

THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

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FEAR OR FAITH

There are many things we can fear. We can fear what an evil person might do to us. We can fear the all-powerful God of heaven. We can fear animals such as lions or even spiders. We can fear lightning, devastating storms, floods, and earthquakes. We can fear heights, tight quarters, public speaking, or even clowns. We can fear cancer that can take over our bodies and cut our lives short. We can even fear a virus that can cause us sickness, pain and death. There are so many things that we can fear. Many people live their lives in fear. But as a Christian, should we have fear?

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We should have an appropriate fear for God.

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. (Heb. 12:28-29)

He is the creator of all things; He is all powerful; He will take vengeance on all those who obey unrighteousness. But we also know that he is a loving and merciful God who has made us His children. The fear Christians should have for God is a respect and reverence for Him. But what about fear for other people and other things?

Fear is the opposite of faith; it is actually a lack of faith. It is a denial of the hope that God will take care of us no matter what trials we come up against. As Christians, we should be people of faith and not of fear. We make a choice between faith and fear. I saw this observation the other day: fear and faith have something in common; they both ask us to believe in something we cannot see. In our minds we can imagine the evil and harm that can come to us because of certain situations and we develop fear. Or we can trust in God and choose faith.

God has promised to be with us.

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Heb. 13:5-6)

Do you have faith in the promises of God? Do you believe that the Lord is your helper? Do you believe that He will never leave you or forsake you? Choose faith over fear.

I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? (Psa. 118:5-6)

When we trust in God, we can have peace. Jesus taught in

John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” The world sees peace as a lack of conflict and problems. The peace we receive from God is not a lack of trials, tribulations or conflict because we all have those things in our lives. But the peace that God gives is a peace of mind and spirit. In our minds and hearts we do not fear anything that comes along because God is our helper and He will never leave us or forsake us. We don’t have to be troubled; we don’t have to be afraid. Peace results when we truly trust in God.

There is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:31-39)

The great message of this passage of scripture is that nothing can separate us from the love of our God.

Imagine the worst thing that could happen to you; whatever

that may be, it cannot separate you from the love of God. God still loves you; He is still your helper; He will still give you eternal life.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

When we put things in the proper perspective, the problems we face are light and momentary. We do not need to fear.

Jesus told the church in Smyrna in Revelation 2:9-10,

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

My encouragement is that you do not fear anything you might suffer. Be faithful until death and you will receive the crown of life.

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THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What did God count Abram's faith to him as?
2. How much of Elijah's spirit did Elisha receive?
3. On which day of the year could the High Priest enter the Most Holy Place, the inner most part of the temple where the ark of the covenant was kept?
4. To which tribe did the apostle Paul belong?
5. Who carried the cross for Christ?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

And remember last month's questions?

1. Who was the father of Abraham?
TERAH (Gen. 11:31)
2. Which judge unknowingly vowed his daughter to the Lord as a burnt offering? JEPHTHAH (Jdg. 11:30-40)
3. Why wasn't David allowed to build God's house?
BECAUSE HE WAS A MAN OF WAR (1 Chr. 28:3)
4. What did the Holy Spirit look like when the disciples received it? TONGUES OF FIRE (Acts 2:3)
5. Who was the goddess of the Ephesians?
DIANA (ARTEMIS) (Acts 19:28)

I saw tomorrow passing on little children's feet

And on their forms and faces her prophecies complete.

And then I saw tomorrow look at me through little children's eyes.

And I thought how carefully I must teach if I am wise!

ANONYMOUS

WHEN IS AN UNTRUTH NOT A LIE?

It is not at all uncommon to hear comments such as “He lied” or “That is a lie,” especially when there is a strongly contested difference of opinion. How very sad that otherwise Biblically oriented brethren will sometimes use such improper terms in expressing disagreement.

There is a marked difference between an untruth and a lie. When one utters an untruth he is not necessarily lying. If a young man mistakenly tells you that a certain place is 60 miles away when in fact the distance is actually 50, he has honestly stated an untruth. But when he deliberately discloses his age as 18 instead of 16 in order to deceive and gain advantage, then he has lied.

Being a false witness is many times condemned in Scripture:

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
(Exo. 20:16)

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:
(Mat. 15:19)

...Thou shalt not bear false witness... (Rom. 13:9).

There were false witnesses who condemned Jesus:

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;
(Mat. 26:59)

There were false witnesses who condemned Stephen:

And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: (Acts 6:13)

Ananias and Sapphira lied about money received from the sale of their property.

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart

to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (Acts 5:3-4)

Samuel, however, did not arrive at his appointed set time but his delay did not constitute a lie.

And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. (1 Sam. 13:8-13)

Paul was honestly mistaken in speaking disrespectfully of the high priest, but he did not lie.

And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth. Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law? And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest? Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written,

Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people. (Acts 23:2-5)

We are exhorted, “*Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor*” (Eph. 4:25). To be honestly mistaken is not lying - and we all have that human frailty to sometimes be honestly mistaken.

A few verses later Paul wrote,

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Eph. 4:31-32)

None of us would desire to be termed a liar when we are simply mistaken. Let us be as charitable to our brother and not refer to him as a liar or to his statement as a lie when he, as ourselves, has simply made a mistake. We would do well to erase this unkind term from our vocabulary except in situations where there is absolutely no doubt.

HARRY COBB
(Deceased)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

June is usually one of our busiest months for Gospel Meetings. However, due to the uncertainty of the times in the pandemic we have decided not to publish any meetings in the paper this month. Instead, please check the website Meetings calendar as it is updated frequently.

The calendar can be found at
http://www.theharvesteronline.com/calendar_list.php.

Or you can visit <http://www.theharvesteronline.com> and click on “Meetings.”