

Truth In Love

As *Friends & Family Day* approaches (April 24th), the spiritual well-being of those closest to us starts to march front and center in our minds. Like most, you probably have a dear friend or family member that has not obeyed the gospel, or having obeyed is no longer faithful, and the thought of their eternal fate weighs heavily upon you. The thing that we want most for them is to hear the truth of the gospel and obey it with their whole heart. Knowing the needs of man, the Lord set in place a system by which all people might have an opportunity to hear and obey the truth!

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:11-16).

The work of the apostles and prophets has run its course and accomplished its intended purpose (1 Cor:15:1-11;1 Tim. 2:5-7;2 Pet. 1:16-21), in delivering to us in its entirety (Jn. 16:13), God’s prophetic word. Now, it is the job of the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers to continue proclaiming Christ and His word, thereby equipping the whole body (all members) to do the work of ministry. What is this “*work of ministry*” that I have been commanded to do you may ask? What, but to “*speak the truth in love!*” This requires first and foremost a knowledge of the truth that comes from abiding in the Word (Jn. 8:31,32). After this comes the hard part, developing a mature love for God that manifests itself in a love for lost souls. If I love God, I love my brother (1 Jn 4:21), if I love my brother I will give to him the most precious thing I have, the opportunity for eternal life! How then does one “*speak the truth in love?*” Love, is the very reason that one speaks the truth, “I love you, so I will speak God’s truth to you even when it hurts.” Not only that, but love is also the way in which we speak the truth. As a parent holding their newborn babe looks at the child and professes their love for it, we also, looking lovingly at the soul of our neighbor in gentleness we ought to profess God’s love for them. Not in a condemning manner, for we must realize we are in need of God’s grace as much as the vilest of lost souls who has never heard the truth (Rom. 2:1). As the apostle Paul did speaking the truth to the church in Corinth, so I, “*pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ*” (2 Cor. 10:1), exhort you to go out and do the same!

Those to Serve

(B) Mike Mallett FV) Vernon Houts

(O) Doug Pruet (A) Calvin Burks

1st prayer Jack Wall 2nd prayer Jeffrey BURks

Announcements: Keith Stifflemire Singing: Judd Wall

Prayer list: Mildred Lovell, Darrell Debo, Naomi Wall, Gene Payne, , Lloyd Crownover, Ruby Jones. Pray for our nation, our Troops and Law Enforcement

Answers to Quiz: 1 (D) 1 Samuel 8:19-20, 2 (C) Job 13:15, 3 (A) Genesis 3:4, 4 (B) Psalms 119:104, 5 (A) Numbers 32:23, 6 (D) Lamentations 3:22-23, 7 (c) Proverbs 3:5, 8 (B) Hosea 4:6, 9 (A) Joshua 24:15, 10 (c) Jeremiah 22:29

Philippians 4:8-9 King James Version (KJV)

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.



To

Koh Staff March 12th

Dennis Sheldon March 30th

Dates to Remember

Feb 28th

Noon Fellowship Meal

March 6th

Mission Sunday

March 5th –13th

Spring Break

March 13th

Daylight Savings Begins

Missed Opportunities

The story is told of a young man who wished to marry the farmer's beautiful daughter. He went to the farmer to ask his permission. The farmer looked him over and responded, "Son, go stand out in that field and I'm going to release three bulls, one at a time. If you can catch the tail of any one of the three bulls, you can marry my daughter."

The young man stood in the pasture awaiting the first bull. The barn door opened and out ran the biggest, meanest-looking bull he had ever seen. He decided that one of the next bulls had to be a better choice than this one, so he ran over to the side and let the bull pass through the pasture out the back gate.

The barn door opened again. Unbelievable. He had never seen anything so big and fierce in his life. It stood pawing the ground and grunting as it eyed him. Whatever the next bull was like, it had to be a better choice than this one. He ran to the fence and let the bull pass through the pasture, out the back gate.

The door opened a third time. A smile came across his face. This was the weakest, scrawniest little bull he had ever seen. This one was his bull. As the bull came running by, he positioned himself just right and jumped at just the exact moment. He grabbed, but the bull had no tail!

Life is full of opportunities. Some will be easy to take advantage of, some will be difficult. But once we let them pass (often in hopes of something better), those opportunities may never again be available.

The same thing is also true of opportunities to serve Christ. God often opens doors—opportunities to speak up for Him, opportunities to minister to someone who is hurting or in need, opportunities to have an influence on the world around us. If we allow them to pass by, we may miss out on them altogether.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

Alan Smith

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The Tick

Ever had a tick on you? Ticks are small blood sucking mites. They spend a good bit of time just waiting in bushes, grass and woods for a victim—you! Once you happen by, they jump on and attempt to quickly crawl to a protected spot on your body. Then they sink their mouth parts into your flesh and begin to feed on life blood. If undetected, a tick will fill itself full and then drop off, often leaving its host inoculated with some debilitating disease such as spotted fever, relapsing fever, Lyme disease, tularemia, encephalitis or ricketts. The tick is a lot like many kinds of sin:

- It may get on you when it is small and almost undetectable.
- It doesn't demand much sacrifice, but it may cause a little irritation.
- Once embedded, it's hard to get off.
- It gets bigger the longer it stays on you.
- It leaves you very seriously ill.

Some advice for dealing with ticks and sins:

DON'T WALK IN PLACES THAT ARE INFESTED. "See then that you walk circumspectly not as fools, but as wise (Ephesians 5:15).

EXAMINE YOURSELF DAILY. "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).

HAVE OTHERS EXAMINE YOU, AND HELP EXAMINE THEM TOO. "But exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today', lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13).

IF ONE GETS ON YOU, GET IT OFF IMMEDIATELY. "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16).

IF YOU REALIZE YOU ARE GETTING SICK, SEE THE DOCTOR. Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Mark 2:17).

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The Deceitfulness Of Sin

By *Ron Boatwright*

Sin is very deceitful, alluring, and ensnaring. Hebrews 3:13 says that we are to "Exhort one another daily...lest any of you be hardened through the **deceitfulness** of sin." With many people sin is first abhorred, then as people become more comfortable with it, sin is tolerated, and then it is embraced. But why is sin so openly embraced by so many? It is because they have not been properly taught the word of God. People, who become so involved in sin, do not want to listen or receive God's word. People, because of sin become "past feeling" (Ephesians 5:19), because they have "their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Timothy 4:2). As the morality level of this nation declines, the church is also affected and has become more comfortable with sin. As Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:13, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse." Satan wants us to become complacent with sin so he can help us to be lost with him in the burning fires of a real Hell.

There seems to be no shame today by those who participate in sin. Jeremiah 6:15 says, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed, nor did they know how to blush." The modern world is rapidly casting aside all moral restraints. They want to "call evil good and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20). As our Lord says in Matthew 13:15, "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed." Sin first has its beginning with lust. "Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin when it is finished brings forth death" (James 1:15). This is spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God.

There are no little sins or big sins. In God's eyes all sin is sin. There is no difference. Homosexuality and adultery (1 Corinthians 6:9-11), murder and lying (Revelation 21:8), or prejudice (James 2:9) are all sins that will cause us to be lost. But these and any other sins which are not forgiven will cause us to be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone along with Satan and "tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10, 15). Also we dare not try to justify anyone in their sin because, "He that justifies the wicked and he that condemns the just, even they both are an abomination to the Lord" (Proverbs 17:15).

But how do we protect ourselves from sin? We are to "Lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us" (Hebrews 12:1). We must "Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9). We are not to be "conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). How do we renew our mind to protect ourselves from sin? "Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalms 119:11). And then we must "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22), because "To him that knows to do good and does not do it to him it is sin" (James 4:17). The terror of the Lord awaits those who because of sin are unprepared to meet Him in the Judgment. Let's not be deceived by sin.