

LENEXA EDIFIER

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

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RECOGNIZING REJECTION OF THE LORD

Jim Stauffer

U.S. President Abraham Lincoln once said: "You can fool all people some of the time and some people all the time. But you can never fool all people all the time. This statement is intended to expose the concept of personal gain through hypocrisy.

The sin of hypocrisy is condemned over and over again in Scripture. Yet, one of the most hypocritical actions we see is when men pretend to be disciples of the Lord, followers of Christ and yet clearly reject His word. **(John 12:48)**. The concept of claiming fidelity to the Lord while serving gods was prevalent in both Israel and Judah leading to the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. Paul says we should learn from such error, *Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.* **(1 Corinthians 10:6)**

We can then recognize such hypocritical practices in religion today. In fact, we must as the disciples of the Lord are instructed in this regard. *Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.* **(Jude 1:3)** Any such practices are opposed to **the faith** and should be exposed.

We then have a responsibility to oppose and expose religions that are not following the Scriptures, the word of the Lord, by which we will all be judged. In light of that, how can we avoid calling out those who claim salvation by faith alone **(James 2:24-26)**. These same folks dismiss the importance of personal repentance, baptism and confession of Jesus as the resurrected Savior, the Son of God, as necessary to our redemption by the blood of Christ **(Mark 16:15,16; Acts 17:30; Romans 10:9,10)**.

There is a sadness in carrying out our responsibility in these situations, but there is also a joy. Sadness in the need for such confrontation but joy in the hope of bringing the truth to bear in a person's search for truth and salvation. Listen to our Lord, *Jesus *said to him, "I*

am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. **(John 14:6)** Now hear what He said to Pilate, *Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."* **(John 18:37)**

Now, let us reason about this. The Bible teaches this one thing very clearly about what the Lord demands of those who would be saved from their sins and gain a hope for the eternal reward of heaven. Yet many have decided on their own not to comply with those demands. Ask yourself if they have rejected the Lord? Ask yourself if they are of the truth? The answer is a very clear no. That answer then concludes they have not come to the Father since they have rejected the truth of the words of His Son. To state clearly what Jesus says, *"He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.* **(John 12:48)**. Jesus authorized the Holy Spirit to reveal the mind of God **(John 16:13,14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13)**. When we reject what the Bible clearly teaches, we have rejected the Lord, the Son of God, to Whom we then turn and ask for salvation. This is the ultimate in hypocrisy.

Jesus also said, *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.* **(John 14:15)**. Therefore, as His disciple, I am compelled to keep His commandments concerning my need for salvation, but also as one responsible for opposing error as I contend for the faith.

Paul gives us the perfect example of what we are to do when we see religious error. He had preached the gospel to the churches in Galatia and yet some had come along and perverted the very gospel and turned them away from the truth. Here is what he said guided by the Holy Spirit. *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other*

gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:6–9)

How can we turn a blind eye to the truth and to such violations of it. If we do, we no longer love the souls of those who have either wittingly or unwittingly deviated from the truth of the gospel.

I use the biblical teaching of baptism as an example of the rejection of God's word, but the sad truth is there are many more things men have injected into the worship and service of God that need to be called out. We do that regularly here, but not in a hateful way. We want *...all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:4)*

Rally the troops? Chuck Bartlett

There is something interesting that happened when Jesus walked with His followers. The thing that we will notice is what our Lord did not say. In **Matthew 24**, when Jesus was in the city of Jerusalem, His disciples were showing Him the buildings of the temple (**vr. 1**). Jesus then states, *"Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."* (**vr. 2**).

Of course, His disciples wanted to know when this event would occur. Jesus told them about the signs that would come before this destruction. If you read the chapter carefully you will note that the disciples were confusing the destruction of Jerusalem with the end of time. Therefore, Christ spoke about the destruction of the city that would come, and did take place, in 70 A.D., and then He spoke about the end of time.

What I want us to notice is, Jesus was foretelling about the Roman army coming in and utterly destroying the city of Jerusalem (**vr. 21**). This is factually supported by secular history. But here is my main point. When Jesus first told the people that *"not one stone shall be left here upon another."* Why didn't Christ rally the troops? Why not tell His followers. "Okay, here is how we are going to fight to let those Romans know they are not coming in here and destroying the temple?"

Jesus made it perfectly clear to Pilate that His servants would not fight against the government because His kingdom was not of this world (**Jn. 18:36**). If Jesus

wanted them to fight, they would have. Since He didn't want them to fight, they didn't. The truth is, the Roman army could not destroy the kingdom of God. The Lord's kingdom is spiritual. We need to remember this world is not our home.

It is clear that the spiritual battles that were awaiting His people, would be more than enough for them to handle (**I Tim. 6:12**). If people would fight as hard in the spiritual realm as people want to do in the physical realm, there would definitely be more victories.

WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

By Jefferson David Tant

An old saying says there are only two things that are certain—death and taxes. And there is much truth in that. Something in today's paper got my mind thinking about one of those certainties —death. And what about death? The word "legacy" came to mind, so I looked up its meaning: *"An amount of money or property left to someone in a will."* Is that it? Is that really all that we leave behind when we die? By that definition, when a poor person dies, there is nothing left. Oh, but there is something left, something that is far more meaningful than earthly possessions.

What prompted my thinking about this was reading about the death in Nashville of Willie Maupin. He is survived by 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren and 1 great-great-great grandchild. That's 55 descendants in 5 generations! He was 99 years old. I'm pretty sure that Willie did not leave a vast fortune to be distributed to his offspring, but there is something that should be of far greater value than money or property.

The Bible frequently refers to various individuals' deaths. Among those is Abraham's death. *"Abraham breathed his last and died in a ripe old age, an old man and satisfied with life; and he was gathered to his people."* (**Gen. 25:8**) How was he *"satisfied with life?"* Was it not because he had served God faithfully all the days of his life? Note God's promise to Abraham. *"No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations."* (**Gen. 17:5**) It is obvious that God knew Abraham's heart.

In giving a charge to Israel, God said: *“Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.”* (Deut. 4:9) Note they were to make God’s will *“known to your sons and your grandsons.”*

There is no greater nor more valuable legacy that parents can leave for their children than a life lived in service to God. As I consider my own family history, we are now the fourth generation of those who are serving God since the lineage started with my grandparents, J. D. and Nannie Yater Tant, and Oscar Lorenzo and “E” Gotto, with the fifth generation now growing up.

Dear reader, as you consider your life and what you will leave behind when you die, what legacy will you leave? It’s not wrong to leave things of this world to benefit your descendants, but there is nothing greater than leaving a legacy of faithful service to God. And you need not wait until---*whenever*. Some years ago, we had a very devout older couple with us. They were an asset to the congregation. But they waited “too late.” They did not give diligence in serving God until their children were older, and as I recall, not one of their five children were faithful Christians. We are preparing our “legacy” every day that we live. Don’t put it off until “tomorrow.”

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4). And mothers, follow the example Paul mentioned to Timothy; *“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.”* (II Tim. 1:5)

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH" #5

If the church of the Lord is sufficient to accomplish what the Lord intends for it to do, then no other organization or arrangement is permitted or needed. The church is adequate for accomplishing God's will as delivered through inspiration. The efforts of men to improve upon God's ways always fail. God still knows what is best and we must yield to His direction (Jeremiah 10:23; Isaiah 55:8-9).

Men sometimes confuse the work of the church with the work God has given to the Christian as an individual. It is true that Christians function in various capacities in the ordained institutions of God (civil government, the home, the church). Yet, a failure to recognize the distinctions of each creates confusion and often leads to a perverting of the mission of the church.

The Christian must be in subjection to the higher powers (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17). The Christian obeys the laws of the country in which he lives. The family relationship is important; to fail as fathers, mothers, and children, means that we are not faithfully serving God (Ephesians 5:22ff; 1 Timothy 5:8). The church is a spiritual relationship (1 Peter 2:5), and the Christian often acts in concert with others who sustain the same relationship to the Lord. A Christian will be a better servant of civil government, a better family member, a better neighbor, etc. The outgrowth of being a Christian is that in each relationship is God’s honor and principles of truth.

We must remember that just because the Christian acts in different capacities, it does not mean that the church and the home are the same, any more than the church and civil government are the same, or that the home and government are equal. Paul distinguishes between the church and the home. *“What, have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? Or despise ye the church of God, and put them to shame that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I praise you not ... If any man is hungry, let him eat at home; that your coming together be not unto judgment. And the rest will I set in order whensoever I come.”* (1 Corinthians 11:22,34). A Christian could campaign for his favorite political candidate but that is not the church doing so. A Christian can own and operate a business but that is not the church doing the same. Parents have obligations to care for their children, physically and spiritually. Wisdom teaches us that wholesome entertainment with Christians encourages and cements good relationships among our young people. That does not mean that the church has authority to provide gyms, trips to Six Flags, or ski trips to Colorado for the young people. There is no more authority or obligation for the church to engage in the recreation business than for the church to enter the political arena or launch out into some business enterprise.

Randy Harshbarger

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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Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
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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