

Not For Sale

Proverbs 23:22-23 reads, "Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth and do not sell it, get wisdom and instruction and understanding." When it comes to truth, we must always be buyers and never sellers. Truth is a long-term investment that is worth everything one has. It is an investment that pays extraordinary dividends as long as one holds on to it. But the moment one sells it; the instant one decided to get rid of it, it will be the most costly mistake they could ever make.

Unfortunately, truth is so little valued in this day and age. Today, people hold opinions rather than convictions. People follow personal feeling rather than biblical precedence. They exalt cultural standards over what God has authorized. We live in a time where truth is being sold like it is nothing more than a cheap trinket at a weekend garage sale. Nowadays the prevailing attitude is MY truth versus YOUR truth. What might be true for you may not be true for me and vice versa. Everyone's measuring is different based on their set of circumstances. How many times have we seen the truth bent, twisted or sold to fit a person's ideology?

Scripture never refers to my truth or your truth, but rather it refers to THE TRUTH! In the book of John 8:31-32 it reads, "If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you will know THE truth, and THE truth will make you free (emphasis mine)." Jesus identified God's truth as THE TRUTH, and Himself as the personification of truth (John 1:1). Therefore, the issue is not whether truth exists, or if it is simply relative based on the circumstances. The issue is not whether there is such a thing as absolute truth. God settles all of those questions and, surprisingly, doesn't ask for our opinion on the matter. The real issue is this - how will we respond to truth? Are we buyers or sellers?

- Chris McCurley (*Bulletin Digest*) -

GREATNESS

There is a strikingly different use of similar words in the Genesis account. One relates to the building of the tower of Babel — the other to the call of Abraham.

Proud men started building the tower. They said, "Let's build a great tower that reaches into the habitation of God. Let's make a great name for ourselves." God was angered by their egotistic pride and scattered them. They are remembered as foolish men.

But God said to Abraham, "I will make your name great." Abraham wasn't trying to make a name for himself. He was a humble servant, committed to doing God's will. And he is remembered as a great man of faith.

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12)

- Olden Cook (*Bulletin Digest*)

When the outlook is bad, try the uplook.

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: In accordance with West Virginia's Covid-19 restrictions and until further notice: **Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m.** and **Wednesday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.** (auditorium class only). **Masks and social distancing required.**

ESTATE SALE: Tomorrow, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. (for church members only) at the home of the late Bill & Carol Stillwell. Items sold on a first come, first served basis. See Nancy Hadley for details or to arrange for a different time.

FAREWELL GIFT: For **Joann Webb** who will be relocating to the Eastern Panhandle to be with family. It is our custom to give a going-away gift. Monetary donations can be given to Latisha Brown **until next Sunday, June 21st.** We wish Joann God's richest blessings as she leaves us.

POTTERS CHILDREN'S HOME: During **June**, individual monetary donations can be given to one of the Elders and will be matched by the church here.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Carol Northcraft (Weirton Hts. congregation). Carol has a recurrence of cancer. Her address: 202 Miller Ave., Weirton, WV 26062.

SICK & SHUT-IN: Ernie Robinson, Randy Beagle, Alex Harless, Russell Martin, Doris Dunham, Mary Jane Bowers. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 210). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

NO ONE WANTS SOCIETY BASED ON UNBELIEF

For some, religion is a fairy tale for children and a false hope for the aged. To those folks, God is the product of a weak mind and Jesus is a fanatic who demonstrated this characteristic. They believe heaven is a Christian's wishful thinking and hell only a believer's nightmare. They charge that sin is the invention of the hypocritical pious who partake of the very actions they condemn. Yet, those very folks do not want a society based upon their unbelief. AIDS, social diseases, murder, hatred, envy, and a number of other lifestyles would be more prevalent if there were not good people who keep our society from going further into a destructive horror. Christians are taught to recognize and confess their sins (1 John 1:8,10). And yes, Christianity has its share of hypocrites. Peter had to be corrected for manifesting it (Galatians 2:11-14). However, the core believers are folks who follow Jesus because He is the only one who can cleanse us from our sins and give us real life.

- Ray Hawk, Campbell Street church of Christ, Jackson, TN (*Bulletin Digest*) -

+++++

Many books can inform, but only one will transform.