



Chalmette Church of Christ

November 9, 2008

“Honesty is the best policy”

It is likely that we have all experienced the dilemmas that are associated with lying. Life oftentimes brings us face to face with uncomfortable situations and difficult decisions. Perhaps you must explain why you did or did not do a certain thing. Maybe a friend asks for your honest opinion about this or that, and you would rather spare his/her feelings rather than say how you really feel. Rest assured, the Devil will see to it that lying will be the easy way out of any situation. Dishonesty is a constant temptation. Businesses are pressured to cut corners in order to compete for customers. False advertising, less-than accurate weights and measures, and many other unethical, ungodly practices are employed regularly in business transactions on a daily basis, all under the guise of “competitive advantages”. No matter what form it may take, lying has a way of creating quandaries from which dishonesty had promised (albeit falsely) to keep us in the first place. A lie told generally requires another lie to be told in order to cover the first falsehood, a third to cover the second, and on and on it must continue, to the point that the web of lies soon entangles the perpetrator. By experience the overwhelming majority of us have learned that honesty is the best policy. Though the initial fallout from telling the truth may be unpleasant or difficult to face, it is always the better course of action, in addition to being that which pleases God.

The wise man Solomon wrote, “A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight” (Pro. 11:1). Those who are so bent on making gain at the expense of others exhibit disdain for one of the fundamental laws of God. When asked about the greatest commandment in the law, Jesus replied, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all they heart, and with all they soul, and with all they mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like

unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Mat. 22:37-40). In another familiar passage, Jesus stated, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Mat. 7:12). The right treatment of our fellow man is one of the foundational principles of God’s word, no matter what dispensation of time. Later in the book of Proverbs Solomon would record, “Divers weights are an abomination unto the Lord; and a false balance is not good” (Pro. 20:23). A man who is unscrupulous in his business practices will manifest that same dishonesty in other facets of his life as well: “The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them” (Pro. 11:3). Dishonesty in practice speaks volumes about the heart of him who would practice such. “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Pro. 4:23). Jesus speaks of the importance of guarding the heart when he said, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasures of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh” (Luke 6:45). A man who would use a false balance and diverse weights in his business practices is out of balance in his heart with regards to the Lord’s commands. Add to this the foolishness of so desiring material benefits that one would resort to unethical, unprincipled, and ungodly measures for a few dollars more: “Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death” (Pro. 11:4). “He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch” (Pro. 11:28). Paul warned about the foolish pursuit of material goods when he wrote.

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out...But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows...Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (1Tim. 6:7,9- 10,17). The ill-gotten gain of the dishonest will bring him no advantage in the Day of Judgment, but will only bring misery and regret for eternity.

God expects man to be honest in his dealings with his fellow-man because He is just and upright in His dealings with us. God is fair and consistent as He measures our lives according to His word. God is described as using fair balance and just weights: "A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work" (Pro. 16:11). Our lives are under constant observation and evaluation in God's balance. Recall God's warning to Belshazzar, "Thou are weighed in the balances, and art found wanting" (Dan. 5:27). In order to reflect God's equity in our lives, we are instructed to be honest and upright with one another. "Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt" (Lev. 19:36). We are told to, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Rom. 12:17). "Providing for the things honest, not only in the sight of men" (2 Cor. 8:21). Those who would act dishonestly toward others for the purpose of gaining advantage show a lack of trust in God's promises to provide for His children. We have the assurance

that God will care for us if we put Him first: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mat. 6:33). Solomon advises us. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding...Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase; So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine (Pro. 3:5, 9-10). David's observation reiterates God's marvelous promise: "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psa. 37:25). There is no need to resort to less-than-honest means of making gain when one is striving to do the will of God. We all know God's promise never to leave or forsake us (Heb. 13:5), but that is set in a larger context that we often ignore. The verse instructs us to "let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have".

Why can we have a manner of life devoid of covetousness, filled instead with contentment and gladness? Because God will provide for us! He will not leave us or forsake us! Dishonesty for the purpose of gaining unfair advantage over others exhibits blatant disregard for God's providence in our lives. The man who would be pleasing to the Lord realizes that he must show equity and honesty in his interactions with his neighbor, knowing that God is measuring his life in the balances of eternity. May we, like Job, ask of God, "Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity" (Job 31:6).

~By: Patrick Morrison~

We would like to say a special thank you to the Memphis School of Preaching for coming down and holding a wonderful Gospel Meeting. We also want to thank Dan Cates for bringing the lessons each night. Please make plans to attend the Seminar with Dewayne Bryant on November 14-16.

WORKS WE SUPPORT

Gospel Broadcast Network

House to House Heart to Heart

Two students at the Memphis School of Preaching

Curry Montague— Budapest

Morrne Stephanus

Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. Taketh a dog by the ears
2. Tablebearer
3. Contentious man
4. Of a proud heart
5. Aboundeth in transgression

Authors and Facts

1. Who wrote the first five books of the Bible?
2. Who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes?
3. How many books of the Bible did Timothy write?
4. Who wrote the most books in the New Testament?
5. In which book of the Bible is God not mentioned?

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!



Cleaning Schedule

Month of November— Looking for volunteers. Please sign up if available.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 14-16 Light From the Past
Seminar with Dewayne Bryant

November 28- Ladies Game Night

December 12- Ladies Night Out at Five
Happiness

December 21- Singing and Fellowship Meal

December 26- Ladies Game Night

Prayer List

Mary Jo Lance
Malcolm Vasquez
Muriel Jones
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Maggie Fletcher
Bill Burchett
Buck Hall



Sherry Towle
Bob Spurlin
Catherine Grant
Kathleen Grant Dunn
Earl Grant
Alice Grant
Sonny Adams
Betty Grisham
Paul Roberts
Barnabas Tibbs

*All of our brethren scattered
across the United States

* Our men and women who are serv-
ing in the military:

- Ryan Neal
- Wayne Schulz

Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438

Services of The Church
Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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Grass Cutting

Schedule

Bruce Scariano– November 10-15

Mike Swanner– November 17-22

Bill Green– November 24-29

