

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

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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!

If You Really Hated Every False Way...

By: Brian A. Yeager

How do you look at sin? Some seem to think that sin is an inanimate object rather than an action. Sin is the action of transgressing God's law (I John 3:4). ALL unrighteousness is sin (I John 5:17). Sin would not exist without sinners (Daniel 9:4-5 and John 8:34). Sinners cannot be viewed separate from their sins (Proverbs 15:9; 26, Jeremiah 4:1, Mathew 7:16; 20, John 5:28-29, and II Corinthians 5:10).

God's view of sin is clear. He hates sin and sinners (Psalms 5:4-6, Psalms 11:5-7, Proverbs 6:16-19, Proverbs 16:5, Romans 9:13, and Hebrews 1:8-9). Once we understand God's view of sin, it is our responsibility to adjust our view. As God's children, we are supposed to hate all things sinful. The Scriptures plainly declare such. Notice: *"Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way... Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way... Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way... I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love... Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph... Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good... For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it"* (Psalms 119:104; 128; 163 Amos 5:15, Romans 12:9, and I Peter 3:10-11).

If you hate something, we'll likely steer clear of it. On the other hand, if we find ourselves comfortable with sin and around sin, this is telling us something. If you've become numb to sin, then your godliness is suffering. You cannot be for the Lord and okay with evil. You are either with Him or against Him (Matthew 12:30). If we are disgusted by sin, seeing sin will eat you up as it did Jesus (John 2:13-17). If we really hate every false way, we'll not be around sin!

If We Really Hate Every False Way...

If we really hate every false way how can we find ourselves being entertained by the many sinful things we see on televisions. I am not going to take a broad stand against television, but there are many things we should not be watching. If you hated every false way you would not set wicked things before your eyes (Psalms 101:3). Some people say they are not tempted by watching nudity and they'll argue that Matthew 5:27-28 does not apply to them for that reason. Whether you are tempted or not, you should hate seeing such things on the idiot box. If you find yourself entertained by evil, consider this: "*The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes*" (Proverbs 21:10). We should hate sinful actions like adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such the like (Galatians 5:19-21). So, why would we watch programming that glorifies such sinful actions?

If we really hate every false way how could we listen to the popular "Christian music" of today? Such is sung by false Christians, which we should turn away from (Proverbs 19:27, Romans 16:17-18, and II Timothy 3:1-5). Do we really believe that worship must be done in truth (John 4:23-24)? Do we really believe that mechanical instrumental music is error since we are supposed to sing, not play (Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26, Acts 16:25, Romans 15:9, I Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, and Hebrews 2:12)? Do we believe that God is not hearing their praises because their lives and words are erring (Proverbs 15:8; 28:9 and I Peter 3:12)? If we concur with these three points, we would hate the "Christian music" of today for it is a false way (cf. Colossians 2:8; 18-23).

If we really hate every false way could we sit through a worship assembly while error is being taught or practiced? So many Christians go on vacation and they find the "best" congregation to worship with. When they are back from vacation they are relieved to be able to "worship in truth again". Others will go to "Gospel Meetings" just to see what's going on. Do we really believe God is okay with erring worship since it is temporary while on vacation or during a Gospel Meeting? Surely, we know better (Ephesians 5:11 and II John 9-11). Even beyond the fact that our worship in such a scenario would be vain, how can we participate with those in error at all? Would we not speak out against those things (Proverbs 28:4)? If we hate every false way there'd be no way we could join with those in error and call that worship to God (I Corinthians 10:21, I Timothy 5:22, and Revelation 2:6; 14; 20-23)!

If we really hated every false way would our choices in friends be the same? It is simple, our friends do have an influence on us (I Corinthians 15:33). Too often, Christians have convinced themselves that they are the ones doing the influencing. If you have worldly friends, think back to the times they recommended a song, movie, TV show, or something else that you found to be full of sin. If you have worldly friends, think back to how many times that friend did not understand why you are studying the Bible, worshipping for so long, etc. Then, ask yourself why you cannot talk about spiritual things around those "friends". If you have close friends of this world, you will realize that you've been influenced for the worse (if your honest). If we really hated every false way, we would not find our closest friends in this world (Psalms 119:115 and James 4:4)!

Conclusion

If you really hate every false way you'll find yourself at odds with this world (Proverbs 29:27 and John 3:19-21). If you really hate every false way you'll find that you are not comfortable with worldliness in any form (I John 2:15-17). This does not mean we should run and hide from this world (I Corinthians 5:9-10). However, it does mean that you will not embrace this world (cf. Philippians 3:20). Maybe some have the problem of not loving righteousness enough to hate evil (Psalms 97:10). Brethren, we must be of this mindset. It is something we must learn if we do not currently possess.

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).