

# LENEXA EDIFIER

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

**October 6, 2024**

## **SPIRITUAL SUSTENANCE**

*"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).*

Spiritual sustenance is just like physical sustenance. It requires food and exercise. Jesus taught His disciples about the necessary food to grow spiritually. *Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." (John 6:26–27)* He then said, *... "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst." (John 6:35)* Greater emphasis is finally given when He says this, *... "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever." (John 6:56–58)* This is accomplished when we are led by the Spirit (**Galatians 5:16**). The same Spirit Jesus authorized to guide the apostles into all truth (**John 16:13,14**).

Once we learn the truth of the gospel and have fed on Christ, the Word sent down from heaven to dwell among flesh (**John 1:14**), we must exercise the abilities God has given us to lead others to Him and to encourage and strengthen our brethren as they also serve in the kingdom. Here is how Paul worded it to the Romans, *Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness." (Romans 12:6–8)*

If we wish to be faithful unto death (**Revelation 2:10**), we must care for our spiritual health with proper diet and exercise.

## **AUTHORITY**

If you drive on the right side of the highway or street when you travel to church services, you know something about the concept and importance of authority. Traffic laws represent the will and consent of the people; they dictate which side of the road you drive on, how fast you travel, etc. Those who flaunt this law endanger themselves and others who might be passing by. No citizen has the right to legislate their own traffic laws; no one can claim special privileges while driving. We recognize a standard in weights and measurements. We understand that certain rules must be followed when playing athletic games. Without governmental authority, anarchy would ensue. These examples of authority are taken for granted by most people today. Why, then, do these same people in matters of religion, reverse themselves and throw the concept of authority out the window?

The modernist denies the miracles of Jesus. Sometimes, to circumvent the teachings of the New Testament, the modernist argues that the Bible is simply the invention of man and contains nothing more than a few great universal truths that serve altruistic purposes; beyond that, it is not normative for people today. The Pope in Rome sets himself up as the head of Christ's church on earth. Is there something in the Bible about that? Denominational churches place themselves under the control of a convention or synod, taking orders from those in high places. Can we read about that kind of organization in the New Testament? Some believe that feelings should be the authority in religion. Are we ready to trust our feelings in this great matter of salvation? What if your feelings change? What about the conscience? Is conscience a safe guide in religion? Paul lived with a good conscience, but still stood condemned (**Acts 23:1**). Can the majority determine how we should proceed in matters religious? Jesus said

most folks willingly choose the wrong way in religion (**Matthew 7:13-14**). Will we follow them? Do my ancestors constitute the standard of authority in religion? What about that first ancestor who, years ago, was a heathen. Why would that ancestor be wrong; and now, years later, you are following your ancestors?

The real question is: Will we accept the New Testament as the final authority in Christianity? Jesus has all authority, which is expressed in His word (**Matthew 28:19-20**). His word is sufficient in all things we do in serving God (**2 Peter 1:3**). Do we believe that? The message has been confirmed (**Mark 16:14-20**). It is complete (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). We must not alter Christ's will. Do we have enough faith to respect the authority of Christ?

**Randy Harshbarger**

### **It's Nothing New**

As things in this world become more and more morally corrupt, we often hear people say, "What is this world coming to?" Truth be known, Solomon was right when he stated, "*There is nothing new under the sun.*" (**Eccl. 1:9**). The concept of being politically correct is something that the prophet Isaiah, more or less, identified when he wrote, "*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*" (**Isa. 5:20**). May we all be aware of the pressures to conform to the world by thinking things are good when they are evil. Here are some issues we need to reject.

#### **It's Acceptable To Change Your Gender**

Last week we spent our time dealing with the sin of abortion. Although that could be one of our points in this article, I will refer to women who were with child. Note that when Mary was told she was with child, it was with a son (**Lk. 1:31**). We are told that Elizabeth conceived a son (**Lk. 1:36**). The point is, the gender of a child is not determined later in life. It's not something determined sometime after the child is born. This is why couples today have family gatherings to share with their loved ones the news as to whether they are having a boy or girl. However, don't be surprised if some people approve of changing their gender, saying it is good, and those who oppose as being evil. Reason being, there is nothing new under the sun.

#### **It's Acceptable To Fornicate**

We live in a time where people actually make fun and ridicule those who want to remain a virgin until marriage. This is what the Lord demands (**Heb. 13:4; Gal. 5:19**). Pre-marital sex is not only approved by the majority of people, it is encouraged. It is promoted on TV, in movies and in songs. When you mention to someone that it is wrong to fornicate, they think you are strange, considering your words evil. It should not surprise us that those who want to satisfy the lust of the flesh (**I Jn. 2:15-16**), consider it good. Reason being, there is nothing new under the sun.

#### **It's Acceptable To Marry The Same Sex**

There is a reason you hear people say the Bible is outdated, and the writers are homophobic. It's not because they don't know what the Bible says, rather, they think time changes God's laws. The inspired word makes it crystal clear that homosexuality is ungodly behavior (**Rom. 1:24-28**). But, is the Bible outdated? Not at all. The words that we read will judge us in the last day (**Jn. 12:28**). Again, you will see that this evil is considered good and that those who are good, will be considered evil. Why? There is nothing new under the sun.

#### **It's Acceptable To Dress Like A Harlot**

Please let me clarify something here. I am not suggesting that everyone who dresses immodestly, is doing so, to intentionally dress like a harlot. The Proverb writer spoke about such seductive attire (**Prov. 7:10**). Let me ask you, what would a harlot wear on a beach, or when the weather is really hot outside? Remember, her attire means she was actually wearing something. Godly apparel which is modest, is different than the world (**I Tim. 2:9**). Yet, to point out that certain clothing is revealing, you would be accused of being evil. The pressure would be to conform and fit in. Why? There is nothing new under the sun.

#### **It's Acceptable To Social Drink**

There is the thought that it's okay to drink, as long as you don't get drunk. That's not what Peter wrote. The apostle described three types of drinkers. The fallen down drunk, to the one who drinks enough to become the life of the party, and the social drinker (**I Pet.4:3**). To heed the warning from **Proverbs 23:29-35**, is to not even look at the wine while it sparkles in the cup, since it will bite like a viper. Yet, to voice such concerns you will be considered evil. The pressure again is to call evil good. Why? There is nothing new under the sun.

Let's all be aware that what was true in Isaiah's day, is true today. Will you stand for the truth? It will mean you

have to stand against something, which will result in you being politically incorrect!

**Chuck Bartlett**

## The Churches of Christ Are Different: Baptism

The Churches of Christ are seeking to be the church we read about in the Bible. Our reasoning is that if we Believe What They Believed, Teach What They Taught, Practice What They Practiced and Live Like They Lived; then we will Be What They Were – Christians and Nothing Else. Who would argue with that goal or reasoning? In following this approach we must answer the question of Baptism, What? and Why?

The word 'baptism' is a transliteration of the Greek word 'baptizo' which means "immersion, to dunk or to plunge". Sprinkling or pouring, which words are indeed found in the New Testament, come from different words which are never associated with the act of Baptism. So only immersion fits the New Testament teaching. In **Acts 8:26-40** the Ethiopian asks to be baptized in **verse 36** and *"he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him."* It is a perfect picture of immersion in water! We also see the apostle Peter, when the household of Cornelius begins *"speaking in tongues"*, asks in **Acts 10: 47**, *"Can any man forbid the water, that these should not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?"*

So, why were men and women baptized in the New Testament times? Jesus commanded it in the Great Commission. **Mark 16:15f** says, *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."* Peter preached on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:37**) *"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins"*. It is to obtain forgiveness of sins which explains Ananias' command to Saul of Tarsus in **Acts 22:16**, *"Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name"*. It also explains Peter's command in **Acts 10:48** for Cornelius' household to be baptized despite having already received the ability to speak in tongues. Baptism also places us into Christ according to **Romans 6:3**, *"Or do you not know that all of us who*

*have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"* (see also **Gal. 3:27**)

This is a simple, believable, and workable approach to Baptism. Scripture verifies everything.

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## What will life be like in Heaven? 5

I understand the Bible to teach that heaven will be a continuation of the life we now have, but in a glorified way. Most everyone believes this about the body (1 Cor. 15.35ff). Edersheim wrote, "With what body shall we rise? Like or unlike the past? Assuredly, most like" (Life and Times . . . , II, 635). I agree.

A long list of scriptural considerations could be listed to support my proposition about heaven. I'll mention just a couple.

In John 11.11, Christ said to His disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps." When Christ said this, Lazarus was, in fact, dead (11.14). Friendship is one of the great blessings of this life, and apparently, Christ believed it is something that can/will exist beyond this life. Friendship, of course, is but another word for love. Love never ends (1 Cor. 13.13), and it seems love expressed as friendship will continue into the next world.

Then there are parables like the parable of the talents (Matt. 25.14–30), wherein a master entrusted money to three servants ("Do business till I come," Lk. 19.13). When the master returned, he found that two of the servants had increased their talents. And how were they rewarded? By being exempted from work and responsibility? Retired with a pension? No, their responsibility was increased ("I will make you ruler over many things" (Matt. 25.21). It's hard for me to see in language like this an eternity of inactivity or of doing little more than floating on a cloud and singing praises all day long. An infinite God can make life—the one, sure continuum (John 11.25–26) —eternally exciting (Eph.2.7). I see heaven as a place where all good things (worship, work, friendship, food, etc.) are wrapped up in one great adventure after another.

**Kenny Chumbley**

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. 9:00 Bible Study  
Sunday A.M. 10:00 Assembled Worship  
Sunday A.M. 10:50 Assembled Worship  
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

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#### **NEWS AND NOTES:**

##### **PLEASE REMEMBER:**

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WINNIE RAWSON, GENE MCCLUNG, DALE  
AND TRACY RICHARDSON, PAT MCLLOUD,  
STEVE WIMP.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS RON  
PECK - 1 CORINTHIANS  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS JIM  
STAUFFER-ISAIAH

##### **SERMON: GOSPEL MEETING**

**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - LOVE**  
**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - JOY**  
**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT -**  
**FAITHFULNESS**

## 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**