



# Truth Matters

*A Publication Discussing Matters Related To Truth Because Truth Matters*

Scripture Reading  
Week of  
May 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>



Monday

- ❖ 1 Samuel 15, 16
- ❖ Psalm 91
- ❖ Acts 2

Tuesday

- ❖ 1 Samuel 17, 18
- ❖ Psalm 92
- ❖ Acts 3

Wednesday

- ❖ 1 Samuel 19, 20
- ❖ Psalm 93
- ❖ Acts 4

Thursday

- ❖ 1 Samuel 21, 22
- ❖ Psalm 94
- ❖ Acts 5

Friday

- ❖ 1 Samuel 23, 24
- ❖ Psalm 95
- ❖ Acts 6

Saturday

- ❖ 1 Samuel 25, 26

Sunday

- ❖ 1 Samuel 27, 28

## The Guarantee of Holiness

By Jim Elliff

"Say not that thou hast royal blood in thy veins and art born of God," said puritan William Gurnall, "unless thou canst prove thy pedigree by daring to be holy."

There is no such thing as an unholy Christian (at least in any ongoing sense.) Can Christians commit any sort of sin? Yes. Can Christians repeatedly commit sin? Yes. Can Christians commit the worst of sins? Yes. But it is inconceivable that a person could be a Christian without holiness of life.

John stated the principle of persistent holiness like this: "Whoever sins has neither seen Him or known Him," (1 Jn. 3: 6 NKJV). "Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest" (1 Jn. 3: 9-10).

The above statements, which are as intrusive as

the surgeon's knife, do not argue perfection when considered in context (1 Jn. 1:8; 2: 1), but they do establish the righteous practice of every believer as a sort of guarantee. Authentic Christians are holy. All who are not are merely deceived. "Little children, let no one deceive you" (1 Jn. 3:7).

I once grew some orange trees in my backyard. What I saw on their branches were admittedly somewhat less inviting than others I had seen, but they were oranges nonetheless, and they tasted pretty good. They were not lemons. I could tell that I had an authentic orange tree by its fruit (Mt. 7: 20). The fruit of holiness is found on the branches of every Christian life.

### Progressive Holiness

We are told by the writer of Hebrews to "pursue...holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). By this the writer is affirming that holiness is progressive (we must pursue it), but also essential. The combination

of these two thoughts is quite helpful. First it assures us that we are in process and therefore no one of us has "arrived." Sanctification is not instantaneous, nor complete until heaven. We cannot believe in any kind of perfectionism. At any given time, we are part pure and part sinful.

Paul asserted this inability to be perfect when he said that we would have to wait until the Lord comes to know "the things hidden in the darkness" and "the counsels of the hearts" (1 Cor. 4: 5). "For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord" (1 Cor. 4:4). Even when we perceive that we are living without sin, the Lord may know of sins completely unrecognized by us.

The biblical doctrine of progressive sanctification does not allow for semi-perfectionism either. This popular perspective teaches that when certain

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certain pre-requisites on the believer's part are fulfilled, Christ lives through the Christian. Christ lives His life perfectly through the believer for the duration of the time the believer puts Him on the throne of the life. (There are other terms sometimes used for this act of releasing Christ to be Christ in and through the believer.) If there is not a conscious putting of Christ on the throne, the "flesh" will dominate the believer, and everything is sinful, for self cannot be reformed. Semi-perfectionism says that the life is all perfect or all sinful.

There are some aspects of this view which are helpful and right, yet, all in all, it falls short of the biblical truth that sanctification is a growing matter (1 Thess. 4: 1; 1 Pet. 2:2, etc.). Its particular danger is in implying that, short of experiencing that highest spiritual plane, a professing believer may live a continuously fruitless life and still consider himself a valid Christian. This the Bible does not support (Mt. 13: 23; Rom. 8: 12-13, etc.).

### Essential Holiness

Secondly, holiness is not only progressive, but essential. The writer said, "Without holiness, no one will see the Lord" (Heb. 12: 14). If a professing believer does not love holiness, appreciate holy people and holy conversation, value a holy environment, etc., on his way to heaven, he will find that heaven will be hell to him! Believers do sin; the Bible is clear about that. Yet, their sins are more out of weakness than the old rebellion and apathy. The believer is a new creature with new affections. "The spirit is willing" even if "the flesh is weak" (Mk. 14: 38).

What do we say about the person

who made a beginning at following Christ and then turns rebellious or apathetic? It really makes no difference if his conversion experience was emotional or sincere. If the life is not changed substantively to conformity with Christ, then there is no salvation, no matter what we say about the nature of the supposed conversion experience. This mark of holy living in the believer is written of by every author of the New Testament. It cannot be denied.

Suppose I were to say to you that the wall beside you is crooked, but you rejoined with, "The wall is straight." Suppose further that you expressed your perception with tears, stating emphatically that you "really believe that the wall is straight!" But I said that I "really believe that it is crooked!" Does our emotion change the wall into being straight or crooked? Does our sincerity make it straight or crooked? No. What must we do to know if it is straight or crooked? We must drop a plumbline. Then we will know the truth. In the case of the professing believer, God's Word is the plumbline and the truth is: All Christians display holiness of life.

What the Scripture says about who is a Christian and who is not is more to be believed than what the individual says about himself. You may plead that you "really believe that you are a Christian" while simultaneously living an unholy life, but the Bible tells the truth about you. "Let God be true and every man a liar" (Rom. 3:4).

I am not saying that one can forfeit genuine salvation at a point of sinfulness, but that the Christian displays holiness or he never was a Christian in the first place. Jesus said, "I never knew you; depart from Me,

you who practice lawlessness" (Mt. 7: 21). It is not that He knew them once, but now does not know them. These religious practitioners who had a variety of supernatural experience to speak about (see v. 22), were law-breakers at heart and did not pass the litmus test of being Christian, the test of holiness. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven" (v. 21).

### Is There Holiness In You?

God decreed from eternity past that you would be like Christ (Rom. 8: 29-30); He put His Holy Spirit in you to make sure that it would happen (Phil. 2: 12-13); Christ prayed for you to be sanctified, and His prayers are always answered (Jn. 17: 17); He even promises you that He will lovingly discipline you in order to return you to holiness whenever you stray (Heb. 12: 5-10). How could we ever doubt that God means what He says, "Without holiness no one will see the Lord"?

Paul tells Timothy that the "solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity'" (2 Tim. 2: 19). Here Paul is saying that the church is sealed with a promise and a pursuit. Believers are promised that the Lord knows them, a statement probably referring to Numbers 16: 5. In this passage God divided the true from the false leaders of Israel by splitting the ground and causing the rebellious people of Korah, Dathan and Abiram to drop into the ground (see 16: 1-40). The earth covered them and they were not seen again.

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Moses told to the children of Israel to "touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins." The meaning of these passages is that although God knows those who are His, it is by our departing from iniquity that we demonstrate we are His elect (2 Pet. 1: 5-11). This is the seal of the Lord, or the mark of His ownership.

Does this fact make any difference to you? If it leaves you cold and does not produce some concern and some movement toward holiness, this is a very bad sign. It is the Word of Truth itself, with the conviction of the Spirit, that causes the believer to move on in holiness (Jn. 17: 17). "It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2: 13).

A disinterest in holiness is at the root of the problem for the non-believer. He is not stirred by a discussion on

the holiness of the authentic believer (unless God is initiating the work of regeneration in him). He wants the benefits of the Christian life, but is not astounded at his rebellion and sickened by it to the point of desiring holiness of life. He may like respectability, but not holiness. The true believer is constituted differently and is therefore hungry for holiness and can be prompted by the Spirit and the Word when he hears an appeal to holiness.

So there you have it, a plain truth which divides men and women who profess to know Christ into two categories, those progressing in holiness, and those who are not. It is a very simple principle to grasp. God knows whether you are his or not, but if you profess to know Christ and have no holiness of life, you have no right to assurance that you are a Christian. You are in danger of hell. If you have lived as an authentic

holiness-pursuer, and then dropped back for some period only to return again, that is a healthier sign revealing that you are His and your desertion was the temporary disobedience of a true believer.

If you can continue in rebellion and apathy, I have very little hope for you. You are a Demas, "having loved this present world" (2 Tim. 4:10). Without holiness, "no one," not even you, "will see the Lord."

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### Corporate Arsenal Passages

#### God is Faithful to All His Promises

##### Promise 7: Promise of bearing fruit

#### John 15:5 & 8

<sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.  
<sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.



***May Birthdays  
& Anniversaries***

Nathan Mikul	2
Steve and Debby Zambito	2
Clarence and Joyce Krebs	5
Tina Powers	6
Kim Marks	11
Matthew Bramblet	13
Haley Millen	13
Dan Rabideau	13
Philip Krebs	18
Mikayla Miller	19
Brandon Witte	19
Paul and Linda Witte	19
Rick Donahue	20
Jeff and Sarah Jackson	23
Dan and Michelle Wagner	23
Isabelle Yuskis	25
Judy Neureuther	27
Philip and Rachel Bramblet	29
Emily Wagner	29
Travis Bacon	31

***Upcoming Events***

**May 13th**

Men's Prayer Breakfast

8:30 a.m.

See Ryan Hawk or Kent Millen for more information.

**May 20th**

Church Work Day

See Dave Mikul for more information

**May 21st**

Praise, Prayer, & Potluck

Service at 10 a.m., No S.S.

**May 27th**

Ladies Bible Study

8:00 a.m.

See Suzy Krebs for more information

***Praise & Prayer Requests***

Please be in prayer for Kim Marks. This is a hard time of year for her as she gets very homesick.

Rachel Bramblet's brother Tim still has a lot of pain from the back injury he received while in Iraq. Pray that God gives him wisdom as he makes decisions about his future in the military and keeps him strong in Christ.

Pray for Kel Bacon's sister Angie who just had her second Kidney transplant. She is a believer.

When Rick Donahue's sister, Pam, and her husband, Don, were here for a visit, they saw peace and faith here and desire to have that in their lives. Pray that God uses this to bring them to Him.

Do not forget to uphold Paul and Linda, Tania and Dakota Witte in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Brandon. Let us learn to weep with those who weep. (cf. Rom 12:15)

Continue to pray for Donette Zempel. Her activity level has been restricted by her doctor for the remainder of her pregnancy. If you would like to help with her daily routine, please see Suzy Krebs.

Pray for all the men and women of our Armed Forces in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere around the world. Pray in particular for: Matt Riniker (Abbey, Jody and Amy's brother) and John Kleeberger. Pray for their physical protection, spiritual strength and grace for the families they leave behind.

Email praise & prayer requests to office@lbcwi.org. Send by Thursday morning to have them published in the next Truth Matters.



Today is our 1<sup>st</sup> Koinonia Kook-out of the Summer. Everyone is invited to stay for a time of food, fun and fellowship following the morning service.



Plan to help at the next Church Work Day, May 20th. Following is a list of things that need to be done. If you are able to help, please contact Dave Mikul at 262-628-0508 or dmikul@cleaver-brooks.com.

- Paint Sanctuary side walls (paint is under baptistry steps)
- Add more rocks to beds and remove weeds
- Paint exterior doors (white enamel)
- Replace ridge vent over old sanctuary
- Replace propane tank line
- Install brackets and shelves in front storage rooms
- Chip all the brush along north lot line
- Spray for weeds if weather permits (chemicals in shed)
- Finalize/install video feed to overflow projector
- Clean out bugs from lights in sanctuary and old fellowship hall
- Pressure wash siding to clean/restore whiteness
- Clean windows & screens

Also, any adult men interested in helping with the mowing should contact Mike Nulty at 262-246-1929.