



The Voice of Truth



May 31, 2009

To Justify Evil And All Sin, America Is Calling Evil Good!

By Jimmy Pettigrew

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (**Isaiah 5:20**). Mankind has so many times tried to justify their sinful way of life by calling evil and all sin good. They distort truth, misrepresent evil, and put a bogus color on righteousness. They “hate the good, and love the evil” (**Micah 3:2**). They torture the scriptures, “which the ignorant and unstedfast wrest, as (they do) also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction” (**2 Peter 3:16**). It is the twisting, perverting of the word to suit one’s own ends. Those who wrest the scriptures do so to their own destruction, they are “walking after their own lusts” (**2 Peter 3:3**), “walking after their own ungodly lusts” (**Jude 18**). The ungodly lusts are what motivate sinful individuals to ignore and rebel against God’s word. “This wisdom is not (a wisdom) that cometh down from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish” (**James 3:15**). A wresting of the word of God to suit their own purposes does not change the truth, the word of God. Oh, they wish it did, but you can be sure that the sharp, two-edged sword will be used by the Lord and against all ungodliness (**Hebrews 4:12**).

God said, “My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge” (**Hosea 4:6**). Again we read, “Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge” (**Isaiah 5:13**). This is the problem with America, no respect for God and His word. You see, without the word of God one cannot discern good from evil (**Hebrews 5:12-14**). The Psalmist writes, “Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way” (**Psalms 119:104**). There is no respect for God and His word in our society today. It is really no marveling that so much ungodliness runs rampant in our streets because of a lack of knowledge. Our nation

is engulfed by a polluted cloud of moral filth!

We are living in a time when little attention is given to the word of God and much attention is given to doing what pleases the desires of men. “Every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (**Judges 17:6**). “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**). “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death” (**Proverbs 14:12**). Man is the great deceiver; much of his deceptiveness is practiced upon himself. What appears to be right or good way for his feet to tread may well prove to be disastrous, for the end thereof turns out to be the way of eternal death. The world practices this doctrine today. You ask how? Today people charm sins of the world by using beat around the bush words of the world. Examples:

1. Today “fornication” is called “living together.” There is no chastity today, only safe sex.

2. Today “committing adultery” is called “having an affair.”

3. Today “Homosexuals” are called “gays.” And that homosexuality is another lifestyle, and to protect it is nobly defending civil rights. Homosexuality is an abomination and sin against God (**1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 1:26-27**).

4. Gambling is a mere governmental revenue, and the lottery has become a social event. More and more people are participating in hopes of becoming millionaires. Someone may say that the funds being raised by the lottery go for public education and other worthy causes. The reasoning that says the money goes to worthy causes is faulty. The Bible teaches that the end cannot justify the means (**Romans 3:8**).

5. Today “drunkenness” is called having a

good time, not sin (**Galatians 5:19-21**).

6. Today "abortion" is called a choice, not murder. (**Exodus 23:7; Proverbs 6:17**). Abortion is a deliberate, purposeful termination of a child's life. Look at the inconsistency that exists in our nation. If a person takes an egg containing the pre-born American bald eagle and smashes it, killing that baby eagle, that person would be fined and put in prison for killing a bird! Yet the same person can take a human being, a child in a mother's womb, murder that child, and receive government funds for murdering the unborn child. Our nation turns "things upside down" (**Isaiah 29:16**).

We need to get back to hating what God hates "Hate the evil, and love the good" (**Amos 5:15**). "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil" (**Psalms 97:10**). Man is incapable of directing his steps in life. The Israelites had attempted to direct their lives they had forsaken God's way. The result, Babylonian captivity! The scriptures must be the foundation of any moral restoration. When one reads **Isaiah 5** and pauses to look around, all he can say is, "Here we go again."

The only hope for humanity is a sincere repentance and return to the righteousness standards set forth in the word of God! Give me the Bible!

How Do You Treat Your Spiritual Family?

By Brian A. Yeager

Sometimes it seems that Christians forget why they refer to their fellow saints as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are a family, brethren (**Ephesians 3:15**). We are the household of God (**Ephesians 2:19**). As such, we are expected to behave in a manner of brotherly love (**Hebrews 13:1**). That love is expected to be sincere [unfeigned] (**I Peter 1:22**), not pretentious.

Brethren should first be concerned with the souls of each other. We should be doing all that we can to help one another reach the ultimate goal of eternity in Heaven with our Lord. Yet, sometimes there is a lacking affection, which hinders saints from aiding one another (**Romans 12:10**). Sometimes there is a lack of willingness to be longsuffering with our brethren (**Ephesians 4:2**). To be

clear (sadly, I have to add this statement because many look for ways to err and continue fellowship), being longsuffering does not mean overlooking error (**Romans 16:17-18**), maintaining fellowship with error (**II John 9-11**), unconditional forgiveness (**Luke 17:3-4**), etc. That being said, again, we must be willing to work with the saints to aid them in their salvation.

Brethren, I have seen a disturbing thing over and over again among "brethren". There are some who act as though they joy in the failures of their brethren. We are supposed to love one another as Christ has loved us (**John 13:34-35; 15:12**). Our Lord does not want anyone to perish (**II Peter 3:9**). Therefore, our love of the brethren should demand that we do all we can to help them be saved in the end. If this means working to convert one who has erred, then we must put in that work (**James 5:19-20**). However, some seem so willing to be content with their brethren going to Hell. They show this when they are willing to say nothing when their brethren err. They show this when they allow the weak to wither away and fall from the faith. They show that they really do not care about the souls of their brethren when they will allow bad feelings to evolve into grudges. Is this the type of love we are to imitate from what we've seen in Christ Jesus our Lord? Absolutely not! So, how do you treat your spiritual family?

Think Hard Now About How You Treat Your Spiritual Family!

I heard an older sister in Christ talk about the "holidays" (specifically Thanksgiving). She smiled as she talked about the time she gets to spend with her children and grandchildren. She said, "it is a great time for me because I get to spend time with my family". I wonder if we all look at time with our spiritual family in the same manner. Do you open your home to your brethren or accept their invitations when they open theirs for you? Christians spent time together in the first century (**Acts 2:46**) and we profess to follow in those examples. Are you a liar (**Revelation 21:8**)? We are supposed to be a hospitable people (**Romans 12:13** and **I Peter 4:9**). How

can we profess to treat our brethren properly, if we are more interested in time with our carnal friends and family than with our spiritual family? How can we exhort one another daily if we do not even know how to get in touch with each other (**Hebrews 3:13**)? Do you love your brethren as fellow saints of the same household?

I once noticed that a sister in Christ rolled her eyes every time one of the brethren spoke up in class. When asked if there was a problem, she began to be defensive with that "mind your own business" attitude. When there is a problem among brethren, it is your business (**I Corinthians 12:25** and **Galatians 6:1-2**). Moreover, one CANNOT worship God acceptably if they have an unresolved problem with a brother or sister in Christ (**Matthew 5:23-24**). Brethren, how can any one of us think we are acting brotherly or sisterly if we are allowing ourselves to be at odds with one of our brethren? Especially, how can we be "okay" if we are doing nothing to resolve those differences? We cannot do things such as partaking of the Lord's Supper together if we are not united. The Lord's Supper is a communion [fellowship], which requires us to be UNIFIED [as one] to partake of (**I Corinthians 10:16-17**). True brethren will work out differences immediately rather than letting those differences stand between them. All manner of division between brethren is wrong (**I Corinthians 1:10**; cf. **Romans 12:4-5**). Remember, the command is: "**Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican**" (**Matthew 18:15-17**).

We briefly discussed being longsuffering with our brethren (**Colossians 3:12**). I want to spend a few minutes capitalizing on that point. Remember, as we discussed, we are not talking about overlooking sin when being

longsuffering. However, there are many times in the lives of Christians where they have erred because of ignorance (not a willing ignorance - **Romans 10:1-3**). Sometimes brethren forget to ask: "do they know that is wrong"? Apollos was one who taught false doctrine in ignorance and was more than willing to correct his errors (**Acts 18:24-28**). I have seen people jump the gun and consider discipline before even teaching the one in error. Teaching requires a willingness to be longsuffering (**II Timothy 4:2**). Brethren, we must first try to teach rather than purge. This does not mean we excuse ignorance (**Acts 17:30** and **I Peter 1:13-16**) or wait till tomorrow to teach the erring one, we must act diligently with a sense of urgency (**Proverbs 27:1; 5**) so that the erring is not lost if they die or the Lord returns before they repent. Sin, willful or not, carries an eternal consequence (**Ezekiel 18:20-24** and **Romans 6:23**) which we should never allow to be possible in the lives of the ones we claim to love (**Revelation 3:19**). Here's the point, why don't we first assume that our brethren have erred in ignorance, are willing to be taught, and will repent; rather than assuming they will rebel and not consider the truth?

Conclusion

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing" (I Peter 3:8-9). Credit: www.wordsoftruth.net

"Condemning The World"

By Jarrod Jacobs

How many times have we heard people say words to the effect, "If you tell me that there is only one way to Heaven, then you are condemning me (or "my family," "others," etc.)."? Is this a valid charge?

Friends, when one takes a stand for the truth, he will be condemning those who are not following the truth. Please read **Hebrews 11:7**. "*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by*

the which **he condemned the world**, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." When Noah built the ark, following God's plan to the letter (**Gen. 6:22**), the Bible says he condemned the world. How did Noah do this? He condemned the world in three ways:

1) He condemned the world by living by faith (Heb. 11:7). God told Noah what to do and he did it without question (**Rom. 10:17; Gen. 6:22**). His family followed his lead (**I Pet. 3:20**). The rest of the world refused to listen to God (through the preaching of Noah, **II Pet. 2:5**) and drowned in the Flood. Notice that this verse begins and ends stating that Noah lived "by faith" (**Heb. 11:7**).

2) He condemned the world by heeding the warnings of God (Gen. 6:13). Again, when the people heard Noah's preaching, they refused to follow God's will and get into the ark. When Noah was warned of "things not seen as yet," he heeded the warning. In like manner, we are warned by God of an eternity in Hell for our disbelief and disobedience. Are we heeding the warning of the Lord who has said He will come "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (**II Thess. 1:6-9**)?

3) He condemned the world by preparing for the coming flood. Noah's preparation of the ark showed that he not only believed in God, but believed God. Those who have faith in God will do what He says to do (**Rom. 10:16**). He prepared and condemned a world of fools (**Matt. 25:1-13**). In **Matthew 25:1-13**, we see an occasion where those prepared were rewarded and those who refused to prepare were condemned.

Did Noah talk down or act rude to the people? Of course, not! Nevertheless, he condemned the world at that time because he followed God and had the backbone to

stand for his convictions and preach God's word to others. He did God's will regardless of the consequences to himself or his family. There are too few people like this today. Let us stand behind God's will and have the backbone that was characteristic of Noah! Have we complained that someone was "condemning" us? Perhaps it was because they were doing God's will, and we were not! Let us repent while we have time (**Lk. 13:3; II Cor. 6:2**). *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com*

At the End of the Day Author Unknown

1. Have I Accomplished Good?
Eph. 2:10; 2 Tim. 3:17; Rom. 2:7-8; 12:9
2. Have I Avoided Evil?
1 Tim. 5:22; 6:5,11; 2 Tim. 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:1
3. Have I Sinned Against Someone, or Has Someone Sinned Against Me?
Eph. 4:25-26; Rom. 12:18,21; Luke 17:1-4; Matt. 5:23-26
4. Have I Repented?
Matt. 9:13; Luke 15:10; 2 Pet. 3:9
5. Have I Left Something Undone?
2 Pet. 3:11; 1 Pet. 1:15,22
6. Have I Made Good Resolutions?
Phil. 3:8-15a
7. Have I Encouraged Somebody?
1 Thess. 5:14; Acts 4:36; 9:27-28; 11:19-24
8. Have I Overcome Worldliness?
1 John 2:15-17; Rom. 12:1,2
9. Have I Expressed Gratitude to God?
Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2
10. Have I Thought About God and His Word?
Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:13,15; 2 Tim. 2:15; Phil. 4:8; Psa. 77:12; Psa. 119:48

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Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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