

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

September
17
2023

COMING SOON: GOSPEL MEETING With Jason Cicero

OVERCOMING THE WORLD THROUGH JESUS

SEPTEMBER 24-27

Sunday 9:30 AM

Jesus is God

Sunday 10:20 AM

Jesus Will Set You Free

Sunday 5 PM

Satan's Devices

Monday 7 PM

Jesus, Sin and Sinners

Tuesday 7 PM

Not Jesus

Wednesday 7 PM

Jesus is Worthy

IS IT REALLY THE LORD'S WAY OR THE HIGHWAY?

There is an expression that goes, "It's my way, or the highway." This has to do with someone claiming to make the rules and if you don't like them, you can hit the road. Parents might even utter something similar to their child by stating, "Our house, our rules. If you don't like that, there is the door." Such words certainly sound harsh and uncaring. In truth, they could be said with little concern for the listener, especially in the workplace. But when it comes to our Lord, has He ever said something even remotely the same as, "It's

My way or the highway"? Let's look into the word of God and find out.

Before we get into answering the question, we need to learn some important facts that must be remembered. When it comes to the Lord's church, Jesus Christ purchased it with His own blood (**Acts 20:28**). Now think about that for a moment. Our Savior paid the ultimate price to save us from our sins (**Matt. 26:28**). Our Redeemer cried out to His Father in heaven, while being crucified by an angry mob, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*" (**Lk. 23:34**).

One could never question the amount of love Christ has for His people. It was this love for the church in which Paul stated in **Ephesians 5:26-27**, "*That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word. That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*"

In order for the church to be what the Head – Christ (**Col. 1:18**), wants it to be, all the members need to be loyal to Jesus, who has all the authority (**Matt. 28:18**). We are clearly told that whatever we do in word or deed, we are to do it in the, or by the authority of, Jesus Christ (**Col. 3:17**). This means that no man or organization sets the standard of what is acceptable or unacceptable.

Let us get back to our main question. Does Jesus really take the stance of, "It's My way or the Highway"? If He doesn't take that position, man ends up calling the shots and the Lord is just some sort of figurehead. We can read a statement in **John 6:67**, that's similar

to the “My way” stance. Christ said to His apostles, after many people walked away from Jesus, *“Do you also want to leave?”* Peter responded by saying, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”* (vr. 68).

The fact is, the Lord’s church isn’t some sort of club where you can do whatever you want, whenever you want. If His followers do not comply, then they end up forming their own religious sect. Sadly, those who have done that, still claim that Jesus is the head of the church where they go, thinking the Lord is pleased. This, of course, is assumed because of the knowledge that the Love of God knows no boundaries. (Jn. 3:16). That is true, the love of God is unconditional, however His approval is conditional.

When you read the letters to the seven churches in Asia, found in **chapters two and three of Revelation**, you can’t help but notice the ultimatums given to five of those congregations. In each case, Jesus points out some things that they were doing which were wrong and were commanded to repent (2:5,16,22; 3:3,19). What if they would not repent? It was made clear that if they continued in their transgressions, their standing with the Lord would change and would no longer be considered His faithful people.

The, “my way or the highway” concept usually arises when someone is questioning authority. When children of God appreciate the great sacrifice of the Son of God and the care and concern, He has for all the faithful, then His commandments are not burdensome (I Jn. 5:3). Yes, it is the Lord’s way or the highway and we all know what the right choice should be.

Chuck Bartlett

“We Love You. . .”

... that's what parents have always told their children, but sometimes the kids have trouble understanding it. After all, they don’t always get everything that they want. And, they frequently get punished when they do something wrong. Parents are quick to explain that love is responsible for the way things are - "We're doing this because we love you" – but that doesn’t make it any easier to understand.

The reason children have trouble understanding a parent’s love is because they are immature. Typically,

when they become mature adults, with children of their own, they understand it perfectly. In fact, they often act in exactly the same ways that their parents did. They even tell their kids, "I'm doing this because I love you." Some day the kids will understand this – and the cycle continues.

There are some folks in the church who always insist that everything be kept pleasant and positive. They do not like it when false doctrine is exposed, and they can not stand for false teachers to be named. If a situation becomes so serious as to require that a congregation publicly discipline an unruly member, they are appalled. Their complaint is that we "don't have enough love". But we argue that such actions are actually a sign of our love.

The reason these folks don't understand this level of love is because they are spiritually immature. Like children, their view is limited to the present moment rather than the long term.

Hopefully, we all will become mature enough to recognize that true love for one another will cause us to *"reprove, rebuke, and exhort"* as needed (2 Tim. 4:2). Love is like that sometimes.

by Greg Gwin

GAMBLING # 2 Contentment

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Timothy 6:6 NKJV). One of the great lessons all need to learn is that of contentment. Our great prosperity makes this a hard lesson to learn. We reason: the economy has taken a downturn; have less in our bank accounts; our retirement accounts will not provide for us in our “golden years.” Bank accounts, stocks and bonds, retirement IRAs—these are vocabulary words for the “rich and famous.” Could this be you?

The Bible does teach the obligation and value of hard work. *“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat”* (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Working enables one to provide for himself and for others (Ephesians 4:28). We say: “I have worked for it. I have earned it. It is mine to do with as I please.” Part of that is true. Working eliminates the need to steal. Laziness looks for a windfall, a lucky break, a winning

lottery ticket.

Consider, though, that you were born in the USA under privileged circumstances; you have been blessed with opportunities and advantages; that is just the way it is—you had very little to do with any of it. You could have been born in Russia or Africa, or, wherever. So, even in somewhat depressed economic times, we are all blessed even beyond our ability to understand.

What does this have to do with gambling? Just this: In many instances gambling grows out of a basic discontent with the blessings of the Lord. We have lost our sense of contentment in the Lord; we seek what we think will make us content; we then pursue the mammon of this world. The loss of contentment can cause a loss of contentment in the Lord. Have we lost our sense of God's care and control; are we pursuing other avenues of satisfaction?

Part of gambling's allure is materialism. Jesus described the world this way: *"Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity"* (Luke 8:14). Godliness is being choked out of our hearts; collectively, local congregations are depleted of needed spiritual vitality, as Christians actively pursue the allure of striking it rich. Little wonder that we cannot focus on Christ and His church, His love, and His grace—our hearts are divided; we have little time for the pursuit of godliness.

Instead of trusting in the fleeting trinkets of this life, maybe we need to be driven to the Lord. **Hebrews 13:5** says, *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"* You do not have to gamble on the Lord; He will always do what He says!

Randy Harshbarger

How Edom Lost, But Won

By Kenny L. Chumbley

"Amaziah . . . did what was right . . . but not with a loyal heart" — (2 Chronicles 25:1,2)

When Edom posed a threat to Judah, King Amaziah did what a king should do: he raised an army to meet the threat, which included 100,000 mercenaries from the northern kingdom of Israel. When a prophet brought word from God that the northerners were not to go with Judah to the fight—who needs Israel when God is on your side **(25:7– 8)**?!—Amaziah sent the Israelites home. Leading only his Judeans, Amaziah won a great victory over the Edomites in the Valley of Salt (somewhere in the vicinity of Petra).

But then we read, *"Now it was so, after Amaziah came from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the people of Seir, set them up to be his gods, and bowed down before them and burned incense to them"* **(25:14)**. On the opponent's home turf (the Valley of Salt, Petra) and against all odds, Judah won the game going away. Then they hire Edom's coach. Does it get more insane than that?

The Chinese have a saying that in war, enemies tend to swap vices. And it's true: in fighting an evil we can easily become evil. Amaziah crushed Edom's army but adopted Edom's gods. And the reason they did is revealed in the second verse: Amaziah did right, but his heart wasn't in it, and eventually, what was in his heart came out. It doesn't matter if we've conquered paganism on the battlefield if paganism has penetrated and conquered our heart.

God enabling, I want to go to Obadiah next week and talk about the Edomites' sin that led to their crushing defeat.

~via Gibson City church of Christ; Gibson City, Illinois

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.

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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Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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Ron Peck
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Deacons:

Bill Miller
Troy Armstrong

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, DALE AND TRACY RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD, WAYNE MOODY, BOB OWEN, DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK WALKER, PAT AND ED MFCLOUD, PENNY STAUFFER, ELLIE GOLDSTON., WINNIE RAWSON, STEVE WIMP.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning
Prayer - Ron Peck

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

Sunday Sermon: **Why Do We Preach?**



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