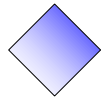


# The Voice of Truth



February 24, 2013

## God Is Watching By Jimmy Pettigrew

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (1 Peter 3:12). The "righteous" are the ones over whom God watches in tender care. God is ever watching to bless them. They are here contrasted with "them that do evil." God's protection, guardianship, and care are so meaningful for the Christian. God sees all that happens on the earth. We are prone to accept only that which is visible; and, since we cannot see God watching, we are unmindful of His constant surveillance!

So, it is difficult for any of us to remember always that there is an all seeing eyes watching our every act at all times. Yet, we're told, "The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth" (Psalm 33:13-14). God sees and knows all that takes place in the world. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3). There is no possible way to escape this all seeing eye of God! Job says, "For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings" (Job 34:21).

Since God knows all our goings, we should be aware of this, and live accordingly! We should have the same conviction as Hagar in saying, "Thou God seest me" (Genesis 16:13). Are you conscious of this as you plan and proceed in your daily affairs? God sees and reads us constantly! "Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?" (Proverbs 15:11). Man becomes utterly foolish in thinking that he can fool God, and hide his sinful behavior! "Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?" (Isaiah 29:15). ". . . and be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). "But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the out-

ward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). Though many of these passages are so well known, yet, how much have they really influenced our personal lives? Are we conscious throughout every day that God is silently observing our deeds and hearing our speech?

We can no more hide from God than could Adam and Eve in the garden. God knew why the prophet (Elijah) was hiding in the cave. Jonah was not hidden from God on the ship, nor yet in the belly of the great fish. Man cannot escape from Him. There is nothing that can hide from God! "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:13). When Christians are aware that they cannot escape from Him, we should ". . . walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3). Consciously walking under the surveillance of Almighty God will help:

- 1) A Christian to be an obedient child.
- 2) A Christian to be holy.
- 3) A Christian to be a walking sermon.
- 4) A Christian to be right in God's sight.
- 5) A Christian to be a good steward.
- 6) A Christian to be active in righteousness.
- 7) A Christian to be present at every service.
- 8) A Christian to be one who resists the Devil.
- 9) A Christian to be one who prays
- 10) A Christian to be one who abstains from all appearance of evil.
- 11) A Christian to be servant.
- 12) A Christian to be giver to the church according to what he makes rather than the amount he has left over.
- 13) A Christian to be present at Sunday morning Bible class than staying home to sleep.

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14) A Christian to put the Lord's business above any other business.

15) A Christian to see his own faults and not just the other fellows.

God is observing all we do, and hearing all we say. Possibly no thought would add more zest to life and give it better direction than knowing that God is near and cares for us. Just remember that God is really watching! ♦

## **"As His Name Is, So Is He"** By Jarrod Jacobs

In Bible days, parents did not merely give their children names based upon whether or not it "sounded good" as is often the case in our culture. Rather, the names people were given in Bible times carried meaning. When a child was named a certain thing, it held a certain meaning for them and the family. For example, Cain was named "Cain" for a reason (**Gen. 4:1**)! Moving forward in history, we see that each of the patriarchs named in **Genesis 5** had names which carried a certain meaning. Seth (**v. 3**) meant "appointed one". Do we remember why? (**Gen. 4:25**) Enos (**Gen. 4:26, 5:7**) meant "mortal frailty." Cainan (**v. 9**) meant "smith". Mahalaleel (**v. 12**) meant "God be praised". Jared (**v. 15**) meant "descent, or descending". Enoch (**v. 18**) meant "dedication". Methuselah (**v. 21**) meant "When he dies, judgment". Lamech (**v. 25**) meant "conqueror". Noah (**v. 28-29**) meant "rest or comfort".

Even a cursory study of the names of Bible characters reveals much! God named Isaac "Isaac" for a reason; Isaac means "laughter" (**Gen. 17:17-19**). The name Jacob means "supplanter" (**Gen. 25:26, 27:36**); and his new name of "Israel", given by the angel, means "prince of God" (**Gen. 32:28**). Bear in mind that Pharaoh's daughter named the baby she found "Moses" for a reason, too (**Ex. 2:10**). Upon the Israelites' entrance into Canaan, a man by the name of Achan is mentioned. Achan's name meant "troubler," and we know what kind of trouble he made for Israel after they had destroyed Jericho (**Josh. 7**)! Many other examples can be mentioned, but I think the point is made.

### **Nabal And Abigail**

In thinking about Bible names and their meaning, please look again to our title. Our title was first spoken by Abigail in **I Samuel 25:25**. Abigail, whose name means, "joy" was married to a man named Nabal, whose name means, "folly or foolish". After David's servants had protected Nabal's livestock for a time, Nabal was ungrateful and repaid their kindness with wicked and foolish words (**I Sam. 25:10-12, 21**). Upon hearing the report of what Nabal said, David was ready to kill him, and returned to do just that (**I Sam. 25:13, 33**)! Only Abigail, in her wisdom, diligence, and humility, could spare her foolish husband

as well as their property, and did so (**I Sam. 25:23-35**). In pleading for David's mercy upon her husband, she admits, "*... as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name and folly is with him.*" (**I Sam. 25:25**). What a stunning statement by Abigail as she tried her best to protect her husband from David's sword! She truly was a good woman, a woman of faithfulness, virtue, and commitment to the vows she made to her husband. Though Nabal was a foolish man, she was committed to him as a wife, and she begged David to spare him. Something tells me that this is not the first foolish thing he had ever done; nor was it the last, as we see this man later getting "*very drunk*" (**I Sam. 25:36**). More foolishness from Nabal!! (**Prov. 20:1, 21:17, 23:29-35**) Still, we see Abigail, a true "joy", who did not wish Nabal harm. She did not divorce him or leave him for another, in spite of his foolishness!! Her marriage to David came AFTER Nabal's death, not before (**I Sam. 25:39-42; Rom. 7:2**). Yet, after reading **I Samuel 25**, we can agree with Abigail when she said, "*... as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name and folly is with him.*"

### **Your Reputation**

When we consider Abigail's statement, perhaps we can also see that even in a culture where we do not necessarily place a meaning on our specific names as they did, we do recognize the importance of having a "good name" among others! When someone is known for being righteous, just, fair, godly, etc., we make note of such a person, for they have that "good name" that ought to be desired by all. That statement, "*As his name is, so is he*" can be applied in a positive way to us if we have a "good name" among men (**Prov. 22:1; Ecc. 7:1**).

Friend, ask yourself what kind of name you have among brethren and in this community. Your "name" can do much to help, or to hinder, the Lord's cause. Friend, what name (reputation) do you have among others? Remember, as your name is, so are you!

### **The Name "Christian"**

In this study, I can't help but think about the greatest name any man can wear — the name "Christian"! This

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name was prophesied by Isaiah on three separate occasions (**Isa. 56:5, 62:2, 65:15**). **Acts 11:26** then records the fulfillment of this prophecy when Luke wrote, "...the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." God had promised "a new name" for His people in **Isaiah 62:2**; and in Antioch, God's people saw that prophecy fulfilled. Ever since that time, God's people, those who believe on Christ, repent of sin, and are baptized (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38**; etc.), have been called Christians; not because it was some derisive name given by men, but because it was a prophetic name given by God!

The name Christian carries meaning, for this name gives glory and honor to Christ! Even worldly people recognize significant meaning in the name "Christian." When Christians have been discovered committing certain sins, invariably, someone will say, "This person calls himself a Christian, and he committed \_\_\_\_\_."

Why did this person voice his complaint that way? It is because the name "Christian" carries great weight and meaning with it. One who is a Christian is one who should display great morality, virtue, and care for others. In other words, a Christian acts like Christ (**I Pet. 2:21; Eph. 5:1-2**)! Therefore, when someone acts in ways that are opposed to what the name "Christian" stands for, even people in the world sit up and take notice.

At the same time, when someone lives as a Christian is supposed to, people will notice this, too! I think of times when certain Christians pass away and even the worldly people take notice of his/her passing because this person

embodied what the name "Christian" implies.

Being a Christian is something special. If you're not sure about how "special" it is to be a Christian, begin by observing the spelling of the name. Did you notice that you cannot spell "Christian" without first spelling "Christ"? One who is a Christian is simply a disciple (follower, learner) of Christ (**Acts 11:26b**). Another aspect of being a Christian means that we live according to the authority of Christ (**Col. 3:17**). We must not do anything that we cannot find authorized within God's word (**II Tim. 3:16-17; I Pet. 4:11**). Why do this? Because this is what Christ did (**Jn. 12:48; Heb. 10:7, 9; I Pet. 2:21!**)

### Conclusion

When Abigail said, "As his name is, so is he" she made a powerful statement! Her words ring in my ears: " ... **as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name and folly is with him**" (**I Sam. 25:25**). Think about it: Hasn't God given each saved person a "new name" (**Isa. 62:2**)? Yes, He has!! Have you been saved so you can wear this new name?

If one is claiming the name Christian, having believed on Christ, repented of sin, and been baptized (**Acts 2:22-38, 8:35-39, 16:31-35, 22:16**; etc.), the question must then be asked, "Are you living up to your name?" Remember that being a Christian places us within the family of God, being "heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ" (**Rom. 8:17**). It is high time that folks look at those of us who are Christians, and say the words of Abigail in a positive way — "as his name is, so is he" — he is a Christian! *Credit: The Old Paths - 1/13/13* ♦

## SUPPOSE - JUST SUPPOSE

Yes, just suppose that next Sunday Jesus stood at the end of the pew where you sit as you were about to place your offering in the collection plate, and just suppose that instead of the collection plate, he held out his hand, the hand that was nailed to the cross for you. Would you be willing to place your offering in that nail pierced hand?

Could you look upon that face stained with blood from the thorn pricked brow; see the body that was beaten and placed upon the cross, could you do this, look him in the eye and say, "**Lord I'm giving all I can**"?

Suppose as you looked upon Jesus, with the torn hands and feet, the beaten body, the pierced side and head crowned with thorns, he said to you, **This is how I showed my love to love.** ♦

### Can You Imagine?

1. **Paul saying:** "You don't have to obey the gospel to be saved?" Read **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**.
2. **Paul saying:** "We are sprinkled with him in baptism?" Read **Romans 6:4**.
3. **Jude saying:** "I don't think it is right to argue the scriptures?" Read **Jude 3.** ♦

*A pint of example is worth a barrel full of advice.*

## God is in the Room

### By Jonathan L. Perz

Consider that last obnoxious or profane statement, those disrespectful gestures, that heated and angry argument, those unkind words, or some other sinful activity. Would you have done or said those things if God were in the room?

The fact we often forget is that GOD IS IN THE ROOM!

- *“For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He ponders all his paths” (Prov. 5:21).*
- *“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good” (Prov. 14:3).*
- *“Does not God see my ways, and count all my steps . . . For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps” (Job. 31:4; 34:21).*
- *“For my eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from my eyes” (Jer. 16:17).*
- *“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Heb. 4:13).*

God heard those profane and corrupt words come from your mouth and saw you make those disrespectful gestures (Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:8). God heard every word of that heated and angry argument (Matt. 5:21-26). God witnessed you utter those unkind words (Eph. 4:31-32). God saw that sinful activity (Prov. 5:21). Whether done in fun or anger, God saw your folly. Whether you wanted Him to or not, God witnessed your shame.

If it is any consolation, I doubt that God, in His absolute holiness, stayed around long enough to witness all of your un-Christ-like conduct. I imagine He simply left the room with a tear in His eye over another unregenerate soul who professes to love Him, but in works denies Him. *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦*

### THINK! THINK! THINK!

What sort of church would the  
Lord's church be if every member  
were just like me? ♦

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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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

**www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com**