

The Better Way

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SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.
(via Zoom Meetings)

ELDERS

David P. Brown
Ken Cohn
John West

DEACONS

Bret Bailey
J. D. Gunter
Eric Paluka

EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

SECRETARY

Sonya West

THE FATALITY OF FALSEHOOD

Frank L Cox

Wherefore, putting away falsehood, speak ye truth each one with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. ... Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying as the need may be, that it may give grace to them that hear (Eph. 4:25, 29; ASV).

Lie not one to another; seeing that ye have put off the old man with his doings, and have put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him (Col. 3:9, 10).

WHAT IS A LIE?

In a foggy night a malicious prankster painted out the white line in the middle of a winding mountain highway and then drew another line that ran off the side of the road. That night several motorists, following the false line in the fog, plunged to destruction. Any deception or misrepresentation in word or act is in essence a lie and may lead to tragedy. The danger of a lie is that, like an act of insanity, it is an excursion into the unreal, into a area that lacks correspondence in facts. Orderly living depends upon the truth, and if error were to prevail, chaos and wild uncertainties would inescapably follow. Knowing that lying tampers with the very essence of life, Joseph Conrad in *Heart of Darkness* wrote "There is a taint of death, a flavor of mortality in lies" (Howard White).

Generally speaking, members of the Lord's body look with horror on the sin of fornication, of drunkenness, of robbery, of stealing, or murder and such like. And they should! But some look lightly on the sin of lying. With lies they are liberal; toward liars they are lax. The Lord hates a lie and warns us again and again against the sin of lying. To the end that we may keep ourselves free from falsehood and the shame and the pain involved, let us observe with care and caution the four prohibitions that follow.

FIRST: DO NOT MAKE A LIE

The man who makes a lie is like the devil: "For he is a liar, and the father thereof" (John 8:44). Do not create a false impression by word or by deed to the hurt of another. A half-truth is a lie—a clever lie. Whence do lies come? To this pertinent question, W. H. Rogers gives an eight-point answer:

1. They come from people inadequately informed.
2. They come from insufficient evidence.
3. They come from people unable to express facts properly.
4. They come from jumped-at conclusions.
5. They come from careless listening to facts stated.
6. They come from hearts filled with hatred.
7. They come from a desire to make things sound important.

8. They come from gossipers, slanderers, or those who wish to ease their conscience by finding someone else in a worse predicament (misery loves company).

“Be careful to bridle your tongue; it’s in a slippery place.”

At the root of numerous lies is the venom of envy; but love does not lie because love does not envy (1 Cor. 13:4). Therefore, let the law of love be the law of your life. The Master said, “**Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself**” (Mat. 19:19). He also said, “**All things therefore whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them**” (Mat. 7:12). Love’s mission is not to hurt, but to heal and to help. Do not forget that life is action and reaction. Men reap what they sow in *quality*, but vastly more than they sow in *quantity*. To hurt another without hurting yourself is an impossibility.

SECOND: DO NOT TAKE A LIE

It is sinful to *make* a lie; it is also sinful to *take* (receive) a lie. “**Take heed what ye hear,**” said the Lord (Mark 4:24). The *ear* as well as the *tongue* is involved. Not infrequently the tongue and the ear are companions in crime. When you receive an unconfirmed report, you may receive a lie. It is your privilege—and it may become your solemn duty—to investigate. If you refuse to investigate, you should also refuse to receive. “**It is impossible for God to lie**” (Heb. 6:18), but it is not impossible for man to lie! This, we need to remember! Beloved, be not gullible (1 John 4:1). It isn’t safe to be gullible: for a gull may swallow poison. Moreover, you do not need to be gullible: for the Word of God provides a safeguard: “**Receive not an accusation, except at the mouth of two or three witnesses**” (1 Tim 5:19). Witnesses—not talebearers! Witnesses—not scandalmongers! Witnesses—men who have personal knowledge! Witnesses—not singular, but plural in number! (Det. 19:15; Mat. 18:16; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19).

THIRD: DO NOT REPEAT A LIE

It is sinful to *make* a lie, to *take* a lie, also to *repeat* a lie. Listen to the apostle Paul: “**Let no corrupt communication [speech] proceed out of your mouth**” (Eph. 4:29; KJV). And listen to the Lord:

Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account therefore in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou

shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned (Mat. 12:36-37).

When an unfavorable report cannot be confirmed “**at the mouth of two witnesses or three**” (2 Cor. 13:1), you should neither believe it nor repeat it. As long as it is locked up in the secret chamber of your mind, you are a free man; but once you let it go, you become seriously involved, you incur an obligation. And for this obligation you must answer. Oh how humiliating to repeat an unfavorable report concerning a fellowman, and then learn that you repeated and promoted a falsehood!

Place a seal upon your lips! Do not allow a lie to travel. With falsehood, with the unfruitful works of darkness, have no fellowship. Keep yourself clean and clear.

FOURTH: DO NOT LOVE A LIE

This prohibition strikes at the very root. Truth about God and truth about man is precious—so very precious! A lie is an enemy of the truth. To love a lie and to love the truth at the same time is an impossibility. Be not satisfied with half-truth: “For the lie which is half-truth is ever the greatest of lies.” When you love a lie, you become identified with “the father of lies;” but when you love the truth, you become identified with the wonderful One who is the very embodiment of truth (John 14:6). Love the truth about God, the truth about God’s Son, the truth about man. Cultivate a passion for the truth, for the whole truth, for nothing but the truth. Truth is forever linked with freedom, falsehood and fear with slavery (John 8:32). The Lord loves the truth and hates a lie. The devil loves a lie and hates the truth. Be like the Lord! Be not like the devil!

BE AFRAID TO LIE!

1. *Because a lie defiles the liar.* A lie, loved and cherished, makes a man like the “father of lies.” As stealing defiles the hand and as fornication defiles the body, even so falsehood defiles the tongue—a member that was made to glorify God and to bless man. Sin, of course, permeates and defiles and enslaves the entire personality. *Make not, take not, handle not a lie!* Do not allow a lie to defile you!

2. *Because a lie fits the liar for the horrors of hell.* With the Bible before us, let us read:

But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brim-

stone; which is the second death (Rev. 21:8).

Without the city of God, the New Jerusalem **“are the dogs, and the sorcerers, and the fornicators, and the murderers, and idolaters, and every one that loveth and maketh a lie** (Rev. 22:15). *Oh the folly and the fatality of falsehood!*

LET US PRAY
Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in thy sight,
O Jehovah, my rock, and my redeemer
(Psa. 19:14).~

Deceased

THE IDEA OF GOD

Guy N. Woods

The word *being* is the participle of the verb “to be.” “To be,” means, “to exist.” But it is a self-evident fact that no being ever created itself. “Existence,” therefore, is passive. It necessarily implies an antecedent; in fact, existence cannot be predicated of itself. I am; therefore, I exist. But I did not create myself. My existence then necessarily infers a Creator. Indeed, it is not possible to conceive of creatures without a Creator. The one is an essential antecedent of the other. No one but a fool would say, “There is no God;” his own being effectively refutes his vain assertion—he is a living demonstration of his fallacious reasoning. There must always have been an uncreated, self-existent Being, Eternal, Immutable, the Designer of the heavens and the earth, and the Maker of all things therein.

There is one term, and but one in universal speech, that indicates absolute and undefinable being. That is the word *Jehovah*. It was used by the ancient Hebrews to indicate the Self-existing one JAH, denoting the *Essence*, and HAVAH the *Existing*—the always existing one. It is used in the Hebrew Bible in connection with five words—each descriptive of the Eternal Being. These are:

1. Jehovah Jireh—Jehovah will provide.
2. Jehovah Nissi—Jehovah my banner.
3. Jehovah Shalom—Jehovah of peace.
4. Jehovah Shammah—Jehovah is there, or the residence of Jehovah.
5. Jehovah Tzidkeenu—Jehovah my righteousness.

Such is the currency of the word in the Old Testament Scriptures, and it does not occur, of course, in the New Testament. The ancient worthies of the Hebrew faith did not deign to pronounce the ineffable name, reading “Adonay” in its stead when they came upon it in the Sacred Books. Hence, the true pronunciation of the original term has been entirely lost,

the Jews having scrupulously avoided any mention of it in their writings, always substituting, as suggested above. Jewish tradition has it that it was pronounced once each year by the high priest on the Day of Atonement when he entered the Holy of Holies; but on this point there is some doubt. According to Maimonides, this practice ceased with Simon the Just. Be that as it may, it is the only term in human speech expressive of the Always existing One. It is best and most happily expressed in the words of John, **“He who is, and was, and who is to come”** (Rev. 1:4).

The idea, therefore, of a Self-existent being, All-powerful, All-wise and Ever-present has been entertained by the race as long as this term has been current in the language of men. But researches extending into the remotest depths of antiquity do not reveal a time when such an idea was not current. Even among the pagan nations of old, who long had forgotten the God of their Fathers, faint gleamings of a light never wholly obscured, shined now and then in the hearts of those who sought an answer for the riddle of the universe. Their wise men frequently stirred under the irresistible consciousness of an All-wise Being, directing the affairs of men. Even the great Socrates taught the immortality of the soul and entertained some undefined expectation of a greater teacher who, he believed, would come into the world.

How did the idea originate? But three opinions have ever been advanced indeed, it is not possible for the mind to conceive others. It was either by *imagination*, *reason*, or *revelation*. The reader can think of no other manner in which the idea could possibly have been born. By which of these did the idea of God originate? Imagination? Simply to define the word is to eliminate imagination as the originator of the idea. The word is defined, “The picture forming

power of the mind.” It is the work of imagination then, to create, or form, images. It has no power to form realities. While there is no limit to the variety of mental pictures imagination can form in the mind; it must work only on the materials at hand. Imagination could never have formed the idea of God, because prior to the origin of the idea there were no materials available for imagination to erect into a mental conception. We may therefore dismiss from our minds any further consideration of imagination, as the source of origin of the prevailing idea of God. By reason? It should be remembered that reason is simply a rule, or measure, by which we compare and decide matters. Moreover, it always operates from premises. Give reason materials on which to work and a decision will be forthcoming. It is impossible to reason from zero! Reason never originated a new idea. A carpenter, by his rule, measures the dimensions of a surface, and it is essential and important for this work; but it is powerless to create the timber it measures. But not more so than is reasonable to bring into being ideas not hitherto advanced.

I hold in my hand a watch. From an observation of watches in general and this one in particular, I conclude that it is not an object of its own creation. Its existence bespeaks to me a Maker. But did it have one, or a thousand engaged in its making? I do not know! The earth exists and all things therein, and I know that it is not a product of its own making. But did one God or a thousand engage in its creation? There is no way of knowing outside of revelation! I am not unmindful of the fact that David **exclaimed “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork”** (Psa. 19:1). But I am forced to conclude that it is a God previously revealed by revelation whose glory the heavens declare. I am wholly dependent on that sublime statement, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”** (Gen. 1:1), for my information on the subject.~ **Deceased**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Today:** Monthly meal & afternoon singing service.
- **Tuesday, July 30th:** Ladies’ Bible Class. Lauren Paluka will be presenting a lesson on the “Joy of Affliction.”

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

Announcements	John West
Scripture Reading	Gary Blasingame <i>Rev. 19:1-10</i>
Song Leader	Bret Bailey
Prayer	David Brown/John West (AM) Zack Nero/Steven Johnson (PM)
Speaker	Eric Paluka
Lord’s Table (AM) (Matthew 27:29-32)	
Jonathan West	Stephen Cohn
Joshua West	Eric Paluka
Lord’s Table (PM)	
J.D. Gunter	Ben Gunter
Audio/Video Monitor	Joshua West
Camera/Door Monitor	Gary Blasingame

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024
(via Zoom Meetings)

Announcements	J.D. Gunter
Speaker	Eric Paluka
Bible Class Teacher	David Brown

FOR JULY

Prepare Communion	West
Lock Buildings	Bailey
Prepare Bulletin Board	N. Cohn

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Janie Tatum, Joe Blau, Gayle Barnett, Zack Nero, April McCain, Tim Orbison, Debbie Brannon, Edith Young, Noah & Glenda Hackworth, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlinda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

What man put up his monument before he died?

Answer to last week’s question:
Absalom; 2 Samuel 18:9-15