

## “RIGHT AND WRONG”

Few words in our vocabularies are more often used than the words “right and wrong”. These words or their equivalents are used by all persons in all nations. Though the words are frequently used, there is a great difference when deciding what is right and what is wrong. Ancient Sparta encouraged theft and approved of it as being right. We have read where Plato recommended the murder of weak and sickly children and even speaks of drunkenness at the feast of Bacchus as being proper and quite praiseworthy. Contrary to the views of our society, the Stoics commended suicide as a cardinal virtue. The ancient philosophers generally disregarded the obligation of marriage. We might mention a number of other incidents of individuals approving as right principles that others generally view as wrong. Man needs a standard to determine right and wrong. As a farmer estimates by a half-bushel and a merchant by means of a yard-stick, so mankind needs the proper standard to determine what is right and what is wrong. “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23).

**1. Will the Standard be Conscience?** Conscience is defined: “faculty, power, or inward principle which decides as to the character of one’s actions, warning against and condemning that which is wrong, and approving that which is right”. Conscience plays an important part in an individual’s life, but it is not the position of conscience to determine what is right or wrong. One’s conscience will accuse or convict. (Romans 2:15, Romans 9:1). When we do what we believe to be right, conscience will approve of our actions as being right. On the other hand, when we fail to do what we believe to be right, conscience will

warn and condemn us for our actions. Saul of Tarsus had his conscience set on and in the Law of Moses. He felt it was right for Christians to be persecuted, which he did with “all good conscience before God” (Acts 23:1). However, his conscience did not make his improper knowledge right. The unlearned conscience must have the proper standard for it to function correctly. A conscience void of proper knowledge must never be our standard for living.

- 2. Will the Standard be Expediency?** Expediency is defined: “Apt and suitable for the end in view. The doing or consideration of what is selfish rather than what is right or just; guided by self-interest.” There are those who contend that happiness is our only end and aim. Anything, in their estimation, that will bring happiness is therefore right. Such a view very definitely sanctions and encourages selfishness. There is more involved in right and wrong than what affects one individual. Furthermore, man in himself is not capable of knowing what will bring or produce happiness. He may think that he is capable, but his history of tragic failures cries to the contrary. Expediency can never be the proper standard for right and wrong. It involves such things that are too high and complex for finite reasoning.
- 3. Will the Inspired Scriptures be the Standard?** They were definitely given for this exalted purpose! Paul informed Timothy: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The scriptures reveal the

mind of God (I Corinthians 2:9-13). They have been given “for instruction in righteousness”. Those things approved by the scriptures are right. On the other hand, any practice or principle that is not approved by the scriptures is wrong. The proper standard for right and wrong must come from God not man. Jeremiah emphasized this by stating “...that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). If for no other reason, conscience and expediency must be rejected as the standard for right and wrong due to the fact that they are from within man and not guidance from without. As the Psalmist wrote: “Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory” (Psalms 73:24). The Lord guides men in the right way and that way is revealed in the scriptures which man is to rightly divide or handle aright. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

When anyone affirms something as being that which is right in the sight of God, for it to be so, one must be able to prove it by the word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Any teacher of God’s word should reverence this principle. Something may appear to be good and men may like it that way, but where does the God of heaven say it is right? Remember: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

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**Author Unknown from *The Encourager***

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Jared Nelson, 09-15; Debra Gragg; 09-16;  
Mikayla Parish, 09-18.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Millie Robertson (PM).

**Wednesday:** Millie Robertson.

Marion Stone was released from Olathe Medical Center and transferred to Villa St. Francis on Friday.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## **HOME BOUND**

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at Villa St. Francis. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

John and Barbara James are vacationing at Clinton Lake.

## **MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, September 13 following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

## **MID-WEST LECTURES**

The **Mid-West Lectures**, will be held **September 20-24**. **Tuesday, September 22** is "**Olathe Day**." Please bring your desserts to the building next Sunday evening if you would like them delivered for you.

## **FALL GOSPEL MEETING**

Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** with **Don Boyd** will be held **September 27 - October 1**. Take some flyers and invite your friends, family, neighbors, and associates!

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 50; Sunday PM, 37; Wednesday PM, 27.

## **Those To Serve**

**September 13, 2009**

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Stanley Anderson**  
**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson**  
**PRESIDE ..... Chris Edwards**  
**ASSIST ..... Joel Nelson**  
**ASSIST ..... John James**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Jared Nelson**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Chris Edwards**

### **WEDNESDAY 16th**

**SONG LEADER..... John Cody Carter**  
**INVITATION ..... Trent Thrasher**

## **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**

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