

Squaw Creek Baptist Church, Marion, IA
Pastor Kleeberger

SERMON OUTLINE 8/15/2010

BIBLE PASSAGE: *Ephesians 5:1-21*

TITLE: “RESPECTABLE ENEMIES OF THE TRUTH”

INTRODUCTION:

1. “Fraud & falsehood dread examination. Truth invites it.” Thomas Cooper
2. The real enemies of God’s truth: Satan, the _____ system that opposes God, & the depraved _____ of mankind. Read *Ephesians 5:15*.
3. The path to sin can be appealing & even noble looking.

PROPOSITION: We must fight the “respectable” enemies of the truth, cf. *Mark 8:34-38*. Take up your cross & follow Jesus!

I. HALF-TRUTHS (WHITE LIES)

- A. Truth-Seeking Is Hard Work.
 1. _____ is a discipline
 2. Mastering God’s Word requires effort.
- B. The Bible Offers Exhortation.
 1. *Proverbs 12:19 & 23:23*
 2. *Proverbs 21:1-8*
 3. *Ephesians 4:25 & Colosians 3:9*
 4. Christ’s example – *Matthew 4*
- C. _____ In The Truth/Pursue Integrity, *Psalms 119:97-104*.

II. TRADITION & THE STATUS QUO

- A. Consider Tradition
 1. Salvation implies change of behavior. . .
 2. Pharisees & tradition, (do’s & don’ts)
 3. Allow God’s _____ to become your priority.
- B. Consider The Status Quo, (acceptable conditions of society).
 1. Do _____ influence your decisions/keep you from a more dedicated walk w/God?

2. Which voice are you listening to? *James 4:13-17*.

III. MENTAL LAZINESS

A. We Need Leisure, Not Laziness

1. *Ephesians 5:10*/What's acceptable to God?
2. Laziness is condemned & _____,
Proverbs 20:4-7; Romans 12:9-13; & Proverbs 6:6-11.

B. Draw Life From God's Word. Are you an equipped & mature believer? *Ephesians 4:11-16*

IV. FEAR

A. Fleshly Fear

1. Fear of _____.
2. Fear of people
3. Fear for personal provision & prosperity.

B. Godly Fear, *Matthew 10:27-31*.

V. INACTION, *Ephesians 5:15-17*

A. Inaction Is Truth's Most Deadly Enemy.

1. Book of James - _____ faith produces action.
2. Church at Laodicea/condemned for _____ of ministry service . . .

B. God's Truth Demands Action!

1. Truth must not be treated as an idol.
2. Discover God's truth, Live God's truth, & Share God's Truth!

CONCLUSION:

1. Are you a genuine believer in Christ?
2. Do these enemies of the truth have any place in your life?

1. Salvation is a pre-requisite to effectiveness.

2. Resolve to be a witness!