

Sinful Pride

by R. J. Evans

"Pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense." —C.S. Lewis

Pride is a sin that is condemned many times in the Bible, yet it is so deceptive and insidious that it threatens all of us in various ways. It is such a dangerous sin, because it is so easily seen and loathed in others, but rarely recognized in one's own life.

The sin of pride has kept multitudes of individuals from obeying God and faithfully doing His will. The first thing required of any person who would please God is to humble himself. And pride keeps so many from ever doing what God has commanded in such passages as **James 4:10**: "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, And He will lift you up." God's attitude toward pride is expressed in such passages as **Proverbs 16:5**: "Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord." One of the seven abominations that God hates is "A proud look" (**Prov. 6:17**).

Even when we have done some good deed, we must be careful not to allow pride to step in and cause us to "blow our own horn" — "do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing" (**Matt. 6:3**). The Bible says, "Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not

your own lips" (**Prov. 27:2**). In other words, if there is a reason we should be

praised, let it be done by our friends, brethren or companions with modesty. We may have done something worthwhile, but let us not forget that the value of the deed may be grossly inflated in our own minds. But, in the minds of our listeners, the deed, no matter how good, may not be accepted for the value we perceive it to have. So when we do our good works and good deeds, don't exaggerate, overstate or magnify them—they may become the biggest enemy we have—don't nourish them by boasting! If they are truly worthwhile, the world will know about it. Then we can graciously receive commendation, and retain the utmost respect in doing so.

Someone has said that pride is "the welcome mat to every spiritual prison cell." Pride can be such a stronghold — it cheats wherever it plays. Let us all be mindful that "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall" and "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (**Prov. 16:18; 1 Cor. 10:12**).



Classes This Week

Sunday PM	Monday 8:00 PM	Tuesday 10:00 AM	Tuesday 7:00 PM	Thursday 8:00 PM
College Devo at Lauderdale's, Charles Painter teaching	College study on Romans, Crawford's	Ladies' class at Laura Humphrey's, "Heaven"	Men's class at TBD, book of John	Truthseekers Room 2107 student center

Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Billy Hunt (Cherri's brother)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's grandfather)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (gmom of April and Julie)
Tory Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell)	Maria Williams	Barbara Chandler	Donna Jackson (Kristen's aunt)
Betty Bradford	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Earl Mitchell (Debbi Coleman's dad)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	EB & Ara Belle Rich (Joanetta's aunt)	Bobby Jennings (Brooke's uncle)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Helen Andrews (Susan's sister)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Mavis Hale (Chris Long's grandmother)

March Birthdays

- 2-Maddie Norman
- 2-Chase Harrison
- 2-Bryan Golden
- 2-Joy Powell
- 3-Shaun Oliver
- 4-Morgan Cavender
- 5-Sophie Bordan
- 5-Cameron Stabler
- 6-Hunter Miller
- 7-Josh Pender
- 8-Carmen Herd
- 8-Jaci Marshall
- 9-Richard Zacarius
- 9-Austin Bartlett
- 10-Pepper Humphrey
- 10-Parker Godwin
- 10-Amelia Franzen
- 11-Ava Stabler
- 12-Brad Hartsell
- 17-Susan Sullivan
- 17-Emersyn Sullivan
- 17-Kadyn Bell
- 18-MaKenzie Anderson
- 19-Amanda Bishop
- 20-Jimmy Roberts
- 21-Carter Hunt
- 23-Belinda Hartsell
- 23-Sarah Embry
- 25-Sawyer Hall
- 26-Brooke Zeleny
- 27-Shelby Freeman
- 27-Cheri Russell
- 28-Jacob Hagewood
- 29-Rachel Simpson
- 29-Blair O'Dell
- 30-Amanda Stephens

News and Notes

- ☒ - Jared Johnson had successful back surgery on Tuesday.
- ☒ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Kristen Diehl and Nakia Strickland .
- ☒ - Ryan Hasty's mother, Barbara, is undergoing tests related to her lung cancer.
- ☒ - Please see Patsy Ogle to contribute to the flower fund which has been depleted.
- ☒ - Abbie Harrison received her cortisone injections on Tuesday.
- ☒ - Caleb Daniels will have shoulder surgery on April 4th.
- ☒ - Laura Humphrey's dad, Frank Hand, had to return to ICU this week.
- ☒ - There is an opportunity to help a recent victim of the recent tornado through individual donations. Please see Larry Rouse for details.
- ☒ - All audio is posted to www.auchurch.com

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Belief and Truth

By Irvin Himmel

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15



Thoughts to Ponder

... because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, (2 Thess 2:13)

No matter what your present belief, in this short essay I want to set before you the truth. Please study carefully the following points about belief and its relation to truth.

Believing Something Does Not Make It The Truth

The aged Jacob believed the story his sons told him which insinuated that their brother Joseph had been devoured by an evil beast (**Gen. 37:31-35**). So sincere was Jacob in that belief, and so emotionally moved by what he believed, he rent his clothes, put on sackcloth, mourned for many days, and refused the comfort offered by other members of the family. Young Joseph was not dead although his ;father sincerely believed he had been killed. Joseph was very much alive!

Saul of Tarsus strongly and earnestly believed in his early life that Jesus of Nazareth was an impostor, not the real Christ. He "verily thought" that he ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus (**Acts 26:9**). Saul's belief that Jesus was a fake did not make Him a pretender.

Truth is fixed by the word of God. Truth does not depend on what you and I believe or refuse to believe, but our eternal security does depend on our believing that which is the truth and not turning from that truth.

Truth is not determined by what someone chooses to believe. One may elect to believe the Book of Mormon, but that does not make the Book of Mormon true. One may choose to believe that the Pope of Rome is the Vicar of Christ, but believing it does not make it so. Some people believe man has the same nature of a beast and no other nature, but their belief does not make it true that man is wholly a material being. A lot of people believe miracles are being performed today (tongues, healing, prophecy, etc.), but their belief, which sometimes moves them in emotional experi-

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Elders
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
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ences, does not make it true.

Failure To Believe Something Does Not Keep It From Being The Truth

Many of the Jews refused to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, even after He had preached to them, worked signs and wonders among them, and had demonstrated supernatural insight, but their lack of faith did not change the truth about His identity. Jesus explained, "for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (**John 8:24**). The truth about His Sonship did not depend on their belief in Him.

There are people who today refuse to believe there is a hell. They suppose that God thinks as men think, and in their human reasoning they cannot rationalize the idea of eternal punishment. But remember this: refusal to believe there is a hell does not keep the doctrine of hell from being the truth.

Some men refuse to believe there is a God. These men are called atheists. They suppose there is no being higher than humanity. This idea leaves them without any feeling of accountability to anyone except themselves. Refusal to believe in God does not change the fact that God exists and men are responsible to Him for their deeds.

Truth is determined by what the Scriptures teach, not by what someone believes, or refuses to believe. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (**Mk. 16:16**); that is the truth, and if every person on earth refused to accept it, that teaching of Jesus would still be the truth.

One Must Believe The Truth To Be Saved

Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (**John 8:32**). "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (**John 17:17**). Paul spoke of the "word of truth" as the "gospel of your salvation" (**Eph. 1:13**). He explained that we are chosen to salvation "through sanctification of

the Spirit and belief of the truth" (**2 Thess. 2:13**).

This New Testament teaching is a far cry from the popular notion that it really does not make a lot of difference what one believes. Some have the idea that one can believe to a large degree whatever he wants to believe and still go to heaven. To such persons it matters not whether one believes baptism is essential to salvation or is a mere symbol of salvation; whether one believes in the impossibility of apostasy or that a child of God can fall away; whether one believes in immersion only or sprinkling, pouring, and immersion; whether one believes in tithing or giving according to ability; whether one believes Christians should keep the Sabbath (Saturday) or assemble for worship on the first day (Sunday); whether one believes Christ was born of a virgin or not; whether one believes in one faith or many faiths; etc., etc.

Refusal To Believe The Truth Brings Condemnation

Paul wrote about certain persons who did not love the truth, explaining, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (**2 Thess. 2:10-12**). We cannot obey the truth if we do not learn it and believe it. The word of God warns that people "who do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness," will receive indignation and wrath in the day of judgment (**Rom. 2:8**).

James taught that if one, errs from the truth and is turned back (converted), a soul is saved from death (**Jas. 5:19, 20**). This implies that if one turns from the truth he is headed for eternal death.

Truth is fixed by the word of God. Truth does not depend on what you and I believe or refuse to believe, but our eternal security does depend on our believing that which is the truth and not turning from that truth.

Truth Magazine - January 16, 1975



I Am Ashamed of You

By Jeffery Kingry

It is with a great sense of weariness and shame that we find our brethren more interested in intellectual exercise, the "exegesis," the "theology" of the Bible - the "mental hike" - rather than the application of God's truth. We are truly "disciplined" in the word of God when we do his commandments (1 Jn. 2:3,4).

"Suppose you had the opportunity to talk with a leading Biblical scholar on a man-to-man basis. Suppose that he was willing for the conversation to be published. Now, suppose the scholar was the world renowned commentator and author Dr. F. F. Bruce, of England's Manchester University - what would you ask him" (Fudge, Edward, Gospel Guardian, "Interview With F. F. Bruce," Jan. 31, 1974, Vol. 25)?

Brother Fudge asks an interesting question. What would one ask a world-wide known scholar?

Here is an opportunity given by the Lord's providence which never again may be presented. If one were interested in ingratiating oneself, the question might be designed to draw out a favorable response. If one wanted to build up a reputation as a great scholar, the question might reflect those ostentatious desires. But if one sincerely desired to lead a soul to life, the question might have been, "Why are you not a Christian?"

Questions asked in the Word of God by teachers of truth have always been ultimately designed to lead the sinner unto truth and salvation, no matter what the fame and worldly power of the sinner: "Understandest thou what thou readest" (**Acts 8:30**)? "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me" (**Acts 9:4**)? "O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord" (**Acts 13:10**)? "Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God" (**Acts 14:15**).

It is with a great sense of weariness and shame that we find our brethren more interested in intellectual exercise, the "exegesis," the "theology" of the Bible - the "mental hike" - rather than the application of God's truth. We are truly "disciplined" in the word of God when we do his commandments (**1 Jn. 2:3, 4**). The man who claims to "know" the Bible and yet does not practice its precepts, deceives himself, and in truth "knows" nothing (**1 Jn. 2:5, 6**).

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation - not the intellect, the effort, or the charisma of man. What is important, good brethren? Is it the learned commen-

taries, the sublime books of theology, the college degrees and all they entail? "And I brethren, when I came unto you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified . . . and my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom . . . that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (**1 Cor. 2:15**).

There is so much wrong with what you did, good brethren . . . but basically what is most tragic is that you let a man who perhaps is "not far from the Kingdom of God" leave without "reasoning of righteousness, temperance, and the judgment to come" (**Acts 24:25**). What is so unutterably sad, is that you had something to give to him, not he to you . . . and you did not even know it. The truth that could have saved him eternally was not as important to those who should be declaring it as the scholarship of the one they should have taught.

Paul could say, "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men, for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (**Acts 20:26, 27**). We have nothing to learn from the unprofitable works of darkness, we are rather to reprove those in darkness that they might see the light (**Eph. 5:11**). A man's scholarship is nothing if it costs him his soul. Yet, honor and deference, praise and glory are given to one who is not even least in the kingdom of heaven. There was no love or respect shown unto F. F. Bruce. If you love a man, you give him what he needs. Mr. Bruce needed the blood of Jesus, and those who could have given, did not.

"Unto you, O men, I call: and my voice is unto the sons of man. O ye simple, understand wisdom: and ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart . . . the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise" (**Prov. 8:1,5; 11:30**).

Truth Magazine - April 18, 1974

