

The Even-Handed Justice of Man

“A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work.” (Proverbs 16:11, NKJV).

In this exhortation of the Holy Spirit, the king over his people is not one who is to sustain his own pleasures with corrupting influences. Instead, he lives by the standard that is of God. When issues need to be properly judged, the king is to have a standard that is even-handed and right.

The only standard known to man that is that way is the standard that belongs to the Lord. Too often man gets in the way of himself as he tries to administer justice; the subjectivity of evaluating motives makes justice not even-handed at all!

A prime example of this is secular progressivism/liberalism. There is no chance for justice to be rendered even-handedly across the board because the standard of measurement is always floating, changing and fluid. My friends, reject the ways of man (Proverbs 14:12) and accept the ways of the Lord.

- Ron Thomas served as preacher and an elder for the Highway Church of Christ, Sullivan, IL



The Worker

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Salty or Seasoned With Salt?

Have you ever heard anybody's speech/language described as "salty?" You don't hear that expression as much as has been the case in the past. What it usually is referring to is what could also be described as "very colorful language." In other words, we are talking about something that is, at best, questionable and, at worst, vulgar.

In those days when this expression was more common, "salty language" was offensive to most people. To be sure, there were those who thought it was cute, funny, etc., but most people were turned off by both the language and the person using it.

All of this came to mind when I recently thought of Paul's admonition to Christians in Colossians 4:6 --- Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

I believe it is fairly obvious that Paul was not advocating rude, crude, vulgar, offensive, and/or suggestive language. What, then, could he have meant?

The answer may be found in our Lord's dealing with a person we sometimes refer to as the "woman at the well" (cf. John 4:4ff). As you read this account of His earthly ministry, you will notice that He was critical of both her lifestyle and her religion. He made it very clear that He approved of neither.

However, He was able to discuss these matters with her in a way that did not offend her. Instead, He was able to communicate in a way that turned her into one of His "promoters." It could be said that His discussion of "living water" made her thirsty for something she did not have.

Speech that is gracious, seasoned with salt has a way of doing that. Salty language does not!

As I interact with people, I need to ask myself whether my speech and my lifestyle create in others a desire to know more about Jesus or if they alienate people. Do I give people hope or do I make them feel hopeless? Do I offer help or do I write people off?

How about you? Is your speech salty or is it seasoned with salt?

The eternal destiny of others --- and yourself --- may depend on your answer.

- Jim Faughn serves as an elder and preacher for the Central Church of Christ in Paducah KY.

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "America Needs the Bible for a Proper Education" John 8:31-38

Sunday Evening: "A Beautiful Prayer"

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Leon Stocksdale
Scripture Hank Tincher
Sermon **Eric Welch**
Lord's Supper
Message Jerry Casey
Attendant Art Patrick
Attendant Greg Blanton
Closing Prayer Irvin Williams

PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
Bible Reading Robby Stocksdale
Selection 31
Prayer Ryan Irwin
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton
*If you are unable to serve, please
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Harold Tincher
Lord's Supper Rick Martin
Offering Joe Sweeney
Usher Jerry Montgomery
Count Offering Robby Stocksdale
Assist Count Joe Sweeney

Last Sunday

Offering \$3,346
Attendance 94

Do You Have Any Questions?

Eric Welch

How was Jesus, the Master teacher, so successful in teaching others? I believe it was because He used a common rabbinic method of question and answer in His time. Jesus often used the method of answering a question with a question to diffuse an insincere question posed by a hostile audience trying to trap Him (cf. Matthew 23)

Sometimes Jesus' questions force His opponents to see their inconsistency (was the baptism of John from God or from men?). Others were meant for people to make life-changing decisions: do you want to be healed? (John 5:6). Do you also want to go away? (John 6:67). "Who do people say that I am?" "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:13, 15).

Sometimes Jesus did answer questions directly when he found the inquirer to be sincere. When the teacher of the Law asked which commandment was most important (Mark 12:28-31), the man could benefit most by a direct answer from the Master Teacher.

Having said this, what is your favorite passage in the Bible? What passage do you find confusing or especially helpful? What topics or questions would you like to be addressed from the pulpit in a sermon? You will have an opportunity to answer these questions on a sermon request form that I will make available Sunday October 2.

I invite everyone from Hamburg Pike, from youngest to oldest, to fill out the form, sign, date and return it to me as soon as possible. I ask that the form be signed and dated so that I can have a record of it and so that I can give a reason in case someone questions why I chose to speak on a specific topic. I will keep your name confidential. Thank you for your cooperation in helping me plan for sermons in 2017.

His Name Was Art

By Ron Adams

He grew up in a rough neighborhood and associated with gang members. His home life was far from ideal.

He met a young girl whose family worshiped where I preached. He started coming to services with them. After some time he obeyed the Gospel.

He was admonished to stay away from his old friends and he did so for a while. But on one occasion he was with an old friend and they committed a crime. He was sentenced to a year in prison.

I visited him often and stressed that when he was released he needed to stay far away from such friends.

After his release, he seemed to be doing better. That is, until I received a phone call telling me that he had been killed while robbing a gas station with an old friend. How tragic!

Why am I writing this? To graphically impress on the minds of young people these truths: Bad friends will influence you.

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." 1 Corinthians 15:33

New ways of living must replace old ways, or you will revert to the old ways.

"When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first." Luke 11:24-26

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet October 3rd at 6:30 pm; the meal theme is Mexican.

Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled for October 21st thru the 23rd at 7:00 pm on Friday and Saturday with regular class and worship times on Sunday. The speaker is Jack Honeycutt. The lesson titles: "The Origin and Development of Islam," "The Real Agenda," "Bible vs. Quran," "Jesus vs. Muhammad." Flyers are available in the foyer.

In preparation for our gospel meeting, a work day is scheduled at the building for Saturday October 9th. We will start about 8:00am and work until around noon.

A congregational trip to the Cornucopia Farm is planned for Saturday October 1. We will meet at the farm at 1:00PM; the address is 5444 N Rutherford Hollow Rd, Scottsburg, IN 47170. The admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for kids 3-12, \$7 for seniors 65+. Kids under 3 are free. See Ashley Smith for additional information.

¹ *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,*

nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

² *but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Psalm 1:1, 2