

# LENEXA EDIFIER

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

November 3, 2024

## Following Directions

*by Jim Stauffer*

When traveling to an unknown destination I now use the GPS on my phone rather than the road maps I used several years ago. When the voice tells me where to turn at a certain point, I rarely hesitate at all. Why? Because the system the voice is speaking from has the exact information on the location I seek. I do the same with the remote on my TV. I press the button designed produce the result I seek. Yes, recipes, instructions on assembling a new gadget around the house, the same process for each one.

We do this because the author or designer knows how each gizmo is to be operated to achieve the desired result. Do you ever wonder why people do not treat the Bible and heaven in the same way? The Bible is the revealed mind of God (**1 Corinthians 2:10-13**). In it are the instructions, given by God by way of men guided by the Holy Spirit (**2 Peter 1:20,21**). Those instructions tell us what we need to do to inherit the joys of heaven when this life is over.

How then, does the preacher of a local denomination, tell the members of that group, they are saved when they have finally after many attempts, “prayed through”? Where does he find that in the instruction manual, the Bible? Or, what about the local group who teaches their followers they are to be baptized by sprinkling when they are infants because they are totally hereditarily depraved and have inherited the sin of Adam? If a person were to consult these folks he would be totally confused in a short while. He may then go on to another religious leader in the city and find that he needs to confess his sins to the local priest because he does not have the privilege of going to God on his own behalf when he has sinned. Finally he is instructed by another leader of yet a different religious organization who tells him all he has to do is believe on the Lord and he will be saved. And his salvation, once secured, can never be lost.

All of these religious leaders claim to be followers of the

one God in heaven Who created the entire universe and all that is in it including us. They defend the Bible as His word to mankind about how one should live with the goal of inheriting heaven when this life is over. Not one of them can show where the methods of salvation they have represented can be found in the Scriptures, the instruction book on salvation and a heavenly inheritance.

Therefore, what one must do is, rather than consult them, go home and begin to study his own Bible in search of the guidance he seeks for salvation. He will soon learn from the Scriptures they are what he needs, to be furnished to every good work and that they are understandable (**2 Timothy 3:16,17; Ephesians 3:1-5**).

When he does, he will find salvation is only achieved when his sins are forgiven as those on Pentecost were in **Acts 2:38-41**. He will then find himself in the Lord's kingdom as Paul told the **Colossians** in **Chapter 1:13,14**. He will have learned Jesus taught His disciples to preach the gospel of salvation (**Romans 1:16**) to the world to offer them the opportunity to obey it (**Mark 16:15,16**). He will begin to understand that to receive the forgiveness of his sins and become a child of God, he will need to repent of those sins (**Acts 17:30**) and confess Jesus as the risen Son of God (**Romans 10:9,10**), and be baptized for the remission or washing away of his sins (**Acts 22:16**). At this point his sins will be forgiven and while he will need to be faithful unto death (**Revelation 2:10**) or risk falling from grace (**Galatians 5:4**), he will have the privilege of praying to his Father in heaven who will hear without some other man interceding for him (**1 Peter 3:12; James 5:16**) as Jesus intercedes for him (**1 Timothy 2:5**).

He will have done the very logical thing to do. He will have consulted the One Who has all authority over all rule and authority (**Ephesians 1:20-23**) including the authority over heaven itself (**Hebrews 5:8,9**) and subsequently followed the instruction manual, the Bible. Let us all be just as logical in spiritual matters as we insist on being in material things.

# BIBLE FACTS ABOUT SATAN

*John Humphries*

What we really know for certain about Satan and his activities is revealed only in the Bible. All else is the imagination and speculation of uninspired individuals and is worthless. We will notice a few of the Bible revealed facts about Satan and his agents. We cannot go into all the passages dealing with this subject, as such a study would involve far more space than we have available. But from the very definition of his name, we know that Satan is an adversary. He opposes God, His word, and the people of God. He fights against, distorts, and seeks to corrupt all that is good. And as the "Devil" he maligns and accuses (falsely) God and His people. He has been active in this evil business of fighting against God from the beginning of humanity (**Gen. 3:1**). For example, he falsely accuses Job of serving God for what he could get out of God materially (**Job 1:9-11**). Sounds suspiciously like Satan accuses Job of being a disciple of a prosperity preacher! This was a false accusation and illustrates his antagonism towards the people of God.

At some time in the remote past, Satan and his angels rebelled against God (**cf. 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6**; also **cf. Rev. 12:7-12**). Jesus says that he was a lying murderer from the beginning (**Jno. 8:44**). Sinful pride was involved in Satan's fight against God and his subsequent condemnation (**cf. 1 Tim. 3:6**). The devil is still very much involved in various affairs on planet earth (**1 Jno. 5:19**). In fact, he is the god of this age, i.e. he affects and corrupts the morals, ethics, and spirituality of the people of earth. He has his army of demons or angels that are involved in this evil work (**2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 6:12; 1 Tim. 4:1; cf. Matt. 7:13-14**). He has many agents or false teachers who do his work of deception and twisting of the truth (**2 Cor. 11:12-15; Acts 13:8-10; Rom. 16:17-18**).

He uses different techniques of lying to deceive and misdirect his victims. He will use the question method to raise doubts about God and His truth (**Gen. 3:1; Matt. 22:17, 28**). He will use exaggeration to mislead (**Gen. 3:1; Acts 16:20-21; 17:6-7; 24:1-9; Rom. 3:8**). Satan and his agents will twist and distort the truth into a lie (**Gal. 1:6-7; 2 Pet. 3:16**). He uses different schemes and devices to deceive and destroy the precious souls of men and women (**2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11**). He is merciless and cruel to the extreme as he engages in all-out spiritual warfare to destroy the souls

of mankind (**Rev. 2:10; 12:17; 1 Pet. 2:11; 5:8; cf. 2 Cor. 10:3-6**).

Satan has his spiritual children who are victims of his deceptions, or give in to various temptations, that he uses to entrap and enslave (**1 Jno. 3:10; Jno. 8:44; Acts 13:10; Rom. 6:16-18**). The devil will take advantage of our weaknesses, if we let our guard down by careless thinking and actions (**1 Cor. 9:27; Eph. 5:15-17; Phil. 1:9-10; Mk. 7:21-23; Ps. 119:11; Prov. 4:23**).

Keep in mind that the devil was deeply involved in seeking to destroy Jesus (**Matt. 4:1; 16:23; Lk. 22:3-4; Rev. 12:1-4**). Of course, the Lord defeated Satan at every turn (**Lk. 10:17-20; Rev. 1:17-18; 17:14**). God's people can also defeat Satan, but it calls for continuous vigilance (**1 Pet. 5:8-9; Jas. 4:7; Rev. 12:10-11; 1 Thess. 5:1-11**).

The Bible teaches that the devil (Satan) and his angels will ultimately be consigned to the torments of an eternal hell (**Matt. 25:41; 8:28-29; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10**). And anyone who's name is not in the book of life will join Satan and his host (**Rev. 20:15; Matt. 25:41, 46**).

This is only a bird's eye view, of course, but we have a vicious enemy of the soul that seeks daily to destroy us eternally. Be warned and live daily close to the Lord.

## The Brevity of Life

In about a month's time, three members of the church have passed away; Tom Gibson, James Wilds and Alan Bagley. Many of us were with Alan at the visitation for Tom. Why do I bring these men up? It has to do with the fact that these men faced that which each one of us will face, time permitting. The Hebrew writer tells us that it is appointed unto men to die once (**Hebrews 9:27**).

No matter how old we are when we pass, or the circumstance as to how we leave this world, the fact remains, our life here on earth is short. James states it this way, *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit.'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then*

*vanishes away.” (Jas. 4:13-14).* Here are some valuable lessons we all can learn from the fact our life is short.

### **Make Use of Your Time**

No matter how hard you try, you can't make use of someone else's time. You can't do someone else's service for the Lord. Nor can we waste another's labor. Life is God's gift to us, what we do with it is our gift to God. The brethren at Ephesus were told, *“Therefore He says, ‘Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.’ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:14-17).* It is easy to waste time by not serving the Lord as we should.

### **Make Use of Your Talents**

This connects with our previous point. One of the reasons one might not make use of their time, is due to the fact they don't make the time to develop themselves. They think, if I don't learn how to do something, then how can I be expected to do it, since I don't have the talent? God's children are expected to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (**II Pet. 3:18**). Those who don't, will be unskilled in the word of righteousness (**Heb. 5:14**). To refuse to develop and use your abilities is to disobey the Lord (**Matt. 25:14-30**).

### **Make Use of Your Father in Heaven**

What I mean by making use of our heavenly Father, is to use His powers that He has given us for our time and talents. For one, the power of the gospel (**Rom. 1:16**). We need to do what we can while we have the time, knowing there is only so much we can do, and in turn, rely of the Father. When it comes to spreading the good news, we are to plant and water, but in the end, it's the Lord that gives the increase (**I Cor. 3:6-7**).

There is also the power of prayer. The reason the prayers of a righteous man accomplishes much (**Jas. 5:16**), isn't so much because of our righteousness, but because of what the Father can do. Praying for self, and for others is taking advantage of the blessing in being a child of God. As Jesus put it, *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (Matt. 7:11).*

Finally, let us not forget that our Father will be looking out for us every step of the way, making certain whatever temptation comes our way, we can handle it (**I Cor. 10:13**). We may very well have an adversary who wants to devour us (**I Pet. 5:8**). But we have One

who is more powerful, full of love and compassion. He will help us with the time we have here on earth.

May we listen to the lessons that those who have passed on are teaching us about time. May we all be ready when our time is no more.

**Chuck Bartlett**

## **Eugenics, 4**

In 1912, G. K. Chesterton exposed the evils of eugenics in his book, *Eugenics and other Evils*. Chesterton had a gift for not only seeing the evils he attacked but for seeing the good he defended. He pointed out that the eugenics is not only an abandonment of common sense, but it normalizes what in earlier generations would have been thought unthinkable.

Eugenicists argue that men and women should not marry for love but for good breeding. What this means in practice is that couples should not risk having children who might be handicapped, have Down Syndrome, other congenital debilities, etc. But if this view is valid, what should be done when a child becomes handicapped, ill, or weak after birth? Should Helen Keller have been exterminated? What about Christopher Reeves (“Superman”) after the accident that left him a quadriplegic? Many voices in our society call for the eradication of human beings who become unable to enjoy physical health. And they have a long list of reasons explaining why this makes sense.

Eugenicists see the field of medicine as supplying the expertise for removing the defective among us. “We call in a doctor to save us from death; and, death being admittedly an evil, he has the right to administer the . . . most recondite pill which he may think is a cure for all such menaces of death. He has not the right to administer death as the cure for all human ills” (Chesterton).

The unbelieving world has convinced many that using death (abortion/euthanasia) to eliminate those who don't measure up or who have become too much of an emotional and/or economic burden is sound and sensible. Chesterton called those who accept such reasoning, “splendid dupes.”

**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*

*We conduct in home Bible Studies*

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AND TRACY RICHARDSON, PAT MCLLOUD,  
STEVE WIMP (WHO CONTINUES TO HAVE  
MORE SURGERY ON HIS FOOT)

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

SERMON: THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

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**