

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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April 9, 2023

“Integrity: Keeping My Word”

By Jim Stauffer



Proverbs 12:22 *“Lying lips are an abomination to Jehovah; But they that deal truly are his delight.”*

God, from the beginning has considered integrity crucial to man's harmonious relationship with Him. After all, being reconciled from sin to a sound relationship with God as Paul describes in 2 Corinthians chapter 5, is in fact a restoration of our integrity with God. He has always insisted a man keep his own word which is voluntarily spoken. (Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21)

Jesus is described as a sinless man *“who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.”* (1 Pet. 2:22) Paul then says to us, *“be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ.”* (1 Cor. 11:1) Peter borrows the word holy from Leviticus in saying, *“but like as He who called you is holy, be ye yourselves holy in all manner of living, because it is written, ye shall be holy for I am holy.”* (1 Pet. 1:15,16) When Jesus first met Nathanael He said, *“behold an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile.”* (John 1:47)

One could continue to search the Scriptures and find many more passages containing examples and instruction concerning integrity and its importance in the eyes of God. Now, we have seen why integrity is so important to God and therefore to man as he worships God, but why do you suppose integrity plays such an important role in the lives of men on earth?

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, *“But let your speech be yea, yea; nay, nay: and whatsoever is more than these is of the evil one* (Mat. 5:37)

He was teaching the principle we sometimes describe as, “let your word be your bond.” We should be honest enough and our reputation should carry the message our word can be trusted. This, Jesus says is a trait of those who love the Lord and we cannot serve Him unless this is true of us. You can see when men are not trustworthy it is bound to have an adverse effect on human relations.

Yet, we live in a time (as others before us have) where men use deceit for material gain. A man may lie to sell a product or to achieve a promotion or to gain the favor of the people in order to reach for power. Such a man is the opposite of the Lord and what He demands of us all. He is filled with guile.

When you say the name, Richard Nixon, most people remember the phrase, “I am not a crook”, even as they remember he was. When Bill Clinton comes on your television screen, you are quickly reminded he said as he pointed his finger, “I did not have sex with that woman”, even though we know he did. Every time Barack Obama gives a speech filled with promises, most people remember he said, “You can keep your current policy” or “You can keep your current Doctor”, but we now know we cannot.

Are we to believe the leaders of our nation do not adversely affect it when they lie to all the people of that nation? Of course it has an adverse effect on everyone in one way or another. Is it not all that surprising then how poorly things work out when we reject the integrity God demands of us? Then when others who are in positions of leadership or influence hold these men up as examples of good leadership, deceit is advanced further.

Added to the general problem of lying and deceit is the difficulty one then has of sustaining his reputation. So he finds himself in a position where he must now lie to conceal former lies. "O, what a tangled web we weave when we practice to deceive".

Whether we speak of ungodly men or those who have professed to serve the Lord, if we cannot stand up for truth and honesty under the pressure of criticism and persecution, we have no hope of following the Lord's admonition, "*Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee the crown of life.*" (Rev. 2:10)

For a long time I believed this quote was from Abraham Lincoln. Research indicates that is doubtful, but it is still a stern warning to all men as they conduct their affairs on earth. The quote is: "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."

In light of those sentiments, think how difficult God's word says it is to fool God any of the time. Heb. 4:13 *'And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do.* Eccl. 12:14 *For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."*

Our reputation is what men think of us, but our character is who and what we really are.

Our salvation is determined by our character, not our reputation.

"Words"

By Kyle Campbell

Words are used every day by everyone. There are all kinds of words: generous, stingy, loving, hateful, kind, unkind, angry, peaceful, loud, quiet, etc. The words that Christians use are very important. Our words will either draw people to faith in Christ and a deep walk with God, or our words will drive people away. Consider some of the types of words Christians should use.

There are calm words (Proverbs 15:1). I know you have heard men or women explode in anger and you might have even been the recipient of a tirade of words that have left you reeling. We cannot control the temperature, harshness, or volume of the words of another. We can, however, try to control the temperature, harshness, and volume of our own words. A soft answer, in dealing with people who have done wrong or offended us, will also help keep us from a lot of angry, violent reactions (cp. Proverbs 3:30; 19:11).

There are cautious words (Proverbs 10:19; 11:13). Have you ever said something you were sorry for later? We say things especially in anger that we do not really mean, and yet the damage is done! Have you noticed that the more a person talks, the more likely he or she is to say something they should not say? When we put no damper on our words, we are likely to say things that are either sinful or disturbing to someone else (Psalm 141:3). Be cautious of gossip, slander, and talebearing. They destroy instead of edify.

There are corrective words (Proverbs 11:14; 25:12). You are probably familiar with two friends in the Bible. The older man was named Jonathan. He was the king's son. The younger man was David. They were good friends and I am sure David was able to learn and be encouraged by the words and actions of Jonathan. One time David was on the run, fleeing for his life from King Saul, and Jonathan strengthened him (1 Samuel 23:16). Who is your David? Who can you encourage this week? There are all times when we need someone to stand beside us.

There are commendable words (Proverbs 25:11). Whatever "apples of gold in pictures of silver" refers to, we are being told that the right word spoken at the right time by the right person is commendable. There have been times when you have needed a word of encouragement or correction. Or there was a time when you needed to hear the gospel, and someone shared it with you. These are words fitly spoken. Thank God for the people who have fitly spoken in your life.

Ask God to give you a chance this week to share the right words with the right people at the right time. Colossians 4:5-6 says, "*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*" Use your words wisely. Your salvation and the salvation of others depends on it.

GOSPEL MEETING

Speaker: **Billy Randolph**

Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**

Date: **April 16th -- 19th** (Sunday To Wednesday)

Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly** (Except Sunday)

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Brandon Briggs, Jimmy Briggs, Chad Harris, Randy Ferrell (Brandi's brother in law), Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Wayne Bivens (recovering from double by-pass), Ricky Doles, and Jamie Jones.

Jerry Trimble had shoulder surgery last Tuesday and is home recovering.
Our Gospel Meeting with Billy Randolph starts next Sunday (16th)!

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"The Futility Of Hiding From God"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Jerry Kennemur
Workbook:	Colossians
Author:	Donnie V. Rader
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #17, Question #11</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Brian Meade
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Nathan Meade
Scripture Reading:	<i>1 Kings 3:5-9</i>
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Lord's Supper:	Danny Sheffield
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"Give Us An Understanding Heart"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Tim Harris Jr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

April 12, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Johnson
Workbook:	The Miracles Of Jesus
Author:	Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #104, Question #9</i>
Invitation:	Brian Meade
Song Leader:	Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer:	Doug George



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“The Futility Of Hiding From God”

Lesson Text: **Genesis 3:6-10.**

Futile: Incapable of producing any useful result; Pointless.

I. Why Do People Want To Hide From God?

- They Don't Believe In God. **2 Thessalonians 3:2.**
 - How Is It They Try To hide?
 - By Not Being Around God's Word, God's People, Or Reminders Of God.
 - **John 3:19-21; Romans 1:18-22; vs. 28.**
- They Have Guilt And Shame For Unrepentant Sin.
 - Sin's Pleasure “Is Just To Fun To Give Up!” **Hebrews 11:25.**
- They Don't Like What God Asks Of Them. **Jonah 1:1-3.**
 - They Would Rather Serve Self In Convenience- **Luke 9:23-25.**
- They Know God Will Judge Them In The Future- **Revelation 6:12-17.**

II. Why Do People Feel Like They Can Hide From God?

- They Don't Believe God Exists = And Hopefully, No Accountability **2 Cor. 5:10.**
- They Think God Is Like Man- **Numbers 23:19.**
- They Try Out Of Arrogance Or Stubbornness **2 Peter 2:13-15** And **vs. 18.**
- They Think God Is Too Loving To Punish Anyone **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.**
- They Feel That God Will Give Them A Second Chance **Revelation 20:12-15.**

III. Why God Calls It Futility!

- Because We Can't Hide From God!
 - **Psalm 139:1-12.**
 - **Luke 12:2-3.**
 - Why? **Hebrews 4:13.**

IV. What Should They Be Doing Instead?

- Believe God With All Our Heart **Acts 8:36-37.**
- Come To God In Genuine And Full Surrender To Him **Hebrews 11:6.**
- Forsake All Sin, As Useless And Futile **Ephesians 4:17-20.**
- Obey The Gospel And Be Free From Our Sins **1 Peter 1:18-19.**
- Live For Him And Be Blessed! **John 3:21; James 1:25.**

“Give Us An Understanding Heart”

Lesson Text: **1 Kings 3:5-9.**

I. What Does It Mean To Have An Understanding Heart?

— sakal “to be prudent, act wisely, give attention to, ponder, prosper.”
(Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 1, p. 273).

— **Luke 24:45-** 1. *nous*- “mind,” denotes, speaking generally, the seat of reflective consciousness, comprising the faculties of perception and understanding, and those of feeling, judging and determining. Its use in the NT may be analyzed as follows: it denotes (a) the faculty of knowing, the seat of the understanding.”
(Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 408). T. Nelson).

- To Not Act As A Fool- **Proverbs 8:5; 14:33.**
- Contrast Seen In Nabal And Abigail- **1 Samuel 25:3 & 25:25.**
- **Psalms 111:10; Deuteronomy 4:5-6.**

II. Why Do We Need An Understanding Heart?:

— To Understand Ourselves.

- We Need To Understand: Who We Are! Our Gender, Our Role In Life, & In The Home.
- We Need To Understand Our Emotions, Our Strengths, Our Weaknesses, Our Limitations, & Our Place In God’s Order **1 Cor. 11:3; James 4:12; Eccl. 12:13.**

— To Understand Others.

- The Needs Of Others, Understanding How To Deal With Them, Concern For Them,
- **Romans 12:16-18; Philippians 2:4; 1 Peter 3:7.**

— To Understand God’s Will.

- To Know And Understand What God Expects From Us **Matthew 7:21.**
- Some Lacked Understanding In This- **Luke 6:46; Ephesians 5:17-19.**

— To Understand Good From Evil.

- **Hebrews 5:12-14; Galatians 5:19-21** (Evil)— **Galatians 5:22-23** (Good).
- David Taught Us In **Psalms 119:104.**
- What Paul Said In **Romans 7:7.**

— To Understand The Church.

- What It Is, Who Built It, Who Directs It, What Constitutes Membership, Its Organization, What Its Work Is, What Is Not The Work, Understanding Our Role In The Church.
- **Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:23-24; Colossians 3:17.**

— To Use Righteous Judgment.

- **John 7:24; Not As Matthew 7:2-5.**

III. How Do We Get An Understanding Heart?

- Not By Going To The World! **1 Corinthians 1:21; Romans 1:22.**
- Get Away From What Feeds Into Foolishness- **Proverbs 15:14.**
- Seek & Desire It From The Right Source— God. **Proverbs 2:1-7.**