

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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May 28, 2023

“Before My Eyes”

By Curtis Carwile



David, that man of great faith (Hebrews 11:32) and man with a heart like God's (1 Samuel 13:14), is such a great example for us in many ways.

And, with that in mind, notice what he says in Psalm 101: *"I will sing of mercy and justice; To You, O Lord, I will sing praises. I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness."*

In short, David said that he would have no association with wickedness, but that he would praise his God in wise and righteous living.

Every single day, we are bombarded with thousands of invitations to engage in wickedness in one form or another. This is especially the case when we turn on the television or surf the internet or go to the movies or even open a magazine. How many commercials use lust to "recommend" their product to you (1 John 2:15-17)? How many movies or television shows or popular songs say nothing against fornication be it pre-marital, extra-marital, or homosexual (Hebrews 13:4)?

How many of them actually condone and endorse those things (Romans 1:28-32)? How many popular songs throughout the ages encourage drinking and drunkenness (1 Peter 4:1-6)? How many popular songs encourage youthful rebellion (Hebrews 3:15)? How many television shows, movies, songs, and so on use foul language for dramatic or comedic effect (Ephesians 4:29)?

How many dirty jokes are found littered throughout all of it (Ephesians 5:1-6)? We don't know the answer to these questions because the truth of the matter is that the number is almost too high to count. There is so much wickedness that Satan is purposefully setting before our eyes (2 Timothy 2:24-26; 1 Peter 5:8).

It is with all of this in mind that I offer to you, those who wish to be in Heaven with the Lord when this existence is no more, three passages for consideration. In First Thessalonians 5:21-22, Paul says this: *"Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."*

Also, in Colossians 3:1-2, Paul says, *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things of the earth."*

And, finally, in Ephesians 2:10, Paul informs us that *"we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

When we consider that we are commanded to not have any association with anything that even has the appearance of evil, and consider that we need to rather let our minds dwell on the holy and high things of God, AND consider the work God has for us to do, how can we NOT say what David said? How can we NOT say of ourselves: *"I will set nothing wicked before my eyes... I will not know wickedness"*? How can we NOT say of ourselves: *"I will behave wisely in a perfect way... with a perfect heart"*?

There are so many things trying to influence us for evil and trying to distract us from doing good. If we ever do look on them, then let it be for the purpose of seeing the vanity and foolishness of those things.

But, even better than that, let us not even bother with those things. Rather, let us always be all about the Lord and His things to His everlasting glory (Matthew 6:33; Psalm 41:13).

"But At Thy Word..." - When Jesus Went Fishing!"

By Dennis L. Reed

We continually encourage one another to absolutely let the Word of Jesus Christ be our guide and instruction in everything which we say and do! There is no doubt that we should constantly remind one another of this Divine truth.

Jesus taught this most valuable lesson on an occasion when he went fishing with His disciples, and through the miracle performed on that fishing trip, Jesus taught the simple fact that His Word must always be foremost in the decisions which we make in our lives.

In Luke 5: 1-11, this lesson was recorded for all generations of mankind to hear and respect! *"Now it came to pass, while the multitude pressed upon him and heard the word of God, that he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; and he saw two boats standing by the lake: but the fishermen had gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the multitudes out of the boat." and took nothing: but at thy word I will let down the nets."*

Before leaving the boat, Jesus encourages Simon Peter to go fishing, "And when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answered and said, Master, we toiled all night, and took nothing: but at thy word I will let down the nets."

The command of Jesus to *"let down your nets for a draught"* seems to be logical except for the fact that they had been fishing all night and had taken nothing! Human wisdom would say that doing more fishing at this time would continue to be a waste of time and effort. But Simon fully recognized with whom he was speaking, and said, *"but at thy word I will let down the nets."*

The Word of the Lord may seem unreasonable by man's standards, but Simon knew that the Word of the Lord must be respected and obeyed. Are you and I always ready to say that, "at thy word", we are absolutely willing and determined to put the Lord's Word above our human reasoning and wisdom?

The Master's Word outweighs every other thought or circumstance, and hearing the Word of the Lord must always be our first priority. The first question that will always come to mind is, "What has God said to us in His Word?"

Doing what God said must never be questioned. *"And hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoso keepeth his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected. Hereby we know that we are in him: he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked."* I John 2:3-6.

When Simon heard the Master's Word, he simply said, *"I will let down the nets."* Every spiritual need which we have is fully supplied by the Word of God, *"Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work."* I Timothy 3:16-17.

The results of Simon's obedience is most evident, *"And when they had done this, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes; and their nets were breaking; and they beckoned unto their partners in the other boat, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was amazed, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken; and so were also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their boats to land, they left all, and followed him."*

You and I must let this fishing trip be a vivid example to us that *"at thy word"* we must so order our lives to always do what the Master commands!



Memory Verse of the Week:

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Janet Boren, David Boren, Dianne Johnson, and the family of Matthew Lipford.

Brother Fred Johnson is recovering well from his eye surgery last Monday.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *“Wrong Is Still Wrong, Even If....”*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Colossians
Author: Donnie V. Rader
Starting Page & Question: *Page #44, Question # 10*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Jerry Kennemur
Scripture Reading: *John 9:39-41*
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Lord’s Supper: Doug George
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *“The Paradoxes Of The Christian Life”*
Closing Prayer: Lee Busby

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

May 31, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: Ezekiel
Author: Dan King
Starting Page & Question: *Page #9, Question #12*
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.



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And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Wrong Is Still Wrong, Even If...”

Lesson Text: **Romans 3:8.**

I. Wrong Is Still Wrong, Even If... One Isn't Caught.

- Asaph Spoke Of The Wicked By With Sin In **Psalm 73:1-9.**
- Many Times We See Criminals Walk Away Without Going To Jail:
 - *“The most serious crime, murder, has a higher clearance rate-- usually above sixty percent--and other far more common serious crimes, like motor vehicle theft and larceny, have extremely low rates, between ten and twenty percent.”* Baughman, supra note 46, at 88-89 n.204. (Washington Law Review)
- What Asaph Found Out In **Psalm 73:16-20**; Also David In **Psalm 37:1-2.**
- Many Forget That God Will Judge Evil- **Numbers 32:23**; How? **Proverbs 15:3.**
- **Jude 14-15.**

II. Wrong Is Still Wrong, Even If... It's Done With Good Intentions.

- **Romans 3:8.** Some Falsely Accused Paul Of Doing Evil With Good Intentions.
- Joseph Fletcher/Situation Ethics taught that ethical decisions should follow flexible guidelines rather than absolute rules, and be taken on a case by case basis.
 - Lying, Stealing, Murder, Abortion, Infanticide, Euthanasia, Could All Be Done If Good Results From Doing So In The Right Situation.
- Pragmatism Or “The End Justifies The Means.”
 - Gambling To Raise Money For Schools Or Charity.
 - False Religion Appeals This Rather Than Scripture: Praying to Mary, Saints, Holy Water, Easter Celebrations, Christmas Religious Observance, Lighting Of Candles, Incense...
 - Institutionalization Is Also Justified By This Reasoning.
 - Youth Ministers And Youth Rallies.
 - Food, Fun, And Games Types Of Ministries.
- Yet The Bible Says: **1 Peter 4:11**; **Colossians 3:17.**

III. Wrong Is Still Wrong, Even If... Other Are Doing Worse.

- Some Try To Justify Themselves By Saying, *“Well At Least I'm Not Doing That!”*
- **Matthew 7:3-5.** Both Speck And Plank Need To Be Removed.
- How Much Sin Will God Allow For Us To Practice Regularly? **Romans 6:1-2.**
- Wrong To Compare- **Luke 18:11-12**; **2 Corinthians 10:12.**

IV. Wrong Is Still Wrong, Even If... Our Conscience Is Clear.

- “I don't see anything wrong in that.” Subjective Reasoning For Many Sins.
- Saul In **Acts 23:1**; **26:9-11.** Consciences can sear- **1 Timothy 4:2**; **Hebrews 5:14.**

V. Wrong Is Still Wrong, Even If... No Matter Who's Doing It.

- Some Think There Are Exceptions To God's Rules And Laws.
- Kings, Rulers, Church Leaders, Preachers, Our Family Member Or Even Ourselves...
- **2 Chronicles 26:16-21**; **Ezekiel 18:26**; **Romans 2:5-6.**

VI. Wrong Is Still Wrong, Even If... Done In A Far Away Place.

- **Luke 15:11-13.** “When In Rome, Do As The Romans” “What Happens In Vegas, Stays In Vegas.”
- What If We Travel To Germany On OctoberFest Or Mardi Gras?
- Joseph Didn't Practice This False Notion, But Was Blessed For Faithfulness **Genesis 39:2-5.**

“The Paradoxes Of The Christian Life”

- **Paradox:** “A statement or situation that may be true but seems impossible or difficult to understand because it contains two opposite facts or characteristics.” (Cambridge Dictionary)
- **John 9:39-41.**

I. We Die To Live For Christ.

- **Luke 9:23; Our Old Self Must Be Crucified- Romans 6:5-11.**
- **Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-3.**
- Why We Can Rightly Say What Paul Said In **2 Corinthians 5:17.**

II. We Suffer Loss To Gain All.

- **Luke 9:24-25; Luke 18:28-30.**
- **Matthew 13:44-46.**
- Paul Suffered Loss For Christ’s Sake- **Philippians 3:7-8.**

III. We Become Great By Becoming Small.

- **Matthew 23:5-12; Matthew 20:25-28.**
- Jesus Fully Demonstrated This In **John 13:1-5.**
- Peter Taught This To The Church- **1 Peter 5:5-6.**
- James, The Brother Of Jesus, Would Also Teach This- **James 4:10.**

IV. We Become A Servant To Be Free.

- **John 8:31-32.** How Are We Made Free By The Truth?
- Most People Who Love Sin Think They Are Free- **John 8:33-34; Titus 3:3.**
- Obeying Jesus Makes Us Free- **Romans 6:17-18; 20-23.**

V. We Are Peacemakers Who Fight Wars.

- God’s People Are To Be Peace Makers- **Matthew 5:9; 10:16.**
- Jesus Spoke Of His Peaceful Followers In **John 18:36.**
- We Are Called Upon To Fight In **1 Timothy 1:18; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3.**
- But Are Weapons Cause No Bodily Harm- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:17-18.**

VI. We Find Strength Through Weakness.

- **2 Corinthians 12:7-10.**
- We Are Never Stronger Than When We Realize Our Weaknesses
And Depend More On God’s Help **Psalms 62:5-8.**

VII. We Look For Things That Are Unseen.

- **2 Corinthians 4:16-18.**
- The Unseen Future Body- **2 Corinthians 5:1-5.**
- The Return Of Jesus- **Acts 1:9-11; Titus 2:13.**
- The Hope Of Heaven- **2 Peter 3:10-13; 1 Peter 1:3-4.**