

LENEXA EDIFIER

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

September 29, 2023

We are presenting a series of Bible Lessons:

Lenexa church of Christ

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa Kansas 66216

October 6-9, 2024

Speaker

Eric Stauffer

Following is the Schedule of Lessons:

Sunday AM Bible Class - 9:00 AM

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: LOVE

Sunday AM Worship - 10:00 AM

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: JOY

Sunday AM Worship - 10:50 AM

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: FAITHFULNESS

Monday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

THE BOASTING TONGUE

Tuesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

THE CHURCH IS A KINGDOM

Wednesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM

THE VICTORY OF FAITH

**Come let us learn the value of knowing
Jesus Christ and learning from Him.**

THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION

by Jim Stauffer

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

What is the message of salvation?

When we begin to understand the gospel, it is imperative we have a biblical understanding of salvation. We must first understand salvation is accomplished through redemption. Redemption is the process God has created for us through Christ to receive the remission of our sins. It is, after all, our sins that have placed us in the cross hairs of the wrath of God. *"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the*

wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36) We can see from this text the one who believes in Christ obeys him and the one who does not believe does not obey. The same is true of this passage, *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. (Mark 16:16)* Because of our sin we are separated from God (*Isaiah 59:1,2*) and are children of wrath (*Ephesians 2:1-3 cf. John 3:36* above). So, it is imperative we receive the forgiveness of our sins in order to be reconciled to God (*2 Corinthians 5:18-20*). It is equally clear this reconciliation, this salvation comes through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary (*John 3:16; 1 Peter 1:18,19*).

Paul makes it clear that Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is the very centerpiece of the gospel message (*1 Corinthians 15:1-4*). Therefore, when we obey the message of the gospel we will be saved from our sins and the death (the expression of the wrath of God) that is assigned to those who live in sin (*Romans 6:23*).

We have many examples in the New Testament of those who submitted to the will of God by heeding the message of the gospel. The Jews who had crucified Jesus responded to the sermon of Peter by saying, *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? (Acts 2:37)* Peter's response, *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)* The Ethiopian responded to Philip as he preached Jesus to him was, *And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? (Acts 8:36)* Saul of Tarsus was told, *And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (Acts 22:16)*

The message of salvation is a rope thrown to a drowning man. Who would quibble with the kind of rope,

the color of the rope, or who was throwing the rope if he were doomed to drown without it? This begs the question, "Why do people resist the clear teaching of Scripture?" We are confronted by the God of heaven concerning our hopeless situation. We then have ample instruction by way of commandment and example to teach us what we must do and the conclusion is without our submission to God and Christ by repenting of our sins, confessing Jesus as the Son of God and being baptized we cannot receive the forgiveness of our sins. And without the forgiveness of our sins, we cannot enter the Kingdom of Christ, the church. Here is how Paul describes salvation through Christ it to the church at Colosse. *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: (Colossians 1:13–14)*

The blood of Christ provides for our forgiveness of sin and allows then our redemption which changes us from Satan's Kingdom to that of Jesus Christ.

Think about this. Check out these passages. See what your conclusion is when you base it only on the word of God.

"Just As I Am"

The song *Just As I Am* is a commonly used invitation song. The idea in the song is that we cannot make ourselves right with God on our own; apart from Jesus' blood we have no hope. That is precisely the New Testament picture (**Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; etc.**).

I fear, however, that some folks have an erroneous idea about Jesus saving us "just as we are." They seem to think that He saves us without any change in our conduct. That is opposite to the New Testament picture.

Jesus' charge to the apostles was *"that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations"* (**Luke 24:47**). Forgiveness is extended to those willing to abandon sinful conduct, not to those who insist on continuing in it.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians, *"Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you..."* (**1 Cor. 6:9-10**). He did not say such **are** some of you, but such **were**. They

changed their conduct in connection with being washed, sanctified, and justified (**v. 11**).

"Just as I am," if referring to our own helplessness, is a comforting sentiment. But to suggest it means salvation without repentance is to hold out false hope.

by Frank Himmel

The Churches of Christ Are Different: Music

One of the most obvious differences the visitor to a congregation of the Churches of Christ will notice is that we sing acapella, that is, without musical instruments. This is by intention and a natural result of our approach to Biblical Authority and Jesus' prayer for unity among those who believe (**John 17:20f**).

Jesus said in **John 17:20f**, *"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."* Paul explains this, as if we needed it, in **1 Corinthians 1:10**, *"Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment."* If one looks at "Christendom" today we see anything **but** unity. The price for this is what Jesus said it would be, an unbelieving world. So, how do we attain unity?

The path to unity is in the approach to Scriptural Authority. We have two options, and only two. The first is, "Whatever God did not forbid is authorized." And the second is "Whatever is not authorized is forbidden." Let us apply this to the Lord's Supper. God never forbade Big Mac's and Coca-Cola on the table. But what of those who want Whoppers and Pepsi-Cola? To say nothing of those who prefer aa Moon-Pie and an 'R.C.'! The result is confusion and chaos, but God is NOT the author of confusion, (**1 Cor. 14:33 & James 3:16**).

However, when we use approach #2, we see different results. We know what Jesus used in instituting the Lord's Supper, unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice, since it was the Passover (**Luke 22:1**) so we know this is authorized and nothing else is ever mentioned (1 Cor. 11:23ff) so this is all that can be

used. Period.

Therefore, when it comes to music we read in the New Testament concerning Christian worship they were commanded to sing. Paul said *“And be not drunken with wine, wherein is riot, but be filled with the Spirit; speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord”*. (Eph. 5:18-19) The command to sing does not include playing an organ, drums etc. but does fulfill the command to “speak to one another” and *“in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God.”* from **Colossians 3:16**.

PS: According to Merriam-Webster ‘a capella’ means to sing “in the style of the choir or chapel.” It means to sing like you do at church! Thus, it came to mean solely “without instruments.”

MATTHEW 9:22

By Josh Welch

“Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you” (Matthew 9:2).

This same account of the paralytic is recorded in **Mark 2:3-12** and **Luke 5:18-26**. Yet, in the above verse, Matthew recites one phrase not found in the other accounts. Jesus says to the paralytic, *“Son, be of good cheer...”* (Matthew 9:2). Imagine the gall. Jesus tells a man who must be carried in on a bed that he ought to be cheerful. We may think this man has every right to complain and moan and bellyache about his afflicted condition. Jesus tells him to *“be of good cheer.”* Why? Jesus says, *“your sins are forgiven you”* (Matthew 9:2; **Mark 2:5; Luke 5:20**). There is a simple lesson here if we are willing to listen-the real key to enduring happiness.

It is not found in riches. This paralytic was likely poor. After all, he had little ability to work while resigned to his bed. Yet, Jesus tells him he could *“be of good cheer.”* Riches are fleeting. Paul writes, *“we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out”* (1 Timothy 6:7).

It is not found in retirement. How many think they will finally be “happy” when they retire from work and can

live out their final days sipping lemonades on a golf course? Yet, some never reach “retirement” and sometimes retirement is filled with the business of old age. After death is when we will truly *“rest from our labors”* (**Revelation 14:13**).

It is not found in earthly success. This paralytic had no stock portfolio, no buildings named after him, no newspaper headlines. His story is told three times in Scriptures and we never even get to learn his name. On earth, he was a nobody. But, to Jesus he was somebody. Being known by God is far more important than being known by man.

It is not found in health. The paralytic is told BEFORE he walks to *“be of good cheer.”* His cheery disposition was not centered around his health. No, it was on the basis of the far superior spiritual blessing Jesus offers through the forgiveness of sins. Christians will find their *“outward man perishing”* but can still be of “good cheer” because *“the inward man is being renewed day by day”* (**2 Corinthians 4:16**).

Let's stop letting the temporal struggles of life ruin the eternal joys God offers. The forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ leads to the greatest of riches, an eternal rest, the crown of life and new, immortal resurrection bodies in our heavenly home. That's a reason to be cheerful!

When He Comes

There's a King and Captain high,
Who'll be coming by and by;
And He'll find me hoein' cotton when He comes.
You will hear His legions charging In the thunders of
the sky,
And He'll find me hoein' cotton when He comes.
When He comes, when He comes,
All the dead will rise in answer to His drums.
While the fires of His encampment
Stir the firmament on high
And the heavens are rolled asunder when he comes.
He was hated and rejected,
He was scourged and crucified,
But He'll find me hoein' cotton when He comes.
When He comes, when He comes,
He'll be ringed with saints and angels when He comes.
They'll be shoutin' out hosannas
To the Man that men denied,
And I'll kneel among my cotton when He comes.
Unknown

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

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

OUR ADDRESS IS:

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Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

Evangelist and Editor: Jim Stauffer

Elders:

Ron Peck
Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller
Troy Armstrong

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER:

ALMA BAUMGARTNER, BROOKLYN BOYER,
DAVID AND JOANNE BECKLEY, WAYNE
MOODY, SHANE SCOTT, ELLIE GOLDSTON,
WINNIE RAWSON, GENE MCCLUNG, DALE
AND TRACY RICHARDSON, PAT MCLLOUD,
STEVE WIMP. CAROLYN ROGERS'
BROTHER DIED IN AN ACCIDENT.

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

SERMON:

"THOU HAST LEFT THY FIRST LOVE

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