

LENEXA EDIFIER

"and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

October 15, 2023

'O Spread the Tidings Round'

How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

(Romans 10:15) Here we can see the value placed upon spreading the good news of the gospel to all.

The apostle Paul in his instruction to evangelists Timothy and Titus taught them to do as he had done and preach sound doctrine. We know that from Paul's conversation with the elders of the church at Ephesus, recorded for us in **Acts Chapter 20**, *how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:20–21)* He later described this as the whole counsel of God, from which he says he shrank not from teaching.

Paul by way of his teaching to these young evangelists was increasing the spread of this precious word of the gospel. He tells Timothy to, *Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 1:13)* He then tells Timothy, *The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:2)* Similar instruction is given to Titus concerning sound words and doctrine. *But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. (Titus 2:1)* He follows this with, *in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. (Titus 2:7–8)*

Paul understood the value of the good news of the gospel and did what he could to see it propagated throughout the world. But just as important as spreading the news was to keep it pure. To preach SOUND doctrine. That word sound means to be healthy, well, safe. In this vein he tells Timothy to, *Be diligent to*

present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15) It is not only important to spread the news, but to do so accurately.

The word of God is a spiritual message and as such can only strengthen and help the spirit of man if it is served in its purest form. We treat our bodies the same way. Medicines cannot be tainted adulterated in any way and still be effective. The message of God, the gospel is the very thing needed by the spirit of man to equip him unto every good work for which God has created him **(2 Timothy 3:16,17; Ephesians 2:10)**.

Paul's desire then was for these young men and those whom they taught to preach this word in its purest form in order to treat the illness of sin often found in mankind. For this reason he tells Timothy how the preaching of this word will serve the purpose God has for it. *I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. (2 Timothy 4:1–4)* Brethren, we then are those faithful men who have heard this message of good news and are to teach others also in order to *reprove, rebuke and exhort with all long-suffering and patience*, to help men avoid the spiritual malaise that leads them to desiring to have their ears tickled.

The question before us is whether we are willing to risk what Paul did to preach the whole counsel of God to all, shunning no opportunity presented.

Jim Stauffer

TO DRINK OR NOT TO DRINK

Alcohol is the most frequently used drug. It is abused by young and old alike. Drinking on college campuses is common. It is only after a young person loses his or her life that officials will step in with efforts to "correct" the abuse that has been going on for too long.

From a societal standpoint, alcoholism is a sickness rather than a sin. From a Biblical standpoint, drunkenness is a sin. **"And they shall say to the elders of his city, this son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard. Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so, you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear"** (Deuteronomy 21:20-21 NKJV). Addiction to alcohol extracts a heavy price on those involved; this includes those who are addicted, their loved ones, their employers, and society. Alcohol use leads to health problems. Mothers who drink while pregnant put their unborn child at risk. Thousands each year are killed in alcohol-related traffic accidents. Child abuse, spousal abuse, and divorce are all dire consequences stemming from the flow of alcohol.

Where do Christians take a stand against alcohol? Or do they? **Proverbs 23:29** says: **"Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?"** The context of Proverbs twenty-three juxtaposes the charming vixen and the charming allure of the vine. Both the vixen and the vine have charm; they are appealing; they beckon the unsuspecting to partake. What are the answers to these questions? Who has woe, sorrow? The answer: those who are caught in the use of alcohol. Where did your bruises come from? Why are your eyes red? The answer: I do not know! That is right. You do not know because you were drunk. You do not remember getting into your car and driving and then hitting another car.

Proverbs 23:30 says: **"Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine."** The imbibor refuses to leave the wine. You can "hang" around things that will cause you ruin. This does not establish a case for moderation; rather, it warns about a pattern or habit of indulging constantly; in this case, the person who lingers over the wine refuses any boundaries for his or her life.

What should we do? **Proverbs 23:31** says: **"Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the**

cup, when it swirls around smoothly." Be swift, certain, act quickly, resist the temptation, do not take the first drink. If you refuse to take the first drink, you will never run the risk of addiction. Do not be deceived by its charm. You will only be taken captive by its enticement.

Randy Harshbarger

At Your Weakest Moment . . .

. . . that's when Satan will tempt you to sin. Our adversary is no fool. He's not going to waste time and effort by working against your strengths. He will attack you when you are the weakest and where you are most vulnerable.

Here's an example: Someone has had harsh words to say about you. They have assumed the worst, impugned your motives, jumped to false conclusions, spread rumor and innuendo about you. How will you react? You are angry, hurt, insulted, disgusted. The strong temptation is to strike back, to get even, to put this person 'in his place'. But, you must not submit to the temptation. God's word says, **"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"** (Rom. 12:17,21). It's hard to follow this instruction at the moment, because you are weak and vulnerable. But this course of action is best - the Lord says so, and our own experience bears this out.

During such times of weakness and vulnerability, we should pray as David did, **"Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice deeds of wickedness with men who do iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies"** (Ps. 141:3,4).

We've been warned that Satan has many **"devices"** (2 Cor. 2:11). Chief among these is his ability to detect our weaknesses and attack us there. Please realize that you must work hardest during your weakest moments, because that is when Satan is at work against you.

by Greg Gwin

OUR CULTURAL CREED

This article is an example of the irrational thoughts needed in order to replace the Christian principles of morality. It is titled, 'The Humanist's ' Creed", written by English Journalist, Steve Turner. It is a thoroughly thought provoking satirical poem on the mostly Western, modern humanistic thought:

We believe in Marx, Freud, and Darwin! We believe everything is OK, as long as you don't hurt anyone to the best of your definition of hurt, and to the best of your knowledge.

We believe in sex before, during, and after marriage. We believe in the therapy of sin.

We believe that adultery is fun. We believe that sodomy's OK. We believe that taboos are taboo.

We believe that everything's getting better despite evidence to the contrary. The evidence must be investigated, and you can prove anything with evidence.

We believe there's something in horoscopes, UFO's, and bent spoons.

Jesus was a good man just like Buddha, Mohammed, and ourselves. He was a good moral teacher though we think His good morals were bad.

We believe that all religions are basically the same, at least the one that we read was. They all believe in love and goodness. They only differ on matters of creation, sin, heaven, hell, God, and salvation.

We believe that after death comes the "Nothing", because when you ask the dead what happens they say nothing.

If death is not the end, and if the dead have lied, then it's compulsory heaven for all excepting perhaps Hitler, Stalin, and Genghis Kahn.

We believe in Masters and Johnson.

What's selected is average. What's average is normal. What's normal is good.

We believe in total disarmament. We believe there are direct links between warfare and bloodshed. Americans

should beat their guns into tractors. And the Russians would be sure to follow.

We believe that man is essentially good. It's only his behavior that lets him down. This is the fault of society. Society is the fault of conditions. Conditions are the fault of society.

We believe that each man must find the truth that is right for him. Reality will adapt accordingly. The universe will readjust. History will alter.

We believe that there is no absolute truth, excepting the truth that there is no absolute truth. We believe in the rejection of creeds, And the flowering of individual thought.

If chance be the Father of all flesh, disaster is his rainbow in the sky and when you hear, "State of Emergency!", "Sniper Kills Ten!", "Troops on Rampage!", "Whites go Looting!", "Bomb Blasts School!",

It is but the sound of man worshiping his maker!
Posted on FB **by Ken Green.**

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

(Genesis 1:26-27)

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- ***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.*

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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