

## ***The Truth Sometimes Hurts***

How much do you appreciate the truth? The truth is easy to hear when it is flattering, encouraging, and uplifting. However, the truth can sometimes hurt. Do you always desire the truth from those around you, regardless of whether it is favorable or not? Do you always demand the truth from those who preach and teach the gospel of Christ?

The truth pleased the rich young ruler until Jesus told him the one thing he lacked (Mark 10:17-22). Some would call such a declaration of truth unloving, but the Spirit called it love (note verse 21). How do we feel when someone courageously and honestly points out our shortcomings (Prov. 27:6)?

Some of the Jews who heard Peter on Pentecost appreciated the truth, though it indicted them. They chose repentance and baptism (Acts 2:36-40). Whereas, those Jews who heard Stephen speak that same truth hated what was spoken. They responded by stoning Stephen to death (Acts 7:54-60). How do we respond to the truth?

The Galatians loved the apostle Paul—so much that at one point they were willing to pluck out their own eyes and give them to Paul. However, in the very next verse, Paul was compelled to ask if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth (Gal. 4:14-16). Do we despise those who tell us what we need to hear?

Simply stated, unless we have a love of the truth, we will never appreciate the truths that hurt (2 Thess. 2:10-12). Unless we are willing to accept painful truths, we cannot know the sanctifying power of truth (John 17:17). Unless we obey the truth, we will be condemned (Rom. 2:8).

How much do you appreciate truth? The answer is painfully obvious when we are confronted with agonizing truths that require change in our lives. Change hurts, but the truth saves. How will you respond the next time you are confronted with the truth?

Jonathan Perz

## ***Edifier***

***Evant church of Christ***

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*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

**Sunday Worship:**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**10:20 am Worship**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**Wednesday Night**

**6:00 pm**

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***Drive' A Mile In His Shoes!***

We were talking about drivers on the interstate highways, and this fella said: "You can't believe the crazy stunts they pull. They think they're the only ones on the highway. You'd think they own the road!" I've said the very same things myself. When I made the remarks, I was talking about some of the truck drivers with their '18 wheelers'. But these comments were made by a truck driver talking about people who drive cars! Clearly, it is all a matter of perspective.

This may have some application to some of the problems, fusses and misunderstandings that sometimes trouble the Lord's church. Could it be that these might also be attributed to one's perspective? "They're not friendly over there." "No one seems to care about me, or my problems." "The preacher is too ... " "The elders don't ... " "Sister So-and-so never ... " Wait! Did you ever stop to analyze the problem from the other person's perspective? Often if we take the time to look at the situation from the other man's point of view we can gain some valuable insights that might help us work through the problem, resolve the fuss, and clear up the misunderstanding.

God's word encourages us about such things: "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" (Philippians 2:2-5)

There are issues of right and wrong, truth and error, that demand that we take a firm stand - no matter what the consequences may be. But too often brethren have fought and divided - suffered bad feelings and alienation - over things that could have been settled peacefully by simply "walking (driving!?) a mile in the other man's shoes." Think!

by Greg Gwin

***Happy Birthday***

***Eloisa Garza March 2nd  
Anson Day March 28th***

***Whose Orders?***

Years ago, I read notice of a horrible train wreck in which many people died painfully amid the twisted burning wreckage. The engineer was killed as well. But as he lay near death he showed those nearby a paper, saying, "Take this. It will show I was given the wrong orders." And, they were the wrong orders. He had been on the wrong track, yet he was still dying, along with many others.

Friend, you have an eternal soul. What orders are you following: God's, or man's idea of religion? Make sure, because sincerity is not enough!

By Bob Hines

***Romans 2:8 ESV***

<sup>8</sup> but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

***Those to Serve***

- (B) Mike Lovell
- (FV) Doug Pruett
- (O) Jack Wall
- (A) Calvin Burks
- 1st prayer Mike Mallett
- 2nd prayer Judd Wall
- Announcements: Keith Stifflemire
- Singing: Kevin Grant

***February 19th***  
*President's Day*  
***February 25th***  
*Noon Fellowship*  
***March 3rd***  
*Mission Sunday*  
***March 10th***  
*Daylight Saving Begins*  
***March 17th***  
*St. Patrick's Day*  
***March 31st***  
*Noon Fellowship*  
*Easter Sunday*

***Prayer List:***

- Dora Martinez
- Jorge Garza
- Lynn Parker
- Tammy Parker
- Anita Adams
- Virginia Lovell
- Letha Sheldon
- Pray for our Nation
- Our Troops
- Law Enforcement
- Rescue Personnel