

A LOVE FOR THE TRUTH

The most compelling need of our day is a love for the truth. Unfortunately there is a deficiency in this regard that is woefully lacking. As a boy my father, grandfather, brothers, and I would go to Bentley's Barber Shop in Hartselle, Alabama to get a haircut. My grandfather, J. F. Dean, was an elder in the church and was recognized as a walking Bible. Occasionally at the barber shop a question would be raised about some Bible related subject. My grandfather would reply, "the Bible says so and so," and then he would quote the pertinent scripture. As a child my memory was clear regarding how silent that place of business became when he finished his answer. The presentation of truth silenced the questioner and convicted the hearts of those present. Beloved, there was a day when men and women would shudder at the truth and/or tremble at the spoken word (Heb. 4:12; Acts 24:25).

How do we show our love for the truth? Initially, we should love hearing the truth or gospel proclaimed (Eph. 4:15; Acts 2:41). This writer has noticed over the last ten to fifteen years a lack of appreciation for the truth and the majesty of God's written word. One brother told a gospel preacher that he should watch what he said because there were sectarian people in the audience. One even remarked that he should not speak on religious error due to certain people being present. Wonder how Peter or Paul would preach today? Would they simply slap people on the back, shake their hands, and then declare some philosophical jargon? Most Bible students know better. If we truly love the truth then joy will soar in our hearts as the spoken word is preached. A love of the truth will cause us to crave and hunger for it like a fine meal (Matt. 5:6). Solomon said, "Buy the truth and sell it not..." (Prov. 23:23). A love for the truth will cause us to submit to it (Jas. 4:7-8). Jesus said, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" (Jn. 14:15).

A love for the truth will also cause one to live it to the uttermost. There can be no greater challenge for our love of the truth than living it daily. Paul said, "For me to live is Christ,

but to die is gain..." (Phil. 1:21). Jesus was the personification of truth and truly exemplified how we should conduct our lives. Luke wrote his second treatise to Theophilus and said, "concerning all that Jesus began both to do and to teach" (Acts 1:1). Paul said, "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27 ASV). Friend, a love for the truth is not only the purpose of our being, but everlasting life will be the result of a faithful life.

Bob Spurlin from *Eastside Edifier*

EXPRESSIONS LEAVE IMPRESSIONS

While there is certainly a sense in which Christians are not to be people pleasers (Gal. 1:10), there is no doubt that the actions of God's people leave an impact on others. After all, Jesus did say people would "see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). Our expressions of worship and service as Christians do leave impressions! How do our expressions impress? How are our guests affected when they worship with us? Consider the following:

1. Do we try to pay attention while the preacher preaches, maybe even by taking notes on the sermon, or do our actions reveal that our attention is far removed from the study of God's word? (Mk. 4:24; Lk. 8:18; Heb. 5:11-14).

2. Do we sing praise with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness, or do we sit silently without any real reason for our non-participation as hymns are being sung to God? (1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

3. Do we reflect a sense of preparation and zeal in our worship, or do we give the sense of being unprepared and lethargic? (Rom. 12:11-12; Eph 5:16).

4. Do we try to sit near the front, so as to provide an atmosphere of closeness, warmth and fellowship, or does a "great chasm" exist between the pulpit area and where the people are sitting in the pews? Brethren might assemble together in the same building without really being "together" (Heb. 10:25). Evidently some brethren hold to a form of the "gap" theory when it comes to

being near one another in public worship! Yes, even where we sit in congregational worship leaves an impression on others.

5. Do we exude a spirit of love, friendliness and concern, or do others feel a spirit of aloofness and coldness on the part of members? (Prov 17-17-18:24; Phil. 2:19-23).

6. Do we actually appear to enjoy being together to worship God, or do the concerns of the world reign supreme, causing us to feel disinterested and rushed? (Matt. 13:21-22; 1 Jn. 2:15-17).

7. Do the sounds of Bible pages being turned as people look up references serve as the backdrop for the sermon while it is being delivered, or are the scriptures seldom opened? (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 3:15-17).

8. Does one hear the sounds of young moms and dads training their small children how to behave in the assembly, thus reflecting life and vigor in the congregation, or is it as silent as the tomb (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4; Deut. 6:4-9)? Reverence is a must in worship, but there is nothing scriptural or desirable about lifelessness!

How do our expressions impress others? Even more important, how do they impress the Lord? After all, He is a faithful guest to every assembly of the saints (Matt. 18:20).

from *Eastside Edifier*

Plan to be here for each day of our

Gospel Meeting

Toney Smith

April 9-13, 2006

Sunday 9:30 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm

Monday – Thursday 7:00 pm

Wednesday Class 10:00 am

BIRTHDAYS

Brooke Nemechek, 04-03; John Dodson, 04-07;
Bo Marcum, 04-08.

ILL

Sunday: Evan Phlugardt, Janice Carter (PM), Taylor Nemechek (PM). **Wednesday:** Anne and Dee Adams, John Cody Carter. Evan Phlugardt had an MRI on Monday. Millie Robertson had outpatient tests on Thursday. Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Kim Clark and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is at the Del Mar Gardens, Room 229. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Myron Nebergall was in Arkansas with his brother.

MENS BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, April 2, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, April 9 to correspond with our Gospel Meeting.

LADIES CLASS LUNCHEON

The ladies will provide lunch after the class on April 12. Brother Smith will be teaching the class so both men and women are invited to class and the lunch following.

MEETING MEALS

Please sign up now to provide a meal for brother Toney Smith during our Gospel Meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 62; Sunday PM, 44; Wednesday PM, 45.

Those To Serve

April 2, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
PRESIDE..... Ken Greer
ASSIST..... David Adams
ASSIST..... John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Myron Nebergall

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
CLOSING PRAYER..... Michael Simmons
LORD'S SUPPER..... Ken Greer

WEDNESDAY 5th

SONG LEADER..... Myron Nebergall
INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

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