

# WORDS OF TRUTH

*A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ*

Volume IX ~ Issue XXV ~ March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

*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!

### Are You Really Surprised By Worldly People?

*By: Brian A. Yeager*

First, before we begin the subject at hand, it is important to identify who worldly people are. For some of us, this would be common sense. Yet, we know that ignorance abounds. Therefore, let's do some defining of terms using the Scriptures. There are two classes of people made up of those who are able to know the difference between right and wrong. There are those who have Satan as their father and those who have God as their father. John wrote: *"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother"* (I John 3:7-10).

Those who are the children of Satan have the opportunity to be converted (Matthew 18:3, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:6, John 8:24, Acts 3:19, Acts 8:37, Romans 10:10, Acts 2:38, and Mark 16:15-16) and be translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:12-13). Once in the kingdom and out of darkness (Acts 26:18-20), we who have been converted are expected to live godly, sin-free lives (Romans 6:1-6, II Corinthians 7:1, Colossians 1:22-23, and II Peter 1:3-10; 3:12-14). If we err, we need to be converted (James 5:19-20; cf. Acts 8:12-24). Therefore, "erring Christians" are in the darkness, not the kingdom of Christ. They have erred from the faith (I Timothy 6:10), departed from the faith (I Timothy 4:1) or have fallen away (Hebrews 6:4-6; cf. Galatians 5:4).

The world is made up of all those who are lost (John 17:9-16). Some of these are the pretend Christians who act the part and don't live it (II Timothy 4:10 and II Peter 2:20-22). We should not be surprised when those of the world act worldly!

## Expect Worldly People To Act Worldly!

The first and most obvious thing we can expect from all people of the world is that they will be opposed to us and they will not understand us. Since we are people who will not conform to this world (Romans 12:1-2), we ought not be surprised (I John 3:1). Notice what the Scriptures say about how we can expect the world to treat us: *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also... Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: **Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you...** Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you”* (John 15:18-20, I Peter 4:1-4, and I John 3:13).

Secondly, we should not expect to find “good people” who are of the world. Such is a statement that implies the offspring of Satan are good (cf. John 8:41-44). If they are good, then they have no need of repentance, do they (Proverbs 12:2)? Sure, we can expect to find most in the world who do things that are classified as good in the eyes of man, but good people do not exist in the kingdom of darkness regardless of the “good things” they do (Matthew 7:21-23). Remember, it is Jesus who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this “**present evil world**” (Galatians 1:3-4; cf. I John 5:19). We know that those who do the real “good things” are of God (I John 4:3-5 and III John 11) and those of the world certainly are not men or women “of God” (I Timothy 6:3-14). The world and the works therein have a different end than those who obey the Lord (II Peter 3:10 and I John 2:17). Finally, and to solve all questions, notice what a good person really is: *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way”* (Psalms 37:23).

A third point to consider is that we can expect people of the world to be just that. Worldly people will be dishonest, just as their father (John 8:44). We can expect people of this world to bring forth evil fruit (Matthew 7:18; 12:33-35). We can expect envying, strife, confusion, and every evil work out of those who are of this world whom apply earthly wisdom (James 3:13-18). We can travel to all areas of this globe and still expect to find a crooked and perverse nation (cf. Philippians 2:15). You will find people who are not of God will be fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, covetous, drunkards, extortionists, unbelievers, murders, etc. (I Corinthians 6:9-10 and Revelation 21:8). These are SOME things you find that make up the world.

### Conclusion

While this world is evil, we cannot escape these people (I Corinthians 5:9-10). We need to be in the world, but cannot be of this world (John 17:16, Philippians 3:20, and Titus 2:11-12). We must also remember that Jesus came into this world to save sinners (I Timothy 1:15). Therefore, our job is the same. We should not seek to fit in (James 4:4), but to help others get out (Psalms 51:13 and Mark 16:15-16). We know few will be interested (Matthew 7:13-14). Knowing that, we must be prepared for all that this world can throw at us. Therefore, my brethren, remember not to be surprised by the things people of this world will do. Sin is the way of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) and the way of the flesh is the world (II Peter 1:4 and I John 2:15-16)! At the same time, we must not allow ourselves to be taught the ways of this world: *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments [principles; Strong’s] of the world, and not after Christ”* (Colossians 2:8). Be on guard (Matthew 26:41) and do not be caught by surprise!

**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).