

Lewis & Clark Bible Church News

January 2020

What is Hypocrisy?



The definition of a hypocrite is simple; they act one way outside while being another on the inside. They are the type of people that speak of themselves as being righteous in most of their actions, while it is very clear that they are sinful. These are the type of people who only do what is right when people are watching. They are motivated by titles, honors and awards. They focus on traditions and ceremonies. It allows them to look righteous on the outside without actually being righteous. It seems that these type of people are not gracious and are unforgiving.

In fact, we see numerous passages that speak of hypocrites and their ways. If we look at Isaiah 29:13-14, we see that a hypocrite is only near to God with their words but their hearts are far from Him. Their reverence for God consisted of only traditions that they learned from rote. If we look at Matthew 15:1-9 we see that Jesus speaks of pharisees as transgressing the law of God for the sake of man's traditions. They speak great words of honor towards God but their hearts are far from Him. Later He speaks of the Pharisees in Matthew 23:27-28 where He called them painted tombs; they look pretty on the outside but on the inside they are full of death. Jesus then defines their behavior as outwardly appearing to be righteous so men can see, but on the inside they are full of lawlessness.

As believers we can and do struggle with hypocrisy. We are warned to love a person sincerely and not with hypocrisy (Romans 12:9). In reading James 3:13-18, we are told that godly wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, and unwavering. These things are to be without hypocrisy. I think it is easy for us to fall into hypocrisy, especially when we consider that Christians have many traditions. Some of these traditions and beliefs easily take our eyes off of the grace of God, the scriptures and Jesus Christ. Think for a moment that it is easy for us to fall into hypocrisy when a person rejects the authority of God and the Scriptures for their own visions, or mind, or superstitions.

How do we fight hypocrisy? The simple answer is Jesus. When a person is trusting, learning, and desiring to glorify Jesus, it seems to me that this is the only proper motivation in our life. When we have another motivation we become hypocritical. We become pretenders. If a person has a wrong motivation we are to adjust our motivation through God's word, prayer, and proper Christian encouragement.

Pastor Caleb

Testimonies

My wife and I are members of the Katahdin Camp in Maine, and we have four grown children. For the past several months, I have been preoccupied with the salvation of our only son, Jeff. He was brought up in the Church, but recently, Jeff told me he was done with Christianity. I called to congratulate him on his tenth wedding anniversary, but soon, I felt compelled to ask why he didn't want Jesus in his life. I wanted to help him.

I had accepted Jesus late in my life, and I didn't want the same for him. I wanted better for my son. "What's holding you back, Jeff?" He said, "I don't want to sign anything."

This broke my heart because our faith is so much more than that. "Jesus doesn't require you to sign anything," I told him. "All He wants is a personal relationship with you. No signature required." That seemed to relieve Jeff. "What now?" He said he knew there would be other rules or steps along the way.

"I just want you to read it again, Jeff, the inside back cover of your Testament from The Gideons." He didn't protest, so I continued, "If you agree with what you read, then simply bow your head and ask Jesus to be your Savior. Take your time, but promise me, you'll text me when you've done it. That's all you have to say. Done." Jeff mumbled his agreement, saying he had to go.

The day continued. My wife and I prayed for our son. Evening came, and I hadn't heard anything. I didn't get discouraged just yet, though. Before going to bed that night, I checked my phone, and there it was. One simple word from my son. "Done."

Submitted by Dale Tudor (Katahdin Camp, Maine)

Following successful entrance into a local hospital's Pediatric Unit, Gaborone South Camp Auxiliary were able to place Scriptures in each room. Some time later, the women learned about a medical resident who was reading through Testaments with and praying for the children. This resident worked in Oncology and had been very receptive of The Gideons International.

The local Auxiliary were overjoyed to hear this oncologist was letting herself be used by the Lord. When the women went back, they met this resident who was, indeed, a Christian. She shared that, at the age of nine in Jordan, she received the Word of God from a Gideon. Because of that moment, she is now a believer and uses medicine as ministry to reach young people with the Good News of the Lord.

Submitted by Rosemond Opare-Kumi (Gaborone South Camp, Botswana)

theconnection.Gideons.org

Persecution

12/19/2019 Nigeria (International Christian Concern) – According to a recent report, over 1,000 Christians have been killed in Nigeria in 2019, primarily during Fulani extremist-led attacks. ICC reported 1,930 deaths in 2018 at the hands of Fulani militants. 2018 was significantly higher than the 2017 number of 1,900 Nigerians who were killed by both Fulani and Boko Haram militants, with the latter being the primary perpetrator.

According to the report by HART, there were five major attacks in Kaduna state between January and November which resulted in a cumulative total of 500 deaths. The report admittedly only covers Fulani attacks in Plateau, Kaduna and Taraba states and some Boko Haram attacks in Borno.

Though exact numbers for deaths resulting from Fulani attacks, the trend is clear. Fulani militants have caused more deaths than Boko Haram in both 2018 and 2019. Yet, Fulani militants have not been designated as a terrorist by any official organization or state.

Christians are primary targets of Fulani militants who have descended on villages and destroyed Christian homes, churches, crops and killed Nigerian believers.

12/25/2019 China (International Christian Concern) – Christians around China have been told that they should avoid holding public gatherings to celebrate Christmas.

According to Radio Free Asia, house churches in the southern province of Guangdong, the eastern province of Shandong and the southwestern provinces of Yunnan, Sichuan and Guizhou have been contacted by police and warned of holding any events.

“We are afraid to meet in public [because such meetings] have been designated illegal gatherings,” a Shandong pastor who gave only the name John said on Christmas Eve.

He said the ban appeared to target churches that had so far resisted joining the state-sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Movement churches.

“We can’t do Christmas this year; we can’t hold any activities on Christmas,” he said, before adding “We celebrated it a few days ago in [smaller] groups, whereas in the past we were able to celebrate it with thousands of people coming together.”

A pastor of a house church in Sichuan surnamed Li said his church was under a similar ban, where they are “not allowed to celebrate Christmas here, and it’s the same across the whole country.” His church has more than 1,000 members who had been able to celebrate together in previous years.

A member of a house church in Nanyang city, Henan province said his church had been visited on Sunday by officials from the local bureau of religious affairs.

“The church is closed now, so we are holding smaller gatherings in people’s homes that they don’t know about,” the church member said.

A pastor from Guangzhou’s Guangfu Church said similar restrictions were in place on his church, and that Christmas decorations were no longer visible in shopping malls and other public spaces.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND EVIL COMMUNICATIONS

In a nutshell, the main danger of the Internet in general and social media in particular is evil communications. “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Co. 15:33). Evil communications refer to any kind of associations, relationships, communion, conversation, and fellowship that is evil, bad, wrong, or harmful by the standard of God’s Word. “**Evil**” is the Greek *kakos*, the standard New Testament word for evil. It is usually translated “evil.” It is also translated “wicked” (Mt. 21:41), “harm” (Ac. 16:28), “ill” (Ro. 13:10), “noisome” (Re. 16:2). Evil is anything that is contrary to God’s standard of righteousness and holiness, anything that is contrary to God’s will. God’s standard for His redeemed people is very high. “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from ALL filthiness of the flesh and spirit, PERFECTING holiness in the fear of God” (2 Co. 7:1). “**Communications**” is *homilia*, “to converse, to have companionship.” It is from *homileo*, meaning “a multitude, a crowd, a company.” It is translated “talked together” (Lu. 24:14) and “communed together” (Lu. 24:15). “**Good manners**” is *chrestos* (profitable, fit, good for any use) and *ethos* (custom, habit, morals, character). It refers to the right way of living and thinking. “**Corrupt**” is *phthero*, “to waste, pine, destroy, spoil.” It is translated “defile” and “destroy” (1 Co. 3:17). It is used for the corruption of the mind by false doctrine (2 Co. 11:3). The Bible warns, therefore, that any association or company or communion with evil corrupts and spoils the right and biblical way of Christian living and thinking. God’s Word says, “**Be not deceived**” on this point. You are not an exception. If you associate with, commune with, company with, converse with evil, you will most definitely be injured by it. The word *homilia*--communion, companionship, a crowd, a company--is a precise definition for social media! There has never been a more powerful forum for evil communications in the history of this fallen world. Let God’s people take heed! On the positive side, 1 Corinthians 15:33 calls for a testing mindset. It is an unequivocal divine commandment to judge everything by the standard of whether or not it is an evil communication and to avoid everything that fits that standard. This is contrary to the “judge not, be tolerant, mind your own business” thinking that is predominate within 21st century Christianity.

Friday Church News Notes, December 13, 2019

PRAY FOR AMERICA

Prayer is the only thing that will have a significant effect on America’s terrible spiritual and moral condition. Almighty God, who is in control of all earthly authorities, has specifically instructed His people to pray for their governments. Surely, we can pray such a prayer in perfect faith that He will answer and help us. “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Friday Church News Notes, December 20, 2019

A New Year

J.R. Miller

The ending of a year calls us to thought. It is a good time to take account of our life, to see just how we stand and where. *Introspection* is not wholesome as a *habit* of life — but he is living recklessly who *never* looks into his own heart to see if all is going well. We need to get our bearings anew now and then, so as to know precisely where we are tending.

A wise thing to do at the end of a year is to *forget* a good deal. Leaving an old year is somewhat like moving out of an old house. Many things accumulate, which are well enough in their time and place — but which are not worth keeping after they have served their purpose. Many things are good for the use which is made of them — but cannot be used again. It is not worth while, therefore, to keep them among our stores. They are only so much rubbish. One of the best things we can do in changing homes is to make a bonfire of old, worn-out things.

There is much in an old year that we will be very foolish to carry over into the new year. As we grow *older* we ought, at least, to grow *wiser*. We have done many things this year as the outcome of inexperience or of folly. However we may excuse ourselves for these acts, since we did not know any better — there will be no excuse for us if we continue the same follies when we do know better.

The science of living, someone says, is not to make no mistakes — but not to *repeat* our mistakes. Yet some people do repeat their mistakes over and over, all through their life. We would better do more wisely.

There is a sense, also, in which we should forget even the good things we have done during the year. Some people live altogether too much in their past. They pat themselves on the back when they have done anything worth while, and are content to go many days on the strength of the bit of self-congratulation. There are men who cherish very sacredly every memory of their own good deeds, their commendable acts, their charities and philanthropies, and every word of praise spoken of them by others, so that not a scrap of the precious glory ever can be lost.

Some men keep scrap-books of all press notices of them and their work and all printed references to them and commendations of them. There must be a certain sort of comfort for these people in going over and over again the reminiscences of their own distinguished past.

But those who are intent of making the most they can of their lives, find little time for such blissful brooding. The moment one piece of work is finished, another is calling them. They learn to fill each day with the largest usefulness they can crowd into its hours, and then to close the day as one closes a book which has been read to its last chapter and is now to be laid away. They forget even the *best* of their past, and leave it behind while they hasten on to better things. They never look back for achievements or attainments in which to rest; they believe the best is still *before* them — yet to be achieved or attained.

The year that is gone is lost to them, only as a field in which they have been sowing living seed. Their words and acts and influences are the seeds. They will grow, and thus the year will be a garden plot. They cannot go over the days again, and they do not need to do so if they have lived them well. Theirs was the sowing — others will reap the harvest. They are quite content to let their work speak for them, and they forget the things they have done, leaving all in God's hands.

So our duty is to keep our face always to the front. We have nothing to do with time that is gone. We cannot re-live it. If we have wasted its opportunities, we cannot recall them. All we can do then, is to ask God to forgive our mistakes and overrule them, and bring good out of them even yet, while we go on to new and better living.

We should also leave behind us, when we pass out of the old year into the new — all *grudges* and unkindly feelings — all memory of hurts received from others. The world is not always loving. Many people are thoughtless. Even good people say and do things heedlessly which cause pain to gentle hearts. If we persist in gathering up all the fragments of injury and injustice and unkindness along our days, we will soon have our twelve baskets full — but not with fragments of *bread*, which our Master bade his disciples gather up that nothing might be lost.

We should never allow a *crumb of love* to be lost. Love is bread. All the gentle and kindly things of the year, we should keep and cherish. But it is not the will of the Master that we should carry with us the memory of anything unloving. We are taught to *forgive* the hurts we receive — all that is unkind or ungrateful in the conduct of others toward us. The Scriptures exhort us not to let the sun go down upon our anger. If we ought not to carry any bitter feeling out of a *day* that is gone, much less should we take over from an old *year* into a new one the recollection of anything unloving. Let us leave the *thorns* — and take only the *roses* with us into our new life.

A *new year* should mark a new beginning of life, and we should have in it only whatever things are true, whatever things are just, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely.

Strength for a New Year

We ought to make something of every year. They should be like new steps on the stairs, lifting our feet a little higher. We ought not to live any two years on the same plane. To be content with any attainment even for two days, is not living at our best.

Many Christians grow faint and weary in their tasks and duties. Routine is intensely wearisome. Tasks are large and exacting, life is dreary in its monotony, work seems oftentimes in vain. We sow, and do not reap. We find disappointment and discouragement at many points. Hopes bright today — lie like withered flowers tomorrow. Life seems full of illusions. Youth has its brilliant dreams which come to nothing. Work is hard. He who saves his life, loses it.

We need only to be sure that we wait upon God, and then all the strength we shall need will be given, as we go on, day by day.

J. R. Miller

Chaplains of the Revolutionary War

While the Continental Army was engaged in winning America's freedom from England during the Revolutionary War, its army chaplains labored to win the souls of the colonial soldiers for Jesus Christ. The chaplains held services, distributed Bibles, visited the sick, and helped sustain troop morale. They were often exposed to the dangers of the battlefield and the deprivations of the army encampments. Here are the stories of just a couple of these little-known Christian heroes.

Surgeons and Ministers

On May 27, 1777, Congress appointed one chaplain to each brigade, with the same pay and rations as an army colonel. They often bore arms, and several chaplains who had professional medical training also served as surgeons. One such chaplain was David Avery, who owed his conversion to the ministry of George Whitefield. After his conversion, Avery was determined to further his education and become a minister. He entered Yale as a freshman in 1765 in the same class as Timothy Dwight, a brilliant thirteen-year-old who would also later serve as an army chaplain. Trained as a surgeon as well as a minister, Avery brought his own medicine and instruments to supplement what was lacking in the Army's supplies. He was reported to be "intrepid and fearless in battle, unwearied in his attentions to the sick and wounded." David suffered the hardships and deprivations of army life with a cheerful attitude, no doubt bolstered by his patriotism and love for his country. It was said that he was "everything Washington wanted in a chaplain." Avery often rode with General George Washington and took meals with him.

Committed to God's Service

Avery's fellow-student, Timothy Dwight, graduated from Yale at the age of seventeen. After his conversion at age nineteen, he committed himself to God's service. He was licensed as a minister in 1777 at the age of 25, and soon after, offered his services to the army as chaplain. Dwight was assigned to the Parson's brigade, a regiment commanded by General Putnam.

Timothy Dwight quickly gained the respect of both the General and his army. After Putnam led his men to a key victory on October 7, 1777, Dwight preached a memorable message to the General and his principal officers. His text was *Joel 2:20*, which states: "I will remove far off from you the northern army." Both the General and his officers were delighted by this message and its perceived significance regarding their recent victory. Putnam, however, believed that Dwight had taken the liberty of revising the text to make his point. When an officer brought a Bible to show Putnam that his chaplain had not altered the words, Putnam exclaimed: "Well, there is every thing in that book, and Dwight knows just where to lay his finger on it."

Timothy Dwight left the army to pastor churches in Massachusetts and Connecticut. He was elected president of Yale College in 1795 and went on to become one of America's theological leaders.

January Activity Schedule

Sunday

9:30 Fellowship Breakfast
10:00 Sunday School & Lord's Supper
11:00 Morning Worship
12:30 Choir Practice
6:00 Evening Service

Monday

7:00 College & Career Bible Study

Tuesday

6:00 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday

6:00 Bible Study/Prayer

Thursday

6:30 Bible Study

Saturday

8:00 Men's Bible Study

SPECIAL EVENTS

1 Jan - New Year's Day
4 Jan - Men's Breakfast 8 AM
9 Jan - Serve at Warrenton Senior Center
11 Jan - Winter Party for All Ages 1 PM
22 Jan - Ladies Lunch at Golden Luck
25 Jan - Women's Bible Study Kick-Of

Pause to Ruminare

**"As your *days* —
so shall your *strength* be!"**

Deuteronomy 33:25

However *weak* you may feel in yourself,
however *rough* the road you may need to
travel,
however *heavy* the burden you may have
to carry —

God will supply you with *sufficient*
strength for the day!

James Smith
Comfort For Christians!

Wedding Anniversaries

23 Jan - Joe & Carolyn Hedges

Birthdays

2 Jan - Bob West
4 Jan - Cynthia Gallegos
Eric Magnuson
8 Jan - Brian Germond
11 Jan - Gadiel Rivera
13 Jan - James Gillum
24 Jan - Greg Engebretson
Harriette West
28 Jan - Todd Olsen
31 Jan - Caleb Hilbert

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