

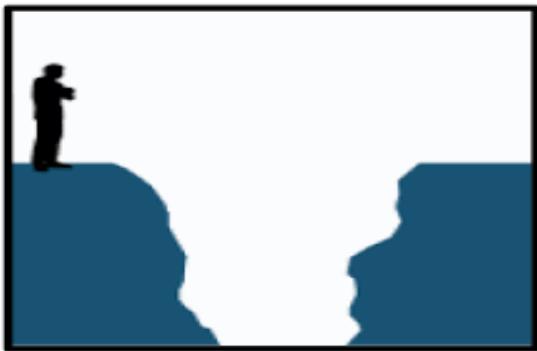


Reconciliation:

The Heart of the Gospel.

Pastor Mike Ennis

If there is one word that best describes the gospel (good news of salvation), it is the word reconciliation. Reconciliation is a relationship word. The dictionary defines it as “the restoration of friendly relations.” The Apostle Paul said in 2Corinthians 5



2 Corinthians 5:17–20 (AV)

¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. ¹⁸ And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ,

reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden they plunged all of mankind into a fallen state. Part of that fallenness is a separation from God who is the source of life. God told Adam and Eve

Genesis 2:16–17 (AV)

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

We know the tragic account of Adam and Eve's disobedience to this one command.

Genesis 3:6 (AV)

⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

(See Reconciliation Page 3)

Faith & Family *Connect* – A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church

Mike Ennis – Senior Pastor

Landon Bagley -Associate Pastor

Sweet Disposition

by Don Sweet

The Flash!

This statement caught my attention **“One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it's worth watching!”**

Each of us is given an appointed time. That time can be lengthened or shortened by our obedience or disobedience to God's Word. We can believe or disbelieve, acknowledge or even ignore that message. Our not knowing the message of truth is no excuse for our not seeking it. According to scripture, Christ is the Truth and is the messenger of it!



From the beginning, a child's quest is for knowledge. Their unending question is, WHY? Once answered, conflict begins, for there seems to be more than a single answer to any question. Thus, a filtering system must be in place to identify truth from fiction.

The Truth is, every lie contains a certain amount of truth. A combination of truth is not truth. Partial truth is deception. Deception is another form of a lie. Truth is singular, not plural. There is only one truth. Education and PHD'S do not mean that you can decipher Truth.

A true seeker of Truth should be asking; how do I identify truth? Along with, is God real, is there a heaven and a hell and where am I headed? Only one book truthfully answers all of these questions and a multitude in between. That Bible holds the Truth and will outlive every lie.

When asking where Truth lies, remember it

doesn't! No matter how you add it up, there is only one Truth. A ton of lies cannot outweigh a single Truth. Truth does not become a lie simply because you choose not to believe it, nor a lie Truth because you do. Truth outlives all of its objectors, unbelievers and time. Truth leads us, to a higher calling then takes us there. To know Truth is to not worry about what **lies** ahead. Majority of opinion does not override Truth. Opinions are just that, opinions. Truth needs no defense team. Truth does not show favoritism. One byte of Truth equals a megabyte of enlightenment. (Jhn 14:6)

With every passing second, we continue our count down to our last breath on earth. The 'Flash' is about to blip before our eyes. Have you sought the Truth? Do you have the Truth? Do you even care? One second after you die will be to late to care.

To say that you are not a believer is just another lie. You believe something, the question is, is that something a lie? The Fool hath said in his heart, there is no God! He has said, hell is a bunch of poppy cock! He has said, there are many ways to God! The question is, which god, the God of heaven or the god of the world? What we believe as Truth is who we are. Accepting Truth will determine our place in eternity, whether we believe it or not.

(Editor's Note: Brother Sweet fell recently and has had some subsequent health issues. We ask that you pray for him as he seeks to regain his health. He was also recently widowed and would appreciate your prayers thoughts and prayers.)

The
Joy
of the Lord is my
strength.

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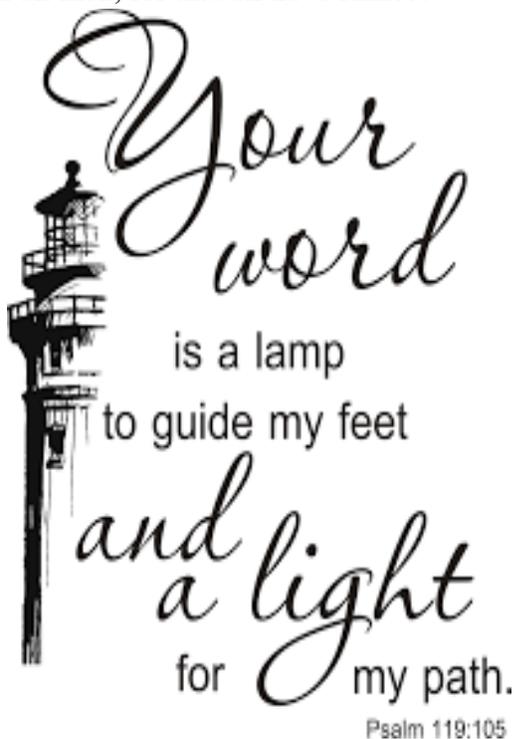
Landon Bagley -Associate Pastor

(Reconciliation From Page 1)

The result of their sin (disobedience) is that all men and women born after Adam and Eve were born separated from God and spiritually dead. Spiritual death and physical death are the result of Adam and Eve's sin.

Romans 5:12 (AV)

¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:



Man's greatest need is to be reconciled to God. That is only possible if the sin issue is dealt with. Jesus came as the second Adam lived a perfect life and then died for sin. Not His sin because He was perfect, but He died for our sin that we,

though faith in Him, could be reconciled to God. The only way that man can come to God is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sin and reconciliation to God.

Here is the thing though, when man sinned in the garden, he not only was estranged from God His creator, but he was estranged from his fellow man. One of the first interpersonal relationships after the fall was a murder. Cain murdered Abel his brother. (See Genesis 4) The fall was a failure to obey the Great Commandment.

Matthew 22:37–39 (AV)

³⁷ Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** ³⁸ **This is the first and great commandment.** ³⁹ **And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

When we place our faith in Christ, we are not only reconciled to God, but we are reconciled to our fellow man, at least to those who have been reconciled to God. The church then is a special place where our reconciliation to God and man is lived out.

Ephesians 2:19 (AV)

¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

(See Reconciliation Page 6)

When God Knocks

A teenage boy, playing a computer game, heard a knock on the front door. He chose to ignore it. Soon his mother came downstairs and asked, ‘Did you



answer the door?’ Not taking his eyes from the game, the boy replied, ‘I didn’t want to - someone may have been there.’

We often deny God’s existence for many reasons. Sometimes, it’s simply because we don’t want Him to exist. We can be so preoccupied acquiring material things or fulfilling personal ambitions that we think our plans will be upset if we concede that there is a God. Alternatively, we have accepted theories of evolution for so long we now consider them established facts – and nothing will move us from our faith in those atheistic beliefs.

God reveals Himself in so many ways - through Creation, His Word, our conscience and various other agents. Every person, without exception, hears God knocking. But many of us don’t want to answer just in case someone is there and we have to stop what we are doing and adjust our thinking. (Romans 1:20)

God will not force entry into our lives. It is up to us to answer the door and let Him in. Understandably, no one wants to be disturbed by an unwelcome

guest, but God is the Creator of the Universe and He comes bearing a great gift (eternal salvation). We have so much to lose by ignoring God. Furthermore, change that may occur in our life by answering God’s call will only be a change for the better. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelations 3:20. (Used by permission)



RELIGION IS NOT...

I use to be pretty defensive when somebody would say that there are more awful things done in the name of religion than anything else. But now, I tend to agree – and I think Jesus would agree, as well. The reality is that many problems and evils have occurred in the name of “religion.”

Jesus wasn’t afraid to call out “religion” for getting in the way of people actually getting to know God. So, what can we learn from Jesus about what religion should NOT be about:

Religion that puts ceremonial law before the needs of man.

When good people are accused of evil because legalism is confused with Godliness.

Religion that seems to hurt more than help.

Religion that causes people to be hardhearted towards Jesus and the needs of others.

Religion that plots to kill versus save, that’s motivated by hate, guilt, and casting judgment rather than love.

Jesus came to save us from sin and a religion that distorts Truth. You see, Christianity is not about a religion, it’s about a relationship with God. And through Christ, we can learn more and more about that relationship and discover the answer to life. (RightFromTheHeartMinistries)

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Truly She Was Her Father's Daughter

By Sim Lee
10/25/2018

"Honor your father and mother" Ephesians 6:2
ESV

American author Louisa May Alcott was born to a dreamer.

Broke most of his life, her father Amos had failed at a great many ventures, which inspired the young Louisa to take on all types of jobs to earn money for the family. Not surprisingly, young Louisa (age 15) is quoted as saying "I will do something by and by. Don't care what, teach, sew, act, write, anything to help the family; and I'll be rich and famous and happy



before I die, see if I won't! Sounds like the comments and focus on family being voiced by our present day "Dreamers" does it not?

Trying to improve the family's situation, she left her father's house to serve as a nurse during the civil war with all of its admirable and horrible aspects, and went on to pen her first successful book, Little Women. The proceeds of this literary success gave the first relief from debt her family had ever known. Somewhat like the narrative from the Book of Ruth, she stood by her father as the unfailing, devoted and loving daughter.

With time, her father's health failed and upon the last occasion that she visited him, he told her, "I am going up. Come with me." Knowing that to mean he was dying, Louisa told her father that she wished she could do that very thing and

be with him in heaven.

Such thoughtful and loving words and sentiments from a daughter for her father proved to be prophetic as Louisa suffered a fatal stroke just two days after her father had passed away. She died at only fifty-five years of age (March 6, 1888) and was still vibrant in her love for her father to the end of both of their lives. She never married.

She was a fine American, author, Abolitionist, "Station Master" on the Underground Railroad" and an instructor to many, but perhaps most of all she was an example to us all of being a loyal and loving daughter who truly honored her parents.

Note: Louisa and her father both had birthdays on November 29th. (1832 and 1799 respectively). Amos died on March 4, 1888 and Louisa's death was two days later on March 6, 1888.

(Sim Lee is a retired NE Iowan who loves all of God's creatures. Article reprinted with permission.)



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JUNE – JULY 2019 ISSUE

(Reconciliation from Page 3)

The church is the place where we express, by our relationships with other believers, that we have been reconciled to God through Christ. It is trendy today for professing Christians to say that they do not need to go to church to have a relationship to God. That simply is not true. There are passages that teach that we need each other's giftedness to complete the picture of our reconciliation to God. See 1 Corinthians 12. There are 21 one-another commands in Scripture including several related to love. Romans 12:10 (AV)

¹⁰ *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Galatians 5:13 (AV)

¹³ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. 1 Thessalonians 4:9 (AV)

⁹ But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. Hebrews 10:24 (AV)

²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 1 John 3:11 (AV)

¹¹ For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 1 John 4:7 (AV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

1 John 4:12 (AV)

¹² No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

John is so passionate about this, he says that if we do not love the brethren, the love of God does not dwell in us. 1 John 4:20 (AV)

²⁰ If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

If you claim to be reconciled to God by faith in Christ, then you need to express is by being a part of a Bible believing church and loving the others that are part of that church.

John 13:35 (AV)

³⁵ *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

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