
WHAT IS THE VALUE OF ONE SOUL

Jeremy Butt, Columbia, TN

Too many times in the world today, we are bombarded with bad news: the moral decline of America, a crumbling economy, what seems like a never-ending election process...how about some good news for a change?

Well, actually there is great news! Among all of the negativity in the world, a precious soul was added to the family of God recently. His name is Gary Garrett, and he is a resident at Signature Health Care in Columbia, TN, room 104. Some people have probably questioned about the efforts of evangelizing assisted living homes and nursing homes, but I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that this makes it worth it: the addition of one precious soul into the family of God.

Luke records three parables in chapter fifteen of his gospel account. Each of them focuses on the value of one who is lost: the sheep, the coin and the son. With the recent decision of Gary to be baptized into Christ, I can't help but think about the question that Don Petty of Lewisville, TX asked recently in an email: "What is the value of one soul?"

Partly as a response to his question and partly my interest in sharing this experience, I would like to tackle this question. In my opinion, whether I ever baptized another individual from any of the homes around Columbia or not, it was worth it just to see Gary obey the gospel. Jesus said in Luke 15:7 "...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." At times do we feel discouraged? At times do

we question how much of an impact we are making? At times do we even question our abilities? The resounding answer to all of these questions is "YES!" But, we must not let these overpower our desire to save one soul who is lost.

So, in answering the question, the value of one soul is their inheritance in eternity. Their eternal outcome is at stake! If the Son of God took the time to focus on this in three consecutive parables, shouldn't that send a clear message to us? You better believe it! With that being said, what are we doing to make an active difference in the lives of others? Are we sharing the gospel with those who need it? We can't sit back and wait on them to come to us. The statement uttered in the movie *Field of Dreams*, "if you build it, they will come," has much truth in application for us today. We have to realize that if we are going to be soul winners, we have to be active in His service. How can we sing hymns such as "I want to be a soul-winner for Jesus" and "Lead me to some soul today" if we will not take the initiative to look for the lost?

In closing, let me challenge all of us, as Jimmy Allen challenged all of us at West 7th recently. We need to be bringing people to Jesus. A couple of times in the gospel of John, we see Andrew bringing people to Jesus (John 1:40-41; 6:8-9). Let us learn from his example that we need to be active, as the value of one soul is precious in the sight of God (Matt.16:26).

EDITORIAL

THE REWARDS OF HEAVEN

To my knowledge, I have never met an individual who did not desire to go to heaven when this life is over. Most people, however, believe that heaven will be the abode of all people except the vilest of the vile. Any good moral person will be saved eternally in heaven, according to popular opinion. As glorious as heaven is according to the Biblical description, it is not surprising that all who have any knowledge of heaven desire to live there in eternity. Indeed, heaven is the reward for those who have lived a worthy life while upon this earth (Revelation 3:4). It may come as quite a shock to the myriads of individuals who believe that heaven will be opened unto all to realize that most people will spend eternity in hell (Matthew 7:13,14). There are many reasons to live the Christian life. If there were no promise of eternal reward, the Christian life would still be the best life to live. We live the Christian life to escape the horrors of eternal torment in hell. But perhaps the greatest motivation for living the life God would have us to live is the desire to live in eternal bliss in heaven. What is it that makes heaven so great, so glorious, so grand? What is it about heaven that captivates us, that motivates us to endure the rigors of the Christian race until the end?

Heaven appeals to us because it is a perfect place. It is perfect because the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit dwell there (I John 5:7). Those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb certainly desire to spend eternity with the Father Who gave His only begotten on our behalf (John 3:16), with the Son, the precious Lamb Who bore our sins (John 1:29), and with the Holy Spirit, Who gave unto us the precious word of life (II Peter 1:20, 21). In heaven we will be gathered around the Father's throne (Revelation 4:10), in the presence of the eternal Spirit (Revelation 2:5), basking in the light of the glorious Son of God (Revelation 21:23). Heaven is a perfect place because the body no longer decays there (Revelation 21:4). None of us is immune from the pains and sorrows that accompany life on earth. We all experience sickness, disease, pain, all of which bring us closer to the grave. It will be the common lot of all men to die (Hebrews 9:27), unless the Lord should return before we depart the walks of this life. In

the land of fadeless day, death and disease, pain and sorrow will no longer afflict us. The trials and tribulations we experience day by day should serve as a reminder that something far greater awaits us if we will remain faithful to Him Who died for us. Heaven is a perfect place because sin no longer destroys there. As trying as our physical troubles may be, the greatest battle we face is the spiritual warfare against our archenemy Satan (Ephesians 6:12). Satan is constantly waging war against our souls (I Peter 5:8), desiring that we turn away from God and enslave ourselves to sin. He places temptation before at every opportunity, wishing it to bloom into sin, in the hopes that we will remain in sin and die in that condition (James 1:13-15). In heaven, we will no longer be faced with temptation to sin (Revelation 21:27). The perfection of heaven stands in sharp contrast to the imperfections of this world.

Heaven is also appealing in that it is a prepared place. Knowing that he would soon depart this world, Jesus sought to give comfort to his followers. What more comforting words could be said than those he uttered in John 14:1-6? Jesus has gone to prepare a place in heaven for all the faithful. Heaven has been made ready by the Savior, but only for a people who have made themselves ready. Heaven is a prepared place of rest for those who have labored for the Lord while upon this earth (John 9:4). On the Day of Judgment this pronouncement will be made to the Lord's laborers, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). We weary ourselves in doing the Lord's will so that we may enter into this rest when time is no more (Hebrews 4:11). Indeed, "blessed are the dead that die in the Lord...that they may rest from their labors..." (Revelation 14:13). This place made ready, this place of rest for the weary, is a place reserved (I Peter 1:4). Those who have been sanctified through obedience to the will of God (I Peter 1:2) and who continue to live faithfully to the point of death (Revelation 2:10) are those who have their place reserved in heaven. Their names are written on the great register, the Lamb's book of Life (Revelation 21:27). What a great blessing to have a place prepared by our Lord and Savior. Just as

surely as he has gone to prepare this place for the faithful, he will come again and receive the righteous into the glorious eternal abode of the saved.

We also find heaven appealing because it is a promised place. It is not a place promised to just anyone. Many have the idea that simply claiming to follow the Lord, without any real devotion, is sufficient enough to gain entrance into heaven. However, this idea is refuted by the words of the Savior when he said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Some would even say that one does not have to have faith in Jesus, or be obedient to the Lord. All that is required, they would say, is to live a good moral life. Yet the Bible proclaims that those who obey not the gospel will be lost (II Thessalonians 1:7-9). No, heaven is not promised to just anyone. Rather, it is promised to those that love the Lord. Loving the Lord means that we will do what he has instructed us to do (John 14:15). Only those who are willing to follow the Lord's commands can be said to be his friends (John 15:14). To love the Lord means that we will put him first above all else (Matthew 22:37). It means that we will love the church just as much as Christ loves it (Ephesians 5:25), and that nothing will be more important to us than his precious bride for which he gave his life (Matthew 6:33). It means that we will do good at any opportunity we have, whether the recipient be saint or sinner (Galatians 6:10). Those who truly love the Lord eagerly anticipate his coming. For those who live their lives in view of his return, the crown of life awaits (II Timothy 4:8). To those who overcome are the promises given: the right to the tree of life (Revelation 2:7); protection from the second death (2:11); hidden manna, and a white stone upon which is written a new name (2:17); power over the nations, and the morning star (2:26,28); clothing of white raiment, names permanently written in the book of life, and the name of the faithful confessed before the Father (3:5); being made a pillar in the temple of God, upon which will be written the name of God and the name of the city of God (3:12); and the privilege of sitting with Christ in his throne (3:21). In order for one to "come over" into the glories of heaven, we must first "overcome" by living faithfully for the Lord. The prepared perfection of heaven is promised to all who will give their lives in service to the King. Have you given your life to Him? If not, then do so today by obeying the gospel. Allow your faith in Christ lead you to repent of your sins, confess your faith in Him as the Son of God, and be immersed in water for the remission of your sins. This will begin your walk with the

Lord. To continue your walk with Him, live for Him each day, until He comes again or until death. To do so will ensure your place in the home of the redeemed of all ages, the glorious bliss of heaven!

WOT

SOLICITING ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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ARE YOU CAUSING OTHERS TO STUMBLE?

Tom Moore, Temple, TX

There is an old saying that reads, "No one is completely worthless – one can always serve as a bad example." Sadly, this is true of many in the church of our Lord. We have far too many who are examples of what Christianity should not be! When Paul told Timothy to be an example to the believers (1 Tim. 4:12), he was not encouraging him to be a bad example – but a good one! Jesus declared, "Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 5:16). The way we live ought to be drawing people closer to the Lord - not pushing them away!

There is a very horrible event occurring in the Lord's church – many through their bad examples are causing others to stumble. This very action was going on in the days of Eli. Concerning the sons of Eli, we are informed that "the sin of the young men was very great before Jehovah; for men despised the offering of Jehovah" (1 Sam. 2:17). Eli hearing of the evil his sons were involved in rebuked them saying, "Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make Jehovah's people to transgress" (1 Sam. 2:24). The evil doings of Samuel's sons were one of the reasons that Israel rejected God as their king, for they declared, "Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations" (1 Sam. 8:5). We see clearly that the sons of Eli and Samuel were causing the children of Israel to stumble.

How are Christians causing others to stumble in our day and age? When we do not hold firm to sound doctrine (Tit. 2:1), and are not concerned with contending for the faith (Jude 3), we will cause many to stumble. Paul commanded Timothy to "Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee" (1 Tim. 4:16). It is critical that all Christians be great examples of soundness and "hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:13). Hoards of "sissy boy" preachers are causing many in the church to stumble and believe a lie by their false teaching. We as God's faithful must proclaim truth and mark the false teacher (Rom. 16:17).

Still, another action that causes others to stumble are Christians failing to practice what they preach. We can tell others all day long that the church is to be

the most important thing in our lives, but if we fail to proclaim this by our daily living, it will fall on deaf ears. For example, if we tell our family, neighbors and brethren that the word of God is the most important thing in our lives, and yet, spend little time in studying its holy pages, do we not cause others to stumble? Paul said, "Give diligence [study] to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15), and to "give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching" (1 Tim. 4:13).

To tell others how important Christianity is, and yet, sporadically attend Sunday night worship services and mid-week Bible Study, do we not cause many to stumble in faithful attendance? What about the little children seeing you on Sunday morning who are looking for you on Wednesday night, and not seeing you? Are you setting a good example for the little ones? "But whoso shall cause one of these little ones that believe on me to stumble, it is profitable for him that a great millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be sunk in the depth of the sea" (Mt. 18:6). Please do not cause the little ones to stumble!

Many are causing others to stumble because they will not control their tongue and love to stir up trouble. Paul proclaimed, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another" (Gal. 5:15). Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (Jn. 13:35). Are we causing others to stumble by bad mouthing the elders, the preacher, or certain others in the church? Are we causing our little ones to stumble by speaking ill of a brother as we travel home from worship? Are we causing the community to view the church in a bad light by publicly airing the church's "dirty laundry?" Brethren we must "follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another" (Rom. 14:19), and "let all things be done unto edifying" (1 Cor. 14:26).

Are you building up the church or tearing it down? If every member of the church were just like you, would the church be strong or near calamity? Be a good Christian example in all that you do!

WOT

WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL DRINKING?

Kevin Beard, Fayette, AL

The practice of drinking beverage alcohol has existed for thousands of years. Today, the alcohol industry is a multi-million dollar one. Beverage alcohol is available in hundreds of different forms, in varying degrees of potency. Millions of dollars are spent yearly in advertising these products.

As Christians who must live in the world, but not of the world, we must be aware of what God's will is regarding alcohol. For many years, not only members of the Lord's church, but also religious people in general have understood the drinking of alcohol in any quantity to be sinful. But that attitude is changing. Many in the Lord's church believe there is nothing wrong with so-called "social" drinking. But such is not true. The only Scriptural grounds for drinking beverage alcohol is found in 1 Timothy 5:23, but the purpose of Paul's instruction to Timothy is not for pleasure, but for the medicinal qualities of the wine. Scripture condemns the recreational use of beverage alcohol in any amount.

1. It is wrong because the Bible condemns drunkenness (Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5: 19-21). Advocates of "social" drinking often claim that since the Bible condemns being drunk, then one may drink as long as he does not become drunk. But the question must be asked, at what point is a person considered to be drunk? Is it when he has passed out from the alcohol? Is it when his coordination is hindered? Is it when his speech is slurred? Is it when he has had just enough to start "feeling good?" How "drunk" must one be in order to violate the command against drunkenness? Drunkenness is not a state that one enters suddenly. It is a gradual process that begins with the first drink. The following question should settle the matter about drunkenness: When one takes one drink, is he more "drunk" or less "drunk" than he was before he drank? Obviously he is more drunk. Drinking one drink puts one in violation of God's command against drunkenness.

2. It is wrong because the Bible commands self control (Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Pet. 1:6). A Christian must be in control of his passions and desires at all times. Overcoming temptation requires this. But alcohol breaks down one's inhibitions. It causes him to lose his self control. And it does not take a large quantity of alcohol to do this. Studies have shown that the higher functions of the brain (such as reasoning, judgment, and social restraint) are the first to be affected by alcohol, and this begins with the

first drink. The "social" drinker needs to ask himself this question: Can a Christian, who has been commanded by Christ to exercise self control, willfully drink something that he knows will impair his ability to be self controlled, and be pleasing to God?

3. It is wrong because the Bible commands soberness (1 Thess. 5:5-8; 1 Pet. 1:13; 4:7; 5:8). It is true that when the Bible commands soberness it is speaking of watchfulness and sound-mindedness, and not necessarily of freedom from intoxicants. But it is interesting that one of the words the Bible uses (*nepho*), which is translated as "sober," according to Vine literally means "to be free from the influence of intoxicants." It is also interesting to study in 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8, the contrasts Paul makes: light and darkness, day and night, watchfulness and sleep, soberness (*nepho*) and drunkenness. Yes the force of the command is that the Christian is to be watchful and sound minded. But can a Christian truly be sober, even in the metaphorical use of the word, when he is under alcohol's dulling influence? Can he be watchful and vigilant and in his own right mind?

4. It is wrong because the Bible commands us to be separate from the world (Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 5:17; 1 John 2:15-17). There is no doubt that drunkenness is of the world, an unfruitful work of darkness. There is also no doubt that one cannot be drunk if he does not drink. How then can a Christian even think of dabbling with something that will cause his soul to be lost? Is the Christian truly having "no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness" if he has "a little drink" now and then? Most certainly not.

Drinking beverage alcohol in any amount is wrong. Christians must have no part of it, no matter what the world may say. But if any still doubt the danger of it, answer this question: Is your soul worth it?

WOT

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Bradley Cobb, Springfield, MO

Have you ever heard religious people talk about making Jesus their "PERSONAL" Lord and Saviour? We all know that when you become a Christian, Jesus becomes our Savior and our Lord. But why do they stress the word "personal"? Is there something we're missing here?

How can you tell if it's personal?

Have you ever had someone say something that aggravated you? Perhaps they insulted your favorite football team. Perhaps they contradicted you on politics. Perhaps they spoke ill of your family. Perhaps they even insulted you. How did that make you feel? Mad? Upset? Why would that be? It's because those things are all personal to us. Our family means a lot to us. To some, college football is their life and to insult their team is to insult them. If someone insults you, does it not hurt? Is there something that gets you bent out of shape? You know those things are personal.

Do you feel the same way when someone uses the Lord's name in vain? What about when someone speaks of the earth being here for billions of years (contrary to the Biblical record)? Does it really bother you when people twist the Word of God around and lie about what it teaches? If someone trashing Arkansas bothers you more than someone trashing the Bible, then something is wrong. Your relationship with Christ is not personal.

Do you have a friend that you would always stand up for? Perhaps someone you've known for a long time and would do anything for? If someone called them stupid, or went so far as to even hit them, would you stand up for this friend? Christ should be your best friend. If you are not willing to stand up for Christ as He's insulted, you do not have a personal relationship with Him. You know the words of the song:

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus,
No not one, no not one. There's not an
Hour that he is not near us. No not one,
No not one. Jesus knows all about our
Struggles. He will guide till the day is done.

That's personal! We need to make sure our relationship with Christ is personal. But how?

Making it Personal through Study

The scriptures can make us wise (2 Tim.3:15). I've often heard wisdom described as the ability and understanding to apply knowledge to ourselves and others. How are we to even know who Christ is if we do not study the scriptures?

All scripture came from God (2 Tim.3:16-17)! And in studying it, we must be perfect or complete, and fully ready and able to accomplish all the good that can be done! *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Tim.2:15). All these verses show the benefit of studying God's Word. But how does that make it personal? After all, many people study the Bible like they study for a history test. They memorize the main names, places, and events and can rattle them off without much problem, but they still don't understand the reasons for them. Yes, they know Jesus was born and died on the cross, but do they know **why**?

When you study the Bible and look beyond just the people, places, and events you can start to see what you need to learn from it. For example: Jesus died on the cross as a perfect sacrifice for us. Sin came into the world, and those who sinned deserved death. God, in his grace, allowed animal sacrifices to be used in place of the sinners. Then Jesus came to earth and allowed himself to be the ultimate sacrifice, and in doing so, ended all need for animal sacrifices, as well as paying the debt that we owed--that being our own lives because of our sin (Rom.6:23). That's pretty important.

What kind of person would go before the judge and say "I know Brad's been sentenced to death for what he's done, but I would like to take the death sentence in his place."? Only a true, personal friend. So, we can see in just reading about Jesus on the cross that he's ready and willing to be a true personal friend to us. Are we ready to make the same commitment to him?

Making it Personal through Prayer

Studying is great for accumulating knowledge, but it is still not enough. If we want to continue getting wisdom (the ability to make knowledge apply personally), we must pray to God and ask for it (James 1:5)! Why, though? Is not study of the Word of God enough? No it is not! Please understand, I am not saying that God will give us some knowledge that is not found in

scripture, but he will give us better understanding and wisdom on how that knowledge applies to us. Even the most intelligent person on the planet is still not even on the same playing field as God is. God knows and understands infinitely more than us: *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa.55:9).*

While praying for wisdom is all well and good, there are more reasons to make it personal through prayer. We are to be in constant contact with God (Pray without ceasing - I Thes. 5:17). When you have a problem with something, who do you turn to? Who do you tell it to? A friend, right? Be it your spouse, or a friend you’ve known for a while, telling someone your troubles, problems, and concerns always seems to make things better. Especially is this true when you have someone who understands what you’re going through. Why are so many people willing to tell their troubles to a friend, but not to God? Should God not be the FIRST one we turn to with our problems and cares? After all, he’s the only one who can actually do anything for every problem we have!

You’ll notice that the more you talk to someone, the better friend they will be. It is the same way with God. The more you talk to him (and listen to what he says to you through his word), the better friend you will have. As the old saying goes, *“To have a friend, you must first be a friend”* (see Prov.18:24). Be in constant conversation with God.

Making it Personal in our Worship

It is high time that we stop worrying about whether we--or anyone else--are hitting the right notes, or singing in the right key. Like Paul says, if our actions are not done in love, they are useless (1 Cor.13:1-3)! Our concentration should be on the words we are singing. When we focus on what we are singing, and why we are singing it (I Cor 14:15), it becomes personal. Have you ever written a letter to someone you love, or a poem? When you read it to them, is it not meaningful and personal to you? Singing songs to praise God should be done with just as much--in fact more--meaning!

When we take of the Lord’s Supper, is it just a nibbling on some bread and sipping some grape juice? What are you thinking about when you partake of them? Remember what the Lord said, : we are showing His death until He comes again (1 Cor.11:26. We are looking back to his death, and forward to his coming again.

Should we stop doing these things if we aren’t “feeling” like it? By all means, NO! When you stop singing, you not only discourage yourself, but those around you as well. You may cause other people to take notice of

you and lose their focus.

Psychologists and counsellors have a saying that they use quite frequently. Feelings follow actions. If you have a problem feeling happy, start acting like you’re happy, and you’ll be surprised that you will soon begin to feel the way you are acting. Many movie stars have confessed this is true. The late Charlton Heston told that after acting the part of Moses in the movie the Ten Commandments, he really began to feel more like he could follow God and lead people.

Continue to sing, and participate in the worship service. But when you do it, try to think about what you are doing, and why you are doing it. That will help make it more personal.

Making it Personal through Action

You’ve all heard about “just saying the sinner’s prayer” and “inviting Jesus into your heart.” Nowhere in the entire Bible is one instructed to pray for salvation. If that was necessary, then obviously the Holy Spirit would have seen fit to include that in the scriptures. But he didn’t. So, what action is needed to make it personal?

First one must believe that Christ really is the Son of God, as said in Scriptures (John 8:24). If you don’t believe in Him, you’d have no reason to want a relationship with him. If you don’t believe He’s the Son of God and that He was raised from the dead, you’d have no reason to want a personal relationship with Him.

Second you must repent of your sins. If you aren’t willing to put away your old life and live for Jesus, he can’t help you. In fact, He said that if you don’t repent you will perish (Luke 13:3!

You must confess. The Ethiopian eunuch confessed his belief before God and Phillip after being taught (Acts 8:37). Jesus also says that if you don’t confess Him before men, He won’t confess you before God (Matt.10:32-33). That means if you’re not willing to confess Christ before men, you’ve not got Him as your friend.

You must be baptized. It’s stated over and over throughout the New Testament. baptism saves! Baptism makes us Christians! It puts us into Christ (Gal.3:27)! It’s the way we accept Christ’s friendship and tell Him that we will be His friend too!

After entering into that personal relationship with Christ, we must continue to make it more and more personal. Even if every person on earth were your close friend, no one could be closer than Jesus Christ. We must make it more personal through study, through prayer, through worship, and through our actions.

Won’t you make it personal?

ASK A BIBLE QUESTION

QUESTION: Why do churches divide and why are hard feelings allowed to exist between Christians?

ANSWER: Churches usually divide because of pride or personal ambitions by individuals involved. Division occurs because of doctrinal differences, where legitimate lines of right and wrong are drawn. Sometimes churches split because of a power struggle with certain individuals insisting on preeminence (3 Jn. 9). Regardless of the cause, division is wrong, its origin being carnality rather than spirituality (1 Cor. 3:1-3)! Paul insisted that "there be no divisions among you" (1 Cor. 1:10). He feared finding these same people in "strife" and having to "bemoan men which have sinned already" (2 Cor. 12:20-21). Paul instructed the Romans to "mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Rom. 16:17-18). They were condemned for having served their own belly and not the Lord Jesus Christ. They were to withdraw from these wicked individuals as with other disorderly conduct found in 2 Thess. 3:6-15. Christians are to walk, not in strife, envying and jealousy, because "love worketh no ill to his neighbor" (Rom. 13:10-13). Jesus taught that those who are the "children of God" are peacemakers, not troublemakers (Mt. 5:9). Division and strife are caused by "disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of truth." They strive for personal gain, consenting to unwholesome words and ungodliness, and not the doctrine of the Lord Jesus. Faithful Christians are to "withdraw thyself" (1 Tim. 6:3-5) from such. "The servant of the Lord must not strive" (2 Tim. 2:23), but exercise "repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (v. 25). Jealousy and strife are not from above but are sensual, devilish and earthly (Jas. 3:14-18).

—Mark N. Posey
Decatur, AL