

Caring About the Truth
By Jonathan L. Perz

It never ceases to amaze me how little people care about the truth today! Whether it is in the form of a political lie, an e-mail that is nothing more than an urban legend, some new money making fad or craze or the telling of "little white lies" ... men have little or no esteem for the truth.

Knowing that Satan is the father of all lies and that most of the world remains in sway of the wicked one, this should not come as a surprise (John 8:44; John 5:19). Nevertheless, the impact of such a general indifference to truth upon the lives of men is monumental.

God's word is truth (John 17:17)! We can have absolute confidence in it! Yet it remains meaningless to one who is not genuinely interested in truth. Like some of the Jews in Jesus' day, it cannot help them, it cannot save them and it cannot reach them, because they do not want to hear it (John 4:45-47).

Until a person comes to terms with his attitude about the truth, he will never learn to appreciate the power of God (Rom. 1:16) and the importance of Jesus in his life (John 14:6). Those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18) long enough will inevitably exchange it entirely for a lie and fall prey to much of the depravity that exists in this world (Rom. 1:25). Many have simply turned their ears away from the truth and have embraced the fables of men (2 Tim. 4:4). Those who do not obey the truth are self-seeking (Rom. 2:8), unloving (1 Cor. 13:7) and often deluded (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

It is fortunate for mankind that God cares for us and, in His longsuffering, desires that we all are saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). It all begins with our attitude toward the truth. Therefore, let us simply open our hearts to the truth and purify our souls by obeying it (1 Pet. 1:22-23). Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

THE EMPTY PEW

The empty pew speaks volumes concerning ones

1. Desire to serve God.
2. Desire to worship God.
3. Desire to learn more of God.
4. Desire to be an example to others.
5. Desire to change one's life.
6. Desire to raise one's children in the Lord.
7. Desire to be morally right in God's sight.
8. Desire to save one's own soul.
9. Desire to save the souls of others.
10. Desire to put the kingdom of God first in one's life.

Do not let the empty pew speak against you at the judgment day!
Plan now to make sure your place is filled each time the saints meet.

About the Hillcrest church of Christ		
Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew		
How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com  	1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313 	Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm* <small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small>
www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com		

The Voice of Truth

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Did Judas Fall?
By Jimmy Pettigrew

It is obvious that the Apostle Judas Iscariot went to the place of torment after betraying Jesus and committing suicide: "For the Son of man goeth, even as it is written of him: but woe unto that man through whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had not been born" (Mark 14:21). Because of this fact, the eternal security defenders are left with no option but to strictly insist that Judas was never really saved to begin with or surrender their belief in eternal security, something which few of them seem to be willing to do.

Judas is a primary example of a believer who fell into complete apostasy. "And when it was day, he called his disciples; and he chose from them twelve, whom also he named apostles: Simon, whom he also named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip and Bartholomew, and Matthew and Thomas, and James (the son) of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas (the son) of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor" (Luke 6:13-16).

Please note: The first time we hear of Judas Iscariot, we are informed that he already was a "disciple." Furthermore, he was "called" and "chosen" by Christ Himself to be an "apostle" at the same time as the other twelve. "Jesus answered them, Did not I choose you the twelve, and one of you is a devil? Now he spake of Judas (the son) of Simon Iscariot, for he it was that should betray him, (being) one of the twelve" (John 6:70-71). Going back to verse 16, chapter 6 of Luke, please notes that Judas "became" a traitor. The word "became" for Judas suggest a change for the worse that occurred sometime after he was chosen as a disciple by Christ to be His apostle. Or we might say he was once a "disciple" of the Lord's elevated to apostle, who later "became a traitor," as God's Word has so stated. Either way, the spiritual condition of this apostle backslides to the place where he betrayed Christ, committed suicide and then went to the place of torment!

preach, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those having leprosy and drive out demons. "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons: freely ye received, freely give. Get you no gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses; no wallet for (your) journey, neither two coats, nor shoes, nor staff: for the laborer is worthy of his food" (Matthew 10:6-10). "And he appointed twelve, that they might be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have authority to cast out demons" (Mark 3:14-15). This states that the twelve, including who? Judas, were given spiritual authority by Jesus to Drive out demons (Matthew 12:26)! For a person to indirectly say Judas was never saved is to say that Jesus chose Judas, who was unholy, to be His holy representative (John 6:70-71)!

"Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me" (Psalm 41:9). Jesus quotes from Psalm 41 and attributes it to Judas in John 13, verse eight, "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled: He that eateth my bread lifted up his heel against me." Please note that Judas was once Jesus' close friend, whom Jesus trusted! Question: Since Jesus knew what was in man, "for he himself knew what was in man" (John 2:25), how then could Jesus trust Judas in the early days of their friendship if Judas was never saved? "Jesus saith to him, He that is bathed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew him that should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean" (John 13:10-11). Judas was not "clean" in contrast to the other disciples. But does this say that Judas was never "clean"? It merely says, at that point in time, Judas wasn't clean then! Remember, he was a disciple in the beginning, chosen to be an apostle, so he must have been clean at the beginning!

Also, remember this about Judas: he was sent forth to

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Notice what is said concerning Judas: “Jesus answered them, Did not I choose you the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” (John 6:70). “Now this he said, not because he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and having the bag took away what was put therein” (John 12:6). “And after the sop, then entered Satan into him. Jesus therefore saith unto him, What thou doest, do quickly” (John 13:27). Those who believe in eternal security, once saved always saved, say Judas was called a devil, a thief, and Satan entered into him, how then could he have been saved? Such overlook the truth that one’s spiritual condition can change from righteous to evil as exemplified with Demas, the prodigal son and Solomon.

Notice this passage: “But there are some of you that

“Getting Angry At The Wrong Things”

By Jarrod Jacobs

The population of man has typically shown themselves to think in exactly the opposite manner as God (Isa. 5:20-23). Truly, His ways are higher than man’s (Isa. 55:8-9). It is not in man that walks to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23). At the same time, it is possible for us to know God’s will and act upon it when we read and obey the word of God (Phil. 4:8-9)!

Seeing that man, on his own, tends to think in the opposite manner as God, it should be no surprise that man would get angry at the wrong things as well. Often, the things which anger God do not anger man, and vice versa. Please consider the following examples:

David Got Angry At The Wrong Thing.

David got angry when Nathan spoke the parable of the man’s ewe lamb that was killed (II Sam. 12:1-6). After having been told about the selfishness of the rich man and his actions in killing the poor man’s lamb, David responded by saying, “As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity” (v. 6). David got angry when told about the rich man’s actions. He was ready for vengeance as well as restitution after hearing this parable. Yet, when told of the death of an actual person, not a lamb in a parable, his response to Joab was, “Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him” (II Sam. 11:25).

Why? How can this be? David looked upon the death of

believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who it was that should betray him” (John 6:64). Some have also confused the truth stated in John 6:64 to mean Judas never believed even from the beginning. However, it doesn’t say that at all! The verse says, “But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they (Plural) were that believed not, and who (Singular) it was that should betray him.” Notice there is two groups referred to here. This is evident in the Greek. One is plural in tense that didn’t believe from the beginning and the other is singular in tense referring to Judas who would betray Him!

So “once saved always saved” is a dangerous, false doctrine. It is just the kind of doctrine which would be in the gospel according to Satan. •

Uriah his friend, one of his “mighty men” (II Sam. 23:22-39) in his army as nothing, but is enraged at the death of a lamb?

Jonah Got Angry At The Wrong Things.

Jonah had a similar problem as David. After finally obeying God and preaching in Nineveh, the people obeyed the word of God (Jonah 3). When they obeyed, Jonah became very angry (Jonah 4:1). He pleaded with God to take his life, but God did not do it, so he went to the east side of the city to watch the events in town (Jonah 4:5).

While there, God prepared a gourd to give him shade from the sun, and then prepared a worm to harm the gourd, so that it died (Jonah 4:7). After this, Jonah got angry again, and begged God to let him die (Jonah 4:8-9).

Why? How can this be? How can Jonah be more “wrapped up” in a gourd than in a people once lost who have now repented and were spared by God?

Judas Got Angry At The Wrong Thing.

When Mary took a box of ointment and anointed Christ before His crucifixion and burial, we see the disciples, and namely Judas, being upset and angry at this event (Matt. 26:8-9; Mk. 14:4; Jn. 12:4-5). His reasoning was this could have been sold and given to the poor. John says that the real reason was that he wanted the money since he “had the bag” and would steal out of it (Jn. 12:6).

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Why? How can this be? How could Judas have been upset when a wonderful sacrifice occurred in preparation for the Lord’s burial (Matt. 26:12-13; Mk. 14:8-9; Jn. 12:7)?

Scribes, Pharisees, The Nazarenes, And Others Were Angry At The Wrong Things.

When Christ was upon this earth, we find that when He spoke, some folks would become angry with Him. The scribes, Pharisees, and even folks in the city of Nazareth became angry when Jesus spoke words that they didn’t like (Lk. 6:11, 4:16-28). In these, and other cases, we see Jesus speaking the truth to folks. Yet, when the truth did not fit what they wanted to do, then the people became angry at Jesus.

Why? How can this be? When so many people would love to hear the words of Christ as they were spoken from His mouth, how could these people become angry when they heard those words?

Men Today Get Angry At The Wrong Things.

In addition to the above examples, we could add more examples of folks getting angry at the wrong things, could we not? In like manner, we today can become angry for the wrong reasons if we are not careful. For example, when some acquire a disease like cancer, heart disease, etc., some men have a tendency to blame God. “Why did God allow this to happen?” “Why do bad things happen on this earth to good people?” are questions men often ask when faced with diseases and other hardships. Some may even lose their faith over events like this. In reality, those folks are angry at the wrong One. Disease and death came into this world as a consequence of sin (Gen. 3:16-19). Sin came into the world because men listened to Satan rather than God (Gen. 3:6). Thus, folks who are angry at God over disease and death are angry at the wrong One!

Why Do People Get Angry At The Wrong Things?

While I am not able to list every reason why people get angry at the wrong things, I believe we can see a “theme” in the Bible examples we noted above. Please notice that in every case, the anger expressed was based upon a selfish motive.

In the case of David, his selfishness motivated him to hide the truth and mislead a nation as well as arrange for Uriah’s execution (II Sam. 11). When Nathan spoke a par-

able that seemed to not be centered around David, he got angry at the injustice. In other words, he refused to acknowledge his own sin, and thus when his plan for killing Uriah succeeded, he was not upset nor angry about that at all. See how this is backwards? He should have repented for his sin of adultery, his sin of murder, lying and trying to hide the truth about who the father of Bathsheba’s baby was, coveting his neighbor’s wife, and stealing a man’s wife (Ex. 20:13-17). Instead, he sought to hide those sins, and became angry over a lamb! See how his thinking was messed up?

The case of Jonah was very much the same. He did not want to preach to the Ninevites because he knew God would forgive them (Jonah 4:2). The gourd provided shade and relief for him (Jonah 4:6). Therefore, when it was gone, he was angry. His selfishness found joy in something meant for him, but he could not see his way clear to being happy for a city of people who were spared and forgiven of their sin (Jonah 4:10-11).

Judas was this way as well. His anger stemmed from the fact that he wanted the money for himself! He did not see why the ointment ought to be used in the manner it was when he could have taken the money and used it for his own purposes! Again, selfishness clouds man’s judgment, and this is just another example. Should he not have been repenting of his actions and asking for forgiveness? Instead, he was mad at Mary.

Instead of being happy to be able to hear the truth preached from the mouth of Christ, the ruling class of Jews became angry with Christ! They did not want to change. They did not want to live as the Lord said to live. Therefore, instead of humbling themselves and following the Lord, in their selfish pride they castigated Christ! They were angry with the Lord and sought for an opportunity to kill Him until they finally succeeded!

Conclusion

Friend, there is no question that there are times when we get angry. Let us make sure we are like the Lord and are angry for the right reasons. Let us also express our anger in the right way (Eph. 4:26-27)! When we are confronted with our sin, then let us not get angry about it, but humble ourselves and repent. Let us not allow pride and selfishness to blind us to the truth as others did. Yes, when angry, it is hard to control our emotions and actions, but it must be done if we are to be followers of Christ. No one said being a Christian would be easy, but it is the best! *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com •*