

# LENEXA EDIFIER

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

**October 20, 2024**

## **"Having loved this present world"**

**by Jim Stauffer**

*for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. (2 Timothy 4:10)*

We must wonder just what it is in this present world that Demas loved so much he would cast his faith aside and tell the apostle he no longer could stay the course with him since the things of the world were of greater importance. Yet, we see many brethren today who gradually fade away as they choose the things of this world over serving the Lord.

Just what is in the world that is so attractive? John breaks it down this way, *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:15-17)* We see the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life in two very prominent examples in Scripture. Eve was drawn by these when she, *...saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise... (Genesis 3:6)*. Satan tried the same tactics with Christ in the wilderness (**Matthew 4:1-11**). In the two examples we see the success and failure of the Tempter. With Eve, he was able to distract her from God and His word by the appeal of her love *for this present world*. In the case of Christ he was unsuccessful for Jesus had an answer from God for each temptation Satan placed before Him. Jesus would not allow any desire for *this present world*, to come between Him and God in heaven.

It is as simple as that. When our brethren slack off of the responsibilities given them by the Master Who will return (**Matthew 25:14-30**), they endanger and even sever their relationship with Him (**Galatians 5:4**). Yet, when

counseled about their infidelity, they refuse to admit to themselves they are following the example of the one talent man.

Paul tells us the demeanor we should have and why when he tells the faithful brethren in the churches of Galatia how to approach such a one. *Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. (Galatians 6:1)* There is nothing to be accomplished with communicating the message in harsh rhetoric. Likewise, there is nothing to be gained by communicating the message so softly, the brother doesn't even feel the shame of his sin.

We have been taught the lesson over and over in dealing with mankind. You cannot in any way avoid the reality of truth in any matter. We learn this in rearing our children. We learn it in the education of young men and women. We learn it in the workplace. Why, oh why do we want to shirk it in the church? The only answers lie in our desire to please a friend and not hurt his feelings in any way or simply in the false hope of sustaining numbers in the local congregation. Neither is admirable. We must remember the words of Christ, *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. (John 17:17) and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* (**John 8:32**)

## **Brotherly Love - The Real Test**

What kind of people were the Christians of the first century? Were they "super-Christians," totally dedicated, so devoted to the Lord that they would put twentieth century Christians to shame? We tend to think so. And if we look only at the Christians of Jerusalem before the church was scattered, our conclusions will be well founded. But by the time Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians, the churches of his day were much like

those of our day. His description of those with whom he was associated is given in this verse: *"For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's"* (Phil. 2:21).

There were notable exceptions, however, among Paul's associates, men and women whose devotion to the Lord and love for their brethren serve as wonderful examples. Paul himself was one: *"Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy and rejoice with you all"* (Phil. 2:17). Timothy was another: *"For I have no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state"* (Phil. 2:20). Epaphroditus was yet another: *"Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me"* (Phil. 2:30) Not regarding his life! There is the real test of brotherly love. This is the love manifested by Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus. These did not regard their own lives when their brothers and sisters were in need. The love which they manifested is the love required of all: *"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren"* (1 Jn. 3:16).

The phrase, *"Love . . . seeketh not her own"* (1 Cor. 13:4,5), suddenly takes on new meaning. Love does not just send a card to the sick, or prepare a dish for the bereaved. Love does not just do repair work for a widow, or carry a fruit basket to the aged. These are all good works and are manifestations of love. We do not mean to minimize the value of such works. But real love, if the occasion arises, goes beyond such acts of service. Real love does not seek to preserve even her own life. Real love willingly lays down her life for the brethren. Love gives more than material things; love gives herself.

Few Christians of the first century had that kind of love. And when we observe the selfishness, the petty jealousy, the greed, the desire for pre-eminence, the gossip, the backbiting, feuding, and quarreling that are characteristic of brethren of our day, we are sure that few have that kind of love today. Aquila and Priscilla once *"laid down their necks"* for Paul (Rom. 16:3,4). Let the reader make a list of the Christians of his acquaintance for whom he would lay down his neck! It is easy to think that we would die for the Lord if our faith were so tested, but *"he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen"* (1 Jn. 4:20)?

Doctrinal error that threatens the salvation of God's people must be fought. Sin must be corrected. But we have little doubt that many of the problems that trouble the church today result from our being like the *"all"* who *"seek their own"* rather than like those who *"regard not their lives"* for the sake of brethren.

How is this love developed? The same chapter of Philippians provides the answer: *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 2:5). Here is the great goal of Christians -- becoming *"conformed to the image of His Son."* When we reach that goal, we will have found maturity in all aspects of Christianity, and we will have learned to love others as God would have us to love, even to willingness to die for them.

**by Bill Hall**

## SERVANTS AND HUMILITY

Bondservants of Jesus Christ are people of humility (James 1:1). The Lord gave different gifts for the maturation of the church; some were apostles, some prophets, and some teachers (Eph. 4:11ff). Remember that those who exercised these gifts in the early church were still servants; none were more important than any other member of the body (Eph. 4:16). Attitudes of humility will help ensure the proper attitude about what we are supposed to be as we strive to become humble servants of Christ.

True humility grows out of service to Christ. It is by His example that we serve Him and others. *"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, you know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant"* (Matt. 20:25,26). When Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, He was demonstrating service. *"For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, not is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him"* (John 13:15-16). Submission to others, clothes of humility, resistance of pride, and grace to the humble are hallmarks of true servants.

Service to Christ helps us understand the debt we owe to the Savior, a debt we can never pay. Yet, we can, in

humility serve Him, ever thankful for the privilege. *“In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on before the Lord to prepare His ways” (Luke 1:74-75).* These words by Zacharias about his son, John, would help prepare the way for the coming Messiah. John recognized his role as a servant.

Servants yield completely to the will of their masters. As Christians we are at the constant beck and call of Christ. Our will is to do His will. In this, Christ set the example for us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus made it clear that He and the Father are one. Jesus did the will of the Father. There was complete unanimity between Father and Son. We may not achieve total and complete agreement with our Master, but we must try. He made us; we did not make ourselves. He saved us; we cannot save ourselves. He promises us glory. We have access to Him through prayer **(James 4:8)**.

When James called himself a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ he spoke about two things. First, he meant he would serve Christ completely, without reservation. And he would be faithful in his work as an apostle of Christ. That is what he did. Read the references to James in the book of Acts and Galatians. Then read his letter. Here was a man who was dedicated to faithfulness to Christ in all things. The Epistle of James gives definition to his work. James speaks about trials of faith and temptation. He speaks about showing partiality, faith and work, and the misuse of the tongue. **James 5:19-20** is a good summary of service and humility. *“My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”*

**Randy Harshbarger**

## Eugenics, 2

Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, hailed today as a defender of woman's rights, was more than any other person responsible for the widespread, passive acceptance of birth control. It is commonly thought she was motivated by “sexual freedom” for women. Her writings, however, indicate that her main motivation had to do with eugenics—“controlled breeding to improve the quality of the race.”

Writing in the Birth Control Review, which she founded and edited, she said, “More children for the fit, less for the unfit” (qtd. by Mary Senander, “Eugenics part of Sanger legacy,” Minneapolis Star Tribune, 10.14.1993). By “fit,” she meant the elite, the smart, and the white—people like herself. By “unfit,” she meant the physically handicapped, the mentally retarded, and “Hebrews, Slavs, Catholics, and Negroes.”

In the November 1921 issue of the Review, Sanger suggested parents should have to “apply for babies as immigrants have to apply for visas.” By 1925 she was setting up birth control clinics in neighborhoods populated by Latins, Slavs, and Hebrews, groups she targeted for birth control. By October 1926, Sanger was calling for compulsory sterilization of groups she deemed stupid and immoral. By 1932, twenty-seven states had compulsory sterilization laws.

Sanger wasn't the only advocate of radical eugenic policies; there was another who was better known than she. His name was Adolph Hitler. more to come . . .

**Kenny Chumbley**

## **Abraham Lincoln said of Americans:**

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

## **Which blessing can you do without?**

*....He sends His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain the the righteous and the unrighteous.*

**Matthew 5:45**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.....*

**(Ephesians 1:3-4)**

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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SERMON: PRESENTED BY BILL MILLER

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**