

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

October 8

2017

LOVE OF THE TRUTH

I am persuaded that many do not realize how important a love of the truth is to their eternal salvation. Paul speaks of some who perish because *"they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved"* (2 Thessalonians 2:10). Those who do not love the truth will not only turn from the truth but they will have pleasure in unrighteousness and will be deceived by the lies of the devil (2 Thessalonians 2:11,12). They are those who *"will not endure sound doctrine"* but will *"after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears"* (2 Timothy 4:3). On the other hand, those who love the truth will be like Cornelius who desired *"to hear all things that are commanded thee of God"* (Acts 10:33). This love of the truth will be clearly demonstrated in the lives of those who possess such love.

First of all, the lover of truth is a seeker of truth. The lovers of truth realize that they must know the truth if they would be set free from their sins (John 8:31,32). Therefore they put forth the effort necessary to know and understand the will of the Lord (See Ephesians 5:17). This will involve a diligent study of the word of God (2 Timothy 2:15). They will take advantage of every opportunity to engage in such study. I have never been able to understand how some members of the body of Christ could say they love the Lord and love the truth but will put forth little or no effort to study the truth. Some will not even attend the periods of Bible study available to them.

They manifest an attitude of indifference and unconcern toward the study of truth but are very quick to inform you that they do love the truth. Friend, do not deceive yourself. If you love the truth you will study to know the truth.

The lover of truth will also be a teacher of truth. The early disciples who were forced to leave the city of Jerusalem because of the persecution against them *"went every where preaching the word"* (Acts 8:4). The person who has a proper love and appreciation of the truth will busy himself in the teaching of that truth to others. It was a love of the truth and love for the Lord and love for the souls of all men that caused Paul to say that he was ready to preach the gospel to those in Rome (Romans 1:14,15).

A love of truth will also be manifested in our manner of life. We no longer *"walk in darkness"* (John 8:12) but will *"be as it becometh the gospel of Christ"* (Philippians 1:27). The person who says he loves the truth and continues to fulfill the lusts of the flesh is deceiving no one but himself. The lover of truth denies ungodliness and worldly lusts and lives soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12).

The lover of truth will also uphold and encourage those who teach the truth. John commends those who have gone forth *"for his name's sake"* and tells us that we *"ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth"* (3 John 7,8). On the other hand, he tells us that we should not *"bid God speed"* to the false teacher lest we become a partaker of his evil deeds (2 John 9,10). It is amazing that some who claim to love the truth have more kind and commendable things to say to and about teachers of false doctrine than they have to say about those who stand for the truth and are not ashamed of such a stand. How can one say he loves the truth while commending those who have devoted their lives to the opposition of truth and right? It is not uncommon to hear some who claim to believe and love the truth speak of the wonderful spirit and attitude of someone who teaches false doctrine and then condemn a teacher of truth for his narrow-mindedness and lack of love. If we love the truth we will

encourage those who teach it and will do all we can to stop the mouths of those who are false teachers (Titus 1:11).

A proper love for truth also means that I must hate error. The Psalmist of old said, *"Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way"* (Psalm 119:104). When individuals put forth more effort to uphold some false view or practice than they would ever put forth to defend right and truth something is not right. Under such circumstances truth is made to appear as something undesirable and to be avoided while some false doctrine or practice is made to appear as the "in" thing to believe or do and those who accept such are made to appear as wise and noble.

I cannot spend my time commending and praising error and the teachers of error and still be convincing in my claim to love the truth. As a lover of truth I do not believe that I can say or do anything that will make error or teachers of error appear as something good and desirable. I would that many of my preaching brethren would learn this important lesson. If we really love the truth it will be demonstrated in our lives. ✍ James Hahn

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Arrogance

Arrogance is insolence, conceit, a sense of self-superiority and entitlement. It's pretentious, overbearing, and one of the sins that serves to facilitate most other sins. Pride's fruit is found in a host of sins, which is one reason why the Lord hates it so much. "Haughty eyes" are an abomination (Proverbs 6:17), and the Lord is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5; Proverbs 3:34).

Here's some of what Scripture indicates that we'll see in an arrogant spirit:

- Combines with hatred, slander, and other evils (Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2).
- Doesn't see the importance of others (Romans 11:18).
- Exceeds what is written and given by God (1 Corinthians 4:6, 18-19).
- Fails to mourn sin (1 Corinthians 5:2).
- Touts own knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:1).

- Contrary to love (1 Corinthians 8:1-3; 13:4).
- Lies against truth (James 3:14).
- Boastful, which is evil (James 4:16).
- Entices through fleshly desires (2 Peter 2:18).
- Flatters for personal gain (Jude 16).
- Combines with blasphemies (Revelation 13:5).

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

The shoes will fit many feet. I'm just trying not to wear them; however, by considering the list above, I know I've put them on far too many times. Pride really is at the root of sin, for it deposes God in our hearts for our own desires. Overcoming sin requires overcoming pride, and since God gives grace to the humble, may we all check our hearts with the intent to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord.

"But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, 'God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you." (James 4:6-10)

✍ Doy Moyer

Belleville church of Christ
5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258
www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn	(317) 745-1507
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