

**In need of prayers**

**Ciara McCrary** is scheduled to have her eye surgery soon. I will pass along information as I received it.

**The Marksberry's** continue to recover from a plane crash. Mr. Marksberry appears to have a longer way to go.

**Reminder:** If you wish to have someone added to the prayer list please submit his or her name and condition to me *in writing*. Thanks.

**In need of regular prayers**

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin

**Others:** Edith Tirey, Glen Davis, Charlene Antle, Lala Whitson, Tom Curtis, Rita Pagan, Robin Miller, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein

**Weekly Reading**

<b>Su</b>	Job 5-6, Ps 45, Luke 9
<b>M</b>	Job 7-8, Ps 46, Luke 10
<b>T</b>	Job 9-10, Ps 47, Luke 11
<b>W</b>	Job 11-12, Ps 48, Luke 12
<b>Th</b>	Job 13-14, Ps 49, Luke 13
<b>F</b>	Job 15-16, Ps 50, Luke 14
<b>Sa</b>	Job 17-19, Ps 51, Luke 15

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**September 18, 2011**

**Today's sermon topics**

**AM** John Thompson will be preaching

**PM** Blake Ratliff will be preaching

**Today's Scripture Reading**

**AM** Matthew 7:1-14

**PM** Matthew 6:15-28

**Times of worship**

**Sunday AM**

Bible study 9:45

Worship service 10:45

**Sunday PM**

Worship service 6

**Wednesday PM**

Bible study and worship 7:30

**First Friday Singing**

7:30 PM

**Elders:** Garry Banks, John Thompson, David Collins

**Deacons:** Jim Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Troy Antle, Richard Brundige, Neal Erickson, Adam Litmer, Bill Morelan, Matt Thompson

**There's A Lesson Here...**

Jerry has just had an automobile accident. We see him on the phone with his former insurance agent, Jessica. Jessica has to inform him that he no longer has coverage with that particular insurance company, having recently dropped his coverage in favor of another company. When Jessica tells Jerry that she cannot help him, she hears the despair in his voice as he begins to sob. She sympathetically asks, "Jerry, are you crying?" Not wanting to admit his desperation, Jerry responds, "I just bit my tongue."

You may recognize the above scenario as a current automobile insurance television commercial. Commercials and advertisements influence the viewing public in a variety of ways. Everyone understands that they promote particular products as being superior to all others, attempting to entice viewers to purchase those products. But commercials and advertisements are influential in much more subtle ways. To the degree that they incorporate lifestyles and activities God has declared sinful, they normalize and legitimize those life styles and activities.

## Two Ways to "Soundness"

By Robert Turner

They proclaim them to be perfectly acceptable, even preferable in certain situations.

Consider the automobile insurance commercial referenced above. Rather than admit the truth that, in his moment of weakness, he is crying, Jerry lies, saying, "I just bit my tongue." His lie is presented in the commercial as a perfectly acceptable way to cover his weakness and embarrassment. Lying in these kinds of situations has become a practiced technique of protecting our egos in our society. If we are not careful, we will not only fail to recognize the lie but we will, without even the slightest prick to our conscience, lie to cover our own moments of weakness and embarrassment.

The Bible is very clear about lying and truth. They are exact opposites. They cannot coexist. One eliminates the other. God loves truth; in fact He is the originator of truth. Satan, however, loves lying and is the originator of it. John 8:44 describes Satan as "a murderer from the beginning." The passage goes on to say that Satan "has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." In contrast to Satan, Proverbs 6:16-19 informs us that "There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers." Hebrews 6:18 tells us that it is impossible for God to lie.

So, the lesson here is that we should not be taken in by the subtle message that lying is perfectly acceptable which is so prevalent in today's commercials, ads, slogans, euphemisms, politically correct language, and everyday expressions. Rather, let us look forward to being in heaven where God lives and where lying cannot exist. Consider what is said of the 144,000 worshippers spoken of in Revelation 14:5, "and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless." If we intend to be in heaven where no lie can exist, then we must speak the truth to others. Ephesians 4:15 says, "Rather, speaking the **truth** in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ. Verse 25 of Ephesians 4 says "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the **truth** with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. In addition, we must gratefully accept the truth when it is spoken to us. Paul asked, in Galatians 4:16, "Have I then become your enemy by telling you the **truth**?" One who tells us the truth is our friend, not our enemy. The Elders

Three men rebel against hypocrisy, but they vary greatly in their reactions.

The first man turns to total moral abandonment. He throws off all restraint as he gives himself to the fulfillment of every fleshly desire. "Self" becomes his god. He hardens himself to the tears of his family as he goes out to do what he wants to do. His "justification" for his shameful conduct: "At least I'm not a hypocrite!"

The second man goes to the opposite extreme. He is fed up with the weakness and hypocrisy that he sees in all the churches, and he is not going to be like such people. He will become a Christian and from the beginning "he's going to live with it." He will be an example of what a Christian really ought to be. To him, the cure for hypocrisy is perfection.

The third man wants to avoid hypocrisy in his life, but at the same time, he has a deep sense of his own imperfection. So he takes on no air of infallibility, but sets out to be genuine. His genuineness soon becomes apparent to others. He does not claim perfection, but he strives for perfection. As he worships God, he does not claim to be perfect as a worshipper, but when the singing begins he gives his heart to what he's doing; when the prayer is led, he listens and makes the prayer his prayer; during the supper he meditates on the suffering of the Lord; and throughout the sermon he participates in a study of God's word; if his mind wanders, he brings it back; and when the worship period ends, he asks God to forgive him for his failure and to accept his worship in spite of his imperfection. When he goes to his job, he does not claim perfection among his fellow workers, but they know that he will try to give eight hours of work for eight hours of pay; that he is trustworthy; that he is pure in speech and life; and that if he is ever overcome by pressure around him to sin, he will humbly seek the forgiveness of those who have been wronged.

He is the same in the home. His family respects him because he is genuine and does not claim strength and goodness beyond reality. His family sees his faults, but his one redeeming quality that enables him to maintain their respect is his ability to say, "I'm sorry." In every area of his life, he walks humbly before his God and his fellow man.

Our third man has found the true cure for hypocrisy. The first man, if he does not repent, will someday be a miserable wretch, his life completely torn and shattered. The second man is headed for disillusionment. His goals are unreal; his outlook is totally wrong. But the man who "walks humbly with his God" and is wholly free from guile is a blessed man indeed. His life and his attitude with God is what God wants it to be and he lives in hope of heaven.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (**Matthew 5:3**).

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**Gospel plan of salvation:** Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), Believe Jesus Christ (John 3:16), Repent of sin (Luke 13:3), Confess faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9), Be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), Live worthy of a Christian (Ephesians 4:1)