's lust. And Herod's lust was enflamed in great part by the dancing of the daughter of Herodias. It's difficult to see this story otherwise.

Yet more and more I see followers of Jesus involved in such activities, or allowing - and even encouraging or facilitating - such in their children. The physical body is attractive to the opposite sex. Movement in the physical body can and often does enhance said attraction. There is absolutely no denying such. And you would think in a culture that is so obsessed with nudity and sex that Christians would be especially conscious of any appearance or behavior that encourages lasciviousness.

But it is commonplace to see young men and women who profess godliness wearing very revealing clothing (read short shorts & skirts; cropped tops; low cut blouses; clingy, sheer, or tight shirts, dresses, athletic gear). And wearing such shamelessly - almost defiantly - with the idea that anyone who might object is an archaic prude. Then taking their flaunted sexuality to the dance floor so that they might display themselves in the most sensual of ways. It happens regularly. It happens extensively. And we're often scared to address it because of the brazen ridicule that is directed at anyone who would decry such carnality.

I'm saying it. Think what you will. Shame on Herodias' daughter. Shame on Herod. Shame on us. Holiness demands more than such animal behavior.

Russ Bowman

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

"But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). Many people in the Bible enjoyed great wealth. Abraham *"was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold" (Genesis 13:2).* After Job's troubles ended, *"the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed, the LORD gave Job*

twice as much as he had before" (Job 42:10).

Because these two men are noted examples of faithfulness, we assume that righteousness is often rewarded by wealth. *"By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life" (Prov. 22:4).* If you have wealth, then surely God must approve of you and of the way you live. The Jews leaped to the inevitable conclusion: the wealthy are obviously part of the kingdom of Christ.

It is true that living right can bring blessings of a material nature. You can work hard, be fair to others, and then reap the benefits of honest labor. Yet, rich people are not always righteous people. *"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!" (James 5:1-7).* There is no absolute link between goodness and wealth. The disciples of Jesus believed the wealthy would naturally be part of the kingdom. When Jesus said, *"it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God,"* the disciples in astonishment replied, *"Who then can be saved?" (Matthew 19:24-25).* If the rich cannot be part of the kingdom, then who can be?

Yet, all things are possible with God. Understood in the context of Matthew nineteen, Jesus says that only God can save someone (in this case, the rich) from himself. Do we think we are trusting in what God has given when we eagerly hoard up His abundant blessings, and somehow think we have enough to insure our status in the kingdom. With that kind of attitude, it is impossible to enter the kingdom. And it is impossible for God to save us. That is, He will not and cannot save us when our faith is in what we have rather than in what we are.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). The Lord wants all of you, your entire heart. That is the danger of whatever — riches, pride, education, power. Anything that prevents us from seeing our utter, complete dependence upon the Lord will keep us from the kingdom. We might turn away sorrowful, as did the rich young ruler. We can, though, see that Jesus alone provides what we cannot, even with all that we have. Heaven is impossible without our Lord.

Randy Harshbarger

The Kingdom Should Not Be Like...

Throughout the gospels, the Lord used various parables describing the kingdom. Some were positive, as a merchant found a pearl. Some were negative, as wicked vinedressers would be punished. Some were both, as with the parable of the talents. The Lord used everyday situations to teach spiritual principles. As we go through life, we might also make spiritual applications for situations we face.

One of the places this writer has worked had a dedicated breakroom. Perhaps you work in such a place. It is easy to treat church like a breakroom, and many do. See if there isn't an application.

It must be comfortable – Some churches are all about comfort. Feathers must remain unruffled. Toes must be avoided. The clean carpets are covered with eggshells. Tread carefully. This is no place for the sword of the Spirit (**Heb. 4:12**), or the enmity the Lord brings, as *“he who loves father or mother... more than Me is not worthy”* (**Matt. 10:37**). People must be comfortable.

Vending machine – This is the preacher, or how people treat the preacher. Pop in a dollar, now give us what we want. And what is desired by those itching ears (**2 Tim. 4:3**)? Not healthy food, but junk food. Processed, man-made, trifles. The pure milk of the Word to grow and eventually get to meat (**1 Pet. 2:2**)? No. And if the vending machine doesn't work like it should? What a glorious day when that machine is replaced by a shiny new unit! Now give us our funions!

The breakroom talk? – First, the seating. Clickishness abounds. Group A does not sit with group B. And obviously any problems are because of group B, if you are group A, and vice versa. Now, what's the gossip? Just that, mixed in with slandering, irreverence, and an overall letting loose (**1 Tim. 3:11**). Also, people may talk about work, but this is not where actual work gets done. It is a breakroom after all. Talk, talk, talk.

No bosses allowed – They ruin everything, making it hard to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin (**Heb. 11:25**) and talk about others, or them if they are in the room. Nope. Here everyone does what is right in their own eyes (**Jud. 21:25**).

Jesus cleansed the temple (Jn. 2, Mk. 11). The house of God was not as it should have been. It made the Jews uncomfortable (**Jn. 2:18**). He would teach what was needed, not what they wanted to hear (**Mk. 11:17**).

Certain activities were not allowed (**Mk. 11:16**). He had the right to do it because it was His Father's house. It is a shame when people profane that which is holy, turning the church into something like a common breakroom.

John Hines 25th Street Bulletin

Immaturity

King Ahab had a palace in Jezreel. Next to it was a vineyard owned by Naboth. Ahab wanted that vineyard and offered to buy it, either with cash or in exchange for another vineyard. But Naboth did not want to sell. *“So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed . . . and he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food”* (**1 Kings 21:4**).

Poor Ahab! He did not get what he wanted so he pouted like a spoiled child. We read this account and think how silly for a grown man, a king, to act this way. But before we are too quick to condemn Ahab's childishness, let us take a look at our own.

Have you ever known of brethren who got upset because someone else was called on to do something they wanted to do? Or who placed membership at another church (took their toys and went elsewhere) because some little something did not suit? Or who stayed home because the preacher or elders did not come to visit often enough, or perhaps because of some misunderstanding with another Christian?

Paul said when he became a man he put away childish things (**1 Corinthians 13:11**). Let us do the same.

by Frank Himmel

Are you interested in studying the Bible? Maybe there are things in life you feel you do not have answers for and have not been able to find satisfaction in the usual places people in society seek.

Jesus said, “and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32).

***If you believe in Jesus or even if you are interested in investigating what He has offered for our comfort and relief of the problems we have in our daily lives, contact me at :
913-620-0563 or jim.stauffer71@gmail.com***

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

OUR ADDRESS IS:

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Elders:

Ron Peck
Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller
Troy Armstrong

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD, WAYNE MOODY, TONY MAUCK, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK WALKER, PAT AND ED M-CLOUD, PENNY STAUFFER, ELLIE GOLDSTON. AND WINNIE RAWSON.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning
Prayer - Ron Peck

Wednesday Evening - **Minor Prophets - Jim Stauffer**

Sunday Sermon: **The Fight of Faith**



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