

# LENEXA EDIFIER

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

**December 8, 2024**

## **Lessons From the New Testament Church** *Jim Stauffer*

As Chapter 3 of the Book of Acts ends, Peter has just concluded telling those gathered around him in the Temple what they need to do to find peace with God as the church Jesus promised to build has been established with Him reigning at the right hand of God. **(Acts 3:19,20)**. This preaching was spawned by the miraculous healing of a lame man, known to all to have been unable to walk from his birth some 40+ years prior. They explained to him and all it was the power of Jesus Christ the Nazarene that allowed him to walk. His presence walking and leaping and praising God drew the attention of many and led to their belief as Jesus was preached by the apostles.

As they continue speaking to the people, Peter and John are then accosted by the Jewish leaders and jailed for preaching the resurrection of Jesus, the Nazarene. In spite of the objections by Jewish leaders to this preaching, around 5000 men heeded the message of the gospel. Were the apostles dissuaded from preaching Jesus by this arrest? Their response indicates it had little to no effect on their efforts to preach Jesus.

Any objective analysis of this incident leads one to believe the men who arrested them have ulterior motives to the truth. Clearly, before the healing of the lame man, the Sadducees already objected to preaching a resurrected Christ as they did not believe in the resurrection or angels **(Matthew 22; Acts 23:6)**.

Acts Chapter 4 is such an encouraging chapter at the very early stages of the Lord's church. First, we see the apostles willing to suffer threats and imprisonment to carry the message of truth to the lost. When they were threatened they returned to meet with the disciples and prayed to God for encouragement. This encouragement propelled them to continue preaching in the face of serious persecution.

Let us learn from them, why they did not waver and how they sustained their persistence in carrying the gospel to the lost.

They recounted how the Jews in compliance with Herod, Pilate and the Roman Army had crucified Jesus. This was according to God's plan and as a result He raised Him from the grave to walk on the earth as the only person to ever be resurrected never to die again. They then reminded their enemies they had rejected the prophecy of the Messiah being the Corner Stone of God's spiritual building, the body of Christ, Kingdom of God, Church of the Firstborn. They then pointed out there is no other name in which men can receive salvation **(Acts 4:12; Hebrews 5:8,9)**.

The integrity of the apostles is evidenced in their reply to the threat to desist preaching Christ. But Peter and John answered and said to them, *“Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”* **(Acts 4:19–20)**

The final note to this encouraging chapter is the intimacy they shared with each other when they saw each other in need. Liquidating their assets to provide for the needs of each other indicates a closeness with the intent of serving one another as we are instructed in other passages **(Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:1-4)**.

It is not difficult to learn then, the dedication we need toward the truth and the need of the world to hear it as well as the care and concern we must have for one another. The world can see our love for God, Christ and the truth God has revealed to us and the care and concern we have for not only the souls of all men but also for one another. They will be more receptive to the gospel we proclaim when they see how we live it.

If we are to lay claim to being the New Testament church, we need to learn to follow their example in all aspects, including their desire to evangelize the community in which they lived.

## Meekness is Strength

One of the beatitudes in Jesus' sermon on the mount is, "*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth*" (Matt. 5:5).

Meekness is often viewed as a weakness by the world. In God's eyes, it is a strength. Jesus showed meekness (Matt. 11:29), and God expects us to show meekness to all (Titus 3:2).

Meekness involves humility, self-control, gentleness, submissiveness, and mildness of temper. It is the opposite of self assertiveness, and has often been defined as "strength under control." The word for meekness was used in the 1st century to describe an animal well-broken in by its master.

This virtue allows God to direct our steps. One who proudly believes he or she doesn't need guidance won't "*receive with meekness the engrafted Word*" (James 1:21).

God is our Master, and we must meekly allow Him to steer us in the direction He wants us to go. Submissiveness should be applied to certain earthly relationships (Rom. 13:1; Eph. 5:21-22; 6:1; 6:5), and it must be foremost directed toward God.

Those who are meek are often belittled by those of the world (Num. 12:1-3). Because the meek show proper submissiveness and don't insist on always having their way, they are often seen as weak.

Yet, God upholds the meek (Psalm 147:6). The one who puts on meekness can lean on the everlasting arms that provide strength the world can't fathom (Col. 3:12).

*Michael Hickox*

## Atheism Always Ends in Annihilation

I spent this past week with some old friends, and one thing we did was to discuss C. S. Lewis's book, *The Abolition of Man*. In this book, Lewis argues that to deny God/objective truth and make every belief, value, or moral subjective inevitably leads to the abolition/destruction of man. Anyone familiar with the 20th and 21st centuries, or with **Judges 17-21**, or Francis Schaeffer's *Escape from Reason*, or Paul Johnson's *Modern Times*, or J. W. Montgomery's *The Shaping of America* understands that the opposite of truth is not

just lies, but moral and societal chaos.

And why does the denial of God lead to man's destruction? It's because without faith in God, there's no moral or spiritual glue to hold society together. Unbelief can only survive as a parasite on belief. It's only because good men hold society together that the evil and criminal have a society in which to operate. Man without God lacks the tools needed to build and sustain a truly civilized, social environment.

Not far from where I live, just across the Wabash, is the community of New Harmony, Indiana. Founded by the Scotsman Robert Owen, it was established to show that man, on his own, without divine help, can create a self-sustaining utopia of educational reform, scientific research, and artistic expression.

The experiment only lasted two years before it went to pieces on the rocks of selfishness and opposition to socialistic principles. "The universe," wrote Stanley Jones, "is not built for the success of evil—evil sooner or later destroys itself." "*The way of the ungodly shall perish*" (Ps. 1.6).

If Christianity is false, if there is no God, the consequences for the human predicament are disastrous. If there is no God, we live in a world of complete moral relativism where no act—no matter how hideous or heinous—can be condemned. To deny an absolute Being and absolute truth is to reduce everything to an absurdity and a society in which might makes right.

Sadly, many are attempting to open this door. If they succeed, history will repeat itself and human life will be worthless.

Whoso has felt the Spirit of the Highest  
Cannot confound nor doubt Him nor deny  
Yes, with one voice, O world, though thou deniest  
Stand thou on that side, for on this side am I.

Frederick Myers

*Kenny Chumbley*

**"Be Still and Know That I Am God"**

*David A Cox*

*"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"*—**(Psalm 46:10)**. Our culture is so driven that having

peace may seem to be unimaginable. People are so consumed with having what they desire that many cannot even think of what would be better for the other person. The news is filled with tragedy after tragedy of people inflicting their ways upon others. Jesus came to give peace to man, but men still continue to exert themselves constantly and produce many troubles in life that will not allow them to know peace. God, speaking through the Psalmist, tells us, *“Cease striving and know that I am God.”* Many may say, “I am not striving with God, I love Him and I am faithful to Him.” However, we struggle with God in many ways we do not think about. Let us notice four aspects of God in this Psalm we would do well to remember and to put our lives in sync with God and cease to strive with Him.

#### **God is Our Protector (vs. 1-3).**

The Psalmist reminds us about three things of God’s protection: •God is our refuge – the place of protection is with God. •Strength – the source of protection is from God, the Almighty. •Present help in trouble – the availability of rescue is always there for us. What a blessing; the people of God have to know that God is our protector, but we need to *“Be still”* to remember that God is there for us.

#### **God is Our Provider – (vs. 4-5).**

We often get caught up in the desire to be self-sufficient. But we need to remember that every good thing we have comes from God (**James 1:17**). Jesus taught that we do not need to live our life striving after the things of life. God will provide the things we need (**Matthew 6:19-34**). Paul told the people in Athens it was in God that they *“live and move and have our being”* (**Acts 17:28**). We need to *“Be still”* and quit relying on our own strength and see that it is God who provides.

#### **God is the Source of Power.**

People crave power and personal gain, Allen Malone Comforting Those Who Suffer & Grieve. *“...The Father of compassion and the God of all comfort comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”* (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**). A recent Bible class discussion focused on what we learn about suffering from the Old Testament book of Job. Prominent in the discussion were Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. When these friends of Job are introduced to us at the end of **chapter 2**, they are model comforters, but later Job rightfully calls them *“miserable comforters”* (**16:2**). As model comforters, they sat with Job, grieved with Job, and when they saw that Job’s grief and suffering left him speechless, they were willing to just-be-present, sitting in silence for a whole week (**Job 2:11-13**). Unfortunately everybody wants to call the shots. We

thrive over power and what we can do with it. We need to stop and recognize our need for God’s power. God is the source of power; in the creation, salvation, and resurrection of Christ. God is also the source of power that is working in us as we allow Him to rule our lives. In the battles we face against evil, God provides us with the weapons and protection we need to overcome (**Ephesians 6:10- 13**). Let us see the true source of power that only comes from God.

#### **God is the Peacemaker – (vs. 8-11).**

The Psalmist says, *“He makes wars cease...He breaks the bow and cuts the spar in two”* (**Psalm 46:9**). The only lasting peace to ever be known is the peace that comes God’s way. The world is always looking for peace, but wars and violence continue. But when men come to stand still and come to know God, they will come to find true lasting peace.

Remember what God tells us *“Be still and know that I am God.”* In doing that, we will see the protection, the providence, the source of power, and the peace that comes from God.

### ***Nothing To Hide!***

Consider this:

- If someone has some printed money but is not willing to have it carefully examined, people will probably think it is counterfeit.
- If one stands accused, and is afraid to take a lie detector test, people will almost certainly think they are guilty of the crime.
- If someone conducts a business but is unwilling to let anyone investigate it, folks will probably think they are running a crooked business.

Yet many people teach doctrines that under no circumstances will they test or allow to be tested by the Bible. However, millions of people will accept them as upright, honest teachers of the truth, and will risk their salvation upon them.

What makes the difference? The Bible instructs us to test those who claim to be teachers of spiritual truths (**1 John 4:1**). The truth never fears investigation! It has nothing to hide!

***by Bill Crews***

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:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.  
Lenexa, Kansas 66216  
913-620-0563

*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, ELLIE GOLDSTON, WINNIE  
RAWSON, GENE MCCLUNG, TRACY  
RICHARDSON, STEVE WIMP. SHANE  
SCOTT PASSED AWAY 12/4/24. PAT  
MCLOUD IS IN REHAB FOLLOWING HER  
HEART PROCEDURE.  
  
SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS RON  
PECK - 1 CORINTHIANS  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS JIM  
STAUFFER-ISAIAH  
  
SERMON: RECOGNIZING FALSE  
TEACHERS.

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**