

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."

# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

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## A CHANGED PEOPLE

by Jim Stauffer

*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; (Acts 3:19)* This is how we become children of God. Jesus referred to this process as the new birth in His discussion with Nicodemus in **John 3:3ff**. This is what the angel told Zacharias Jesus would do prior to the birth of John the Baptist as he prophesied of the Christ to come (**Luke 1:16**). In his defense before King Agrippa, the apostle Paul said his efforts in preaching the gospel was to ... *turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God...(Acts 26:18)*. And that same change causing men to turn from the world to God was what Luke tells us happened in the city of Antioch (**Acts 11:21**).

So what is this changing and turning people do when they hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a change from being led by the flesh to walking by the spirit (**Galatians 5:16**). Paul spends a great deal of effort in **Romans Chapter 7** explaining the war that goes on in the hearts of men when they desire to do that which is good but find themselves committing sin. This is after he has explained the conversion or changing process of the heart in **Chapter 6**. In that chapter he explains we put to death the old man of the flesh, the man of sin in baptism so we are no longer slaves of sin (**vs. 6**). He describes the baptismal process as being buried with Christ so as He rose from the dead physically, we may rise from our spiritual death to walk in newness of life (**6:3-7**). All this he says is the process of washing away our sins (**Acts 22:16**).

Later in the chapter, he explains the decision a man makes to accomplish this change.

*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. (Romans 6:16-18)*

Sadly, there have always been those who for one reason or another reject this good news of salvation. They are not willing to give up the desires of the flesh and wish to continue be led by those desires rather than viewing eternity and the need to change to inherit the promise of heaven when this life is over. Jesus said this was true of the Pharisees, *For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. (Matthew 13:15)*

Do you wish to go to heaven? Then you must be willing to change. You must be forgiven of your sins (**Romans 3:23**). Forgiveness of sins was what rendered those people saved on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:38, 41, 47**). Paul calls salvation by the term redemption in **Colossians 1:13,14** and equates it to reconciliation in (**2 Corinthians 5:17-19**). In each of these cases people were forgiven of their sins as they were changed by the word of God and began to live their lives led by the spirit rather than by the flesh. They were a changed people. Are you ready to change?

## ***"I'm Gay and God Loves Me"***

So read, I am told, a tee-shirt worn in public by a mature (age wise) man. As strange as it may seem to some who know me, I am in complete agreement with what is actually said on the shirt. The statement is true, and I can prove it by turning to God's word. *"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). God's love for the world (i.e., people living in the world) is all encompassing and excludes no one. This beautiful passage does not say, nor even imply, that God loves the righteous and those who obey Him, to the exclusion of others. Well, so much for what the shirt says.

What is not said, but what the wearer wanted people to believe, is "I'm gay and God approves of my lifestyle." What is actually said and what is implied are worlds apart. God's love (Gr., agapao) has naught to do with whether or not He approves of the actions (lifestyle) of the individual. The following statements (patterned after the statement on the shirt) would be just as true (concerning the love of God): "I'm a mass murderer and God loves me." "I'm a pedophile and God loves me." "I'm a rapist and God loves me." "I'm a thief and God loves me." "I'm an adulterer/adulteress and God loves me." "I'm a liar and God loves me." "I have sexual relations with a goat and God loves me." God loves each of these (and all of us who have been guilty of other sins) with a love so strong that He sent His only begotten Son to pay the penalty for their (our) sins by dying on the cross. God's Son died on Golgotha that you, the shirt wearer, and I might be saved from our sins (from the eternal penalty of our sins), but certainly not in (while embracing and living in) our sins.

The shirt wearer has evidently made the stupid mistake of implying/thinking/believing that God's love equals God's approval and/or that God's love (Gr., agapao) equals salvation. He certainly was not the first to make this mindless mistake (assumption), and will undoubtedly not be the last. *"For God so loved the world . . ."* but the truth is that the majority of God's creation will not be allowed in heaven, but will be in eternal torment. *"Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it"* (Matthew 7:13-14). It is the many versus the few. No,

I do not know the exact number that constitutes many nor how small the number must be to be but few, but I do understand the point being made. In the flood there were only eight who were saved (see Genesis 6-7, noting especially 7:13). In the destruction of Sodom there were, in the final outcome, only three (see Genesis 19, noting verses 15 and 26) that were not consumed in the flames or turned into a pillar of salt.

*"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. And thou shalt not lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith; neither shall any woman stand before a beast, to lie down thereto: it is confusion"* (Leviticus 18:22-23). *"And if a man lie with mankind, as with womankind, both of them have committed abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them"* (Leviticus 20:13).

*"For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working unseemliness, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due"* (Romans 1:26-27). Do I hate the ones who do such things? No! No! A thousand times No!

I do not hate the murderer, rapist, pedophile, thief, liar, adulteress, nor the homosexual. Their actions are the subject of hatred, but not the individual. I would that they would come to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that the Bible really means what it says (Mark 16:16), repent of their sins (Acts 17:30), confess their faith in Christ (Matthew 10:32) and be baptized in order to the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Then I, along with thousands of my brothers and sisters in Christ, would welcome them. This is not hatred, this is love!

**- by Bill Beasley**

## **SUFFERING AND GOD'S PROPHETS**

*"And it will be when you say, 'Why does the LORD our God do all these things to us?' then you shall answer them, 'Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours'"* (Jeremiah 5:19). God's

prophets spoke for God. Their messages came from God (**Deuteronomy 18:18**). Often, God's prophets suffered at the hands of God's own people—people who were supposed to be listening and following the divine message. Jeremiah is one such prophet; he suffered because God's own people refused to listen to the warnings and instructions from God.

Jeremiah was called to his prophetic office before birth (**Jeremiah 1:5-8; all passages from Jeremiah**). He yielded to God's call and embarked on life's journey of preaching to a rebellious Israel. His life was one of tragedy, suffering, and rejection. He is remembered as the "weeping prophet" as he wept over the spiritual condition of God's people.

What did Jeremiah say about his own personal suffering? He asked: *"Why is my pain perpetual?" (15:18)*. He asked: *"Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?" (12:1)*. He became a *"laughingstock" (20:7)*. He asked God to judge his enemies (**18:19-23**). He labored during great *"anguish" (4:19)*. He was *"sick at heart" (8:18)*. Through it all he did not give up on God's love and power (**32:17-22**).

What is the point? Just this: Jeremiah wrestled with pain and suffering; his misery was great because he was serving God faithfully. Trials and tribulations that came to the prophet as the result of his faithfulness. His hard life, though, made him stronger. His trials gave him greater resolve to press on in service to the Lord. Undeserved opposition could not stop him from broadcasting God's message of repent or perish! The people of his day had turned to idols; they did not trust in God. Yet, Jeremiah's faith helped him endure. He persevered when others quit.

When we put our faith and trust in material things, in medical science, in human power, in fame and pleasure, let us remember that these "gods" will always fail us. Jeremiah's faith helped him through a troubled life. Those who forsake the Lord, as did Israel, will face this life without strength and sustenance; ultimately, all who forsake the Lord will face His wrath. God wants you and me to have wholeness and hope. Even when God punished His people, He wanted what was best for them. He wants the same for you and me.

*"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I*

*will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive" (29:13-14).*

**Randy Harshbarger**

## Resurrection

Without the death of Christ, the resurrection would not be meaningful. Now that sounds obvious, so why say it? Because I'm not just talking about death; I am talking specifically about Christ's redeeming death. If Jesus died and rose again without His death for sin, then His resurrection would not mean anything for us. It would only mean that someone rose from the dead with no further significance. It's *"the precious blood of Christ" (1 Pet 1:19)* as a ransom that infuses the resurrection with such great meaning and gives us hope.

Conversely, without the resurrection, the death of Christ cannot be meaningful, for *"if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith" (1 Cor 15:14)*. His resurrection gives us hope for life because His death atones for sin.

The gospel is a total package: *"that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared..." (1 Cor 15:3-5)*. How will this affect you today?

**Doy Moyer**

***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).***

***Jesus further said about the word of God, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." (John 17:17)***

***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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**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

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**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

### 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: **J R Rosado is visiting and will preach both lessons Sunday.**



## 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