

ATTENTION!

Business Meeting: TODAY, August 14 at 2:30 p.m.

“We’re a Little Old-Fashioned”

Excerpt from article by Bill Brandstatter

Yes, we have an “old-fashioned” standard of authority. God’s way is the right way. There has to be a standard that guides us in all that we do. Man often wants to be that authority (Judges 21:25). People want it their way. As stated in Romans 1:28, “*Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge...*” Some folks just don’t like being told what to do. Jesus has all authority today in heaven and one earth. (Matthew 28:18)

August Birthdays

12 Debbie Hoffman 12 Noemi Critchfield

August Anniversaries

24 Jack and Noemi Critchfield

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Lovers of Self

By Bruce Evans

“For men will be lovers of themselves...” (2 Timothy 3:2) There is no hesitation whatsoever in what Paul pens to the young preacher, Timothy. He succinctly punctuates the core issue with which many struggle. One of which was the Pharisee in the example Jesus sets forth as seen in Luke 18. He was clearly enraptured with himself, as evidenced in his prayer. “*God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gather. I fast twice a week;: I pray tithes of all that I get.*” (vs 11-12) Impressive, well at least in his own eyes.

There is an interesting conundrum presented by one who is a “lover of self”. A secular psychological label of narcissist is readily placed upon one who manifests such tendencies. But that is where things get intriguing. A narcissist is for the most part hiding behind a wall of “self-importance” and in reality is battling identity issues and deep seated animosity. For a child of God to display such traits is contrary to everything God would have us to embrace. Consider what Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, as it deals with who we are in Christ. “*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.*”

Couple the just noted passage with what is found in Philippians 2:3-5. Notice first, verse five, “*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.*” Was Christ all about self? The answer is obvious. Now consider verses three and four. “*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than*

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interest of others.”

The Christian strives to emulate in attitude and action that of Christ. As such there is no place for “self-import”. *“For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment...”* (Romans 12:3) *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love: give preference to one another in honor.”* (Romans 12:10)

Once we come to a full appreciation of who we are as Christians, there is a marked change in the comportment of life. *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10) Clearly, for the child of God it is no longer all about “me”. Rather there is an awakening as to how to be of service in the kingdom of Christ and the importance of others.

The Importance of Truth

Mike Johnson

What is truth? This is a very good question. Pilate asked it in John 18:38. He may, however, have asked the question with scorn rather than with a thirst for knowledge. Nevertheless, it is still a significant question.

Jesus said in John 17:17 in his prayer to God, *“... thy word is truth.”* Certain inspired individuals wrote down God’s Word for us, and we have it today in the form of the Bible. God’s Word is certainly true, and the Bible reveals that truth from God.

Truth is very important with respect to morals. A popular philosophy of today is that nothing is really right or wrong. Many today say, “a thing is only right or wrong in the way that it pertains to a particular circumstance.” One movie star, when asked what the one thing was that he wanted to teach his son, replied, “to do

whatever made him happy, so long as it does not hurt someone else.”

This might sound like a good philosophy; however, some things may please us, hurt no one else, and yet be contrary to God’s teachings. Many are caught up with the moral philosophy of our times instead of truth from God’s Word.

Concerning doctrinal matters, those who will stand up and say that a doctrine is right or wrong are not usually very popular. The current philosophy, so often found in religion, is that it does not matter who is right as long as he is sincere. A spirit of fickleness and compromise prevails. The Bible, however, teaches that we are to contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3); the path of salvation is narrow (Mt. 7:13-14); salvation is promised only to those who obey God (Heb. 5:8-9); only truth can make us free (John 8:32).

The Bible completely furnishes us with the truth from God (II Tim. 3:16-17). We must value and emphasize this truth and apply it to every aspect of our life.

T.N.T.

A preacher once sent a number of books from his personal library (among them a copy of the New Testament) to be rebound. On the return of his books, he was startled to discover on the spine of the New Testament—in gold embossed letters—the initials “T.N.T.” You see, there was no room to spell out “The New Testament,” so the bookbinder merely inscribed the first letter of each of those three words.

Not a bad name for the New Testament, is it? The bookbinder’s abbreviation was right on target. Truly, the New Testament is “God’s T.N.T.”—spiritual dynamite! Paul said, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation...”* (Romans 1:16) - Author Unknown -