

## FROM THE PEN OF PAUL: REACTIONS TO THE TRUTH

As long as time and man have existed there has been a variety of reactions to the truth. Pilate asked, “What is truth” (Jn. 18:38)? Jesus said of the Father’s Word, “Thy word is truth” (Jn. 17:17). The truth is something that we can know. Jesus said, “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:32). How man reacts to the truth will determine his destiny and where he will be in eternity. How do we react to truth today?

**Some are offended.** Jesus, after stating truth to the scribes and Pharisees, was informed by his disciples, “Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying” (Matt. 15:12)? They were offended but it was not because Jesus had not told the truth, nor because he had been ugly in his presentation. They were offended because they did not like what he said. The same thing often happens today. When the truth is preached on any given subject, those who do not plan to make any changes in their lives to make them conform to the truth often become offended at the speaker. However this does not change the truth. Truth is still truth even when folks become offended at it.

**Some became angry.** It is easier to get angry at the messenger than it is to be honest with truth. Some become angry when their doctrine is shown to be false. But, instead of giving up the false teaching and embracing the truth, they become angry. Paul asked the Galatians, “Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth” (Gal. 4:16)? Some become angry when it is pointed out from the Scriptures that baptism is a necessary part of the plan of salvation; others become angry when they learn that the Bible teaches that there is but “one body” which is the church (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4). They become angry when the application is made which shows that all denominational churches are churches of men and that one cannot be saved in them. Some become angry when taught the truth about New Testament worship. This list could go on and on. But, as in the previous point, getting angry when the truth is preached does not change the truth.

The truth is still the truth no matter how mad I get when I learn it.

**Some walk no more with Him.** In John 6, following some difficult teaching by Jesus, we are told, “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him” (Jn. 6:66). When Jesus asked the twelve, “Will ye also go away?” Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life” (Jn 6:67-68). Those disciples that went away rejected these very words of eternal life. Jesus lost some disciples, but those disciples lost their souls. Truth was not affected.

**Some do not believe.** To some of the Jews Jesus said, “And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not...And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me” (Jn. 8:45-46)? If God, “that cannot lie” (Titus 1:2), said it, then it is true. Whether I believe it or not does not alter that fact. Sometimes, today, when you tell men what God requires for them to do to be saved, their response is, “I don’t believe that.” However, if it is the truth, their refusal to believe does not keep it from being the truth.

**Some, on the positive side, receive the word gladly.** The reaction of some on Pentecost is reported in these words: “Then they that gladly received the word were baptized” (Acts 2:41). And in Acts 4:4, we learn that when the truth was preached, “many of them which heard the word believed.” If you read carefully you will also see that when the taught word was “received gladly” and “believed,” obedience to the things taught followed. After Philip had “preached Jesus” “beginning at the same Scripture” that the Eunuch was reading, he asked, “See, here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch; and he baptized him” (Acts 8:30-38).

**How about you?** There are a number of ways to react to the truth. You can become angry or offended at it. You can reject it; refuse to listen to it. You can deny that it is truth. You can believe it or refuse to believe it. But whatever reaction you have will not change the truth; and no matter how hard you try

nor how greatly you embrace false teaching, it can never become truth. But remember that how you receive and react to the Word of God will determine where you are in eternity. James 1:22 says: “...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

**Paul M. Wilmoth** *from Eastside Edifier*

---

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES: GENESIS 6:13-22

God has always given instructions or a pattern for anything He wants man to do. God has always shown disapproval when His instructions are not followed and His approval when His instructions are followed.

Noah is a good example of one following God’s instructions exactly as He gave them. “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he” (v.22). There are those today that say it doesn’t matter how we worship God; we can worship Him any way we desire. But the Bible is filled with examples of what God wants His followers to do

In the example of the ark, God gave specific instructions: (1) The ark was to be built of gopher wood. (2) The ark was to have rooms in it. (3) The inside and outside was to be coated with pitch. (4) The exact measurements of its length, width, and height were given. (5) A light or window was to be provided. (6) The ark was to be three stories high. (7) It was to have a door in its side.

Remember all of mankind had become corrupt and only “Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord” (v. 8). In order for Noah to continue to find favor with the Lord, he had to continue to obey Him. This Noah did, following God’s instructions exactly as given by God in building the ark.

It is the same for us today if we want to find favor in the eyes of the Lord. We are not required to build an ark, but we are expected to follow His instructions in the New Testament if we want to go to heaven.

**Tommy Stacks** *from Eastside Edifier*

## BIRTHDAYS

Jessica Carter, 12-30; Tim Dillingham, 12-31.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Kathleen Camp, Taylor and Brooke Nemecek, Lindsey Brown (AM), Millie Robertson (PM).

Cleo Stone continues his radiation treatments at Olathe Medical Center. Allen Scott continues to recuperate at home. Bob Adams' outpatient surgery was successful.

**Those battling cancer:** Jamal Abyad, David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

The Nemecheck's visited relatives in Abilene, Kansas last week. The Thrasher's were visiting with relatives last weekend. The Brown's visited relatives in Texas over the holidays. We had some who were absent last week due to inclement weather, among them were: Dee Adams, Lynda Cole, Tammy Marcum and Tom Tucker.

## POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next week, January 6 following our AM worship. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the good food and company!

## BUDGET PRESENTATION

Our treasurer, George Thomas, will present our 2008 budget on January 6 at 5:15 PM in the auditorium. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend this presentation.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 37; Sunday PM, 27; Wednesday PM, 22.

## Those To Serve

December 30, 2007

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Parish**

### MORNING WORSHIP

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher**  
**SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... George Thomas**  
**PRESIDE..... John Dodson**  
**ASSIST..... Chris Edwards**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown**

### EVENING WORSHIP

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jared Nelson**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemecek**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson**

**WEDNESDAY Jan. 2nd**

**SONG LEADER..... Ted Thrasher**  
**INVITATION ..... George Thomas**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**  
**Phone: (913) 764-2325**  
**E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**515 WEST PARK**

**P.O. BOX 482**

**OLATHE, KANSAS 66051**

**[www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm)**

**[www.oabs.org/olathe.asp](http://www.oabs.org/olathe.asp)**