

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

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Edited By: *Brian A. Yeager*



Sunrise Acres CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-525-5794

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

"Lying Words That Cannot Profit"

By: *Brian A. Yeager*

In a time of apostasy in Judah, we read the following from the prophet Jeremiah: *"The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these. For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour; If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever. **Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.** Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD"* (Jeremiah 7:1-11).

Still today, we find relevance in what Jeremiah said to God's people of old. Still today, we find the Lord's house (in our day, the church of Christ – I Timothy 3:15; cf. Romans 16:16), being filled with false doctrine and idolatry. Still today, we find that many mindless followers have apostatized through trusting in lying words that cannot profit. We need to learn lessons from God's people in the Old Testament so we don't repeat their mistakes (Romans 15:4, I Corinthians 10:1-11, and Hebrews 3:7-4:11). False doctrine does not produce faithful Christians (John 8:31-32 and Romans 6:16-18). Those that follow error, though it may be the popular thing to do, are lost (Matthew 15:14 and II John 9-11). This is why it is so important to stand against and expose false doctrine. This is the work of the faithful.

The Faithful Work Against Error!

False teachers are wolves in sheep's clothing (Acts 20:28-31, II Peter 2:1-2, and Jude 3-4). They look and sound the part of truth (II Corinthians 11:12-15). Sometimes they are so crafty, that they can only be known through their fruits (Matthew 7:15-20 and Luke 6:43-46). The acceptable practice of our so-called brethren has become "don't ask, don't tell". False teachers are comfortable concealing their real doctrines and motives. At the same time, so-called brethren are comfortable not knowing what is taught and what motives lie beneath the surface. This is why it is necessary that those of us who are faithful expose those who teach and practice false doctrine (Romans 16:17-18, I Timothy 1:19-20, II Timothy 2:16-18, II Timothy 4:10, and II Timothy 4:14-16).

The biblical fact that the faithful are to expose the wicked brings us to another point of study. How can those who proclaim to be righteous sit back and say nothing when error is taught or practiced? The Scriptures declare something we all need to realize concerning this point. Notice: *"I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD... They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them... I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation... In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth... And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them"* (Psalms 26:4-6, Proverbs 28:4, Jeremiah 15:17, I Corinthians 5:4-8, and Ephesians 5:11).

Even with the clear passages above, many still practice a "passover" when it comes to error. They just pass over it like it was never said or practiced in front of them. Do these deceived folks forget that when they worship the Lord or do His work according to the doctrines of men that those things become vain [empty; worthless] to Him (Mark 7:1-9)? If they don't realize that, then at the least they are ignorant of the truth, which in itself will cause them to be lost (Acts 17:30 and Romans 10:1-3). The faithful contend against error not only because we are commanded to (cf. Jude 3-4), but also because the faithful cannot stomach error at all (Psalms 119:104 and Psalms 119:128).

We'd Puke If We Were Worshipping In Error

Just as Jesus wanted to puke over the lukewarm in Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22), faithful Christians are affected by false doctrine and practices in a like manner (Romans 12:9). Faithful Christians will not set wicked things before their eyes (Psalms 101:3). So, how could a faithful child of God sit and watch a worship service or unauthorized work of the church being performed without a negative reaction (Psalms 119:115). Faithful Christians will not participate in that which is erring (I Timothy 5:22). It is just simply impossible for a faithful Child of God not to have a reaction of disgust in the presence of error or sin of any kind (Proverbs 29:27, Amos 5:15, Matthew 21:12-13, Acts 13:6-11, Acts 17:16-17, Galatians 2:1-5, and Revelation 2:6).

Conclusion

The Lord is certainly against those who speak lying words (Ezekiel 13:6-9). All must understand also that following lies is no excuse (Isaiah 9:16 and II Peter 3:16-17). Don't trust in unprofitable words!

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).