
The Messenger



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

**A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri
Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)**

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.

Planting Principles of Truth

I. Introduction

Instead of being honest with the truth, the lawyer in Luke 10:29 sought to "justify himself." He asked, "And who is my neighbor?"

This question was not asked with any intent toward self-improvement, but rather to shift attention away from self and personal responsibility. It was a ploy to lead Jesus away from objective truth into subjective uncertainties.

One can only wonder if many of the Jews sought to justify their own failure to keep the second greatest command with the same response, "And just who is my neighbor?"

Jesus, of course, immediately detected the ploy and exposed his sin. The real problem was not in determining the neighbor, but rather in failing to be a neighbor. The difference between the lawyer (who evidently would have also passed by on the other side) and the Good Samaritan was compassion. He was as heartless as the priest and Levite.

Jesus left the lawyer with a principle of truth, which hopefully gnawed at his conscience and later led to his repentance. The principle of truth Jesus left was, "What kind of neighbor are you?" My neighbor is my fellow man. So what am I doing to help my fellow man?

II. The Truth

When the truth is taught today many respond as the lawyer. Instead of being honest with the truth, they seek to justify themselves. Their hope is to lure you away from objective truth into subjective rhetoric. Such speech is easy to detect for it is laden with terms such as, "I think", "I feel like", "we this", and "my that", with no reference to the Bible. Our responsibility as Christians is to draw them back to the Scriptures as the only standard of truth and keep it out of the realm of opinion. Keep their focus on the Bible and not be deceived by subjective clichés.

Jesus left the lawyer with a Bible principle, which challenged his faith and made him aware of his personal responsibility. We must follow Jesus' lead and do the same when teaching others.

III. Responses

The following is a list of responses you will commonly hear when the truth is taught. Beneath each one is a Bible principle we can use to focus their attention back toward the Scriptures and personal responsibility.

- "I'm satisfied with my religion." *"I'm sure you are, but the real question is whether or not Jesus is satisfied with it? There's only one way to know."* (Matt. 16:18; I John 2:3-4)
- "You're too narrow in your religion." *"Truth is narrow and I don't want to be any narrower or broader than the truth. Do you?"* (Matt. 7:14)
- "That's your interpretation." *"Your statement implies that there can be many interpretations, but how many does God allow? (I Cor. 1:10) How do you know your interpretation is right? There is only one way to know."*(II Tim. 2:15)
- "I just feel I am right." *"Are you sure feelings are a safe guide?(Prov. 14:12) Ask them, "How tall am I?" Different answers reveal the fallacy of trusting in feelings. The measure of standard reveals the correct answer. (I John 2:3)*
- "You're saying I'm lost, aren't you?" *"What difference does it make what I think. If I say you're lost, does that make you lost? If I say you are saved, does that make you saved? What does reveal the answer – the Bible."* (John 12:48)
- "There are too many hypocrites in the church." *"Maybe so, but they are there in spite of the church, not because of it."* (Eph. 5:27)
- "I believe God is a God of love and wouldn't condemn me." *"Yes, He is a God of love and He lovingly reminds us, if we love Him we will keep His commands."* (John 14:15) If we don't – (Mark 16:16).
- "You have no right to judge." *"I'm not the judge; I'm just the fruit inspector."*(Matt. 7:16; John 7:24)
- "I believe I'm a good, moral man." *"Do you believe you can be saved apart from Jesus' precious blood?"* (I Pet. 1:19; John 14:6; Heb. 5:9)
- "I believe in evolution." *"What kind? Encyclopedia Britannica used to list over 23 different kinds of evolution. (Gen. 1:24) Changes within a species is common, but it is still the same species."*
- "I don't believe I'll be lost just because I'm not baptized." *"You are right. Sin is what condemns. Baptism is part of the plan to receive grace."*(I Pet. 3:21)
- "You think you're the only ones going to heaven, don't you?" *"Do you believe a person had to be a part of the New Testament church to be saved?"* (Acts 2:41, 47) *"That is all we are saying."*
- "I believe there are good people in all churches, don't you?" *"Yes. I believe there are moral, religious people in all churches. The real question is, have they obeyed the Gospel?"* (Rom. 1:16)
- "We can't agree on the Bible." *"We can't or won't? The Bible says we can."* (I Cor. 1:10, Eph. 5:17)
- "We're Catholic (or other) and very satisfied." *"But is God satisfied with it?"* (I John 2:3-4)

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Westlake Families – Mark Your Calendars:

- ✓ Sunday, October 4 – Congregational Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
- ✓ Saturday, October 10 – Distribute flyers door-to-door, Meet at the building at 9:00 a.m.
- ✓ Sunday, October 11 – Bring a friend