

the Informer newsletter



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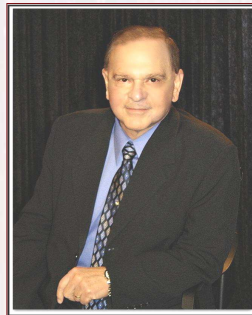
Happy Mother's Day!

LEADERS EMBRACE LIFE FULLY THROUGH ACCURATE ASSESSMENT

By Dr. Henry A. Harbuck / PCAI Int'l President & General Overseer

Have you honestly tried to evaluate yourself, your motives, your traits, your personality, and how you relate to others? If your answer is “no,” you might be headed for trouble. Success and happiness in life are assured if you will take time to assess yourself. Some people tend to avoid self-assessment because they may need to make changes. How do you see yourself? Are you too critical of yourself? Learn to love yourself with the kind of love that doesn't lead to arrogance, but to humility.

Much of your final conclusions concerning personal assessment will be determined by how you see God. Do you see Him as a brutal, harsh, judgmental God of anger and hate? Or do you see Him as a loving, compassionate, non-judgmental Father who wants the best for you? Once you honestly assess yourself accurately, then take appropriate action to rid yourself of doubts and fears. ♥♥



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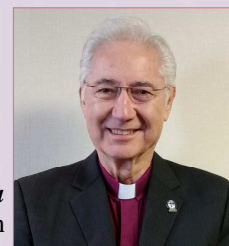
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OFFICE HOURS :
9:00AM to 4:00PM

Obedience Brings Reward part 2

By Pastor Lynn Burling /Christian Faith Church –TX Senior Pastor



Peter's interaction with Jesus by the Sea of Galilee illustrates these important principles. Preface this: Peter and his co-owners were self-made men very adept at catching fish. That was their livelihood and they were as good at it as any around Galilee. Watch this now. ***It is never a happenstance when Jesus appears to walk by in anyone's life or come close through His Word.*** As a matter of fact, be aware if He is stirring your spirit and speaking to you. ***It is the greatest opportunity afforded you,*** the greatest privilege to flourish in life. He uses some small insignificant request or command and it's ***at the moment of OBEDIENCE*** (...or not!) ***when everything changes.*** These men never imagined this ***one obedient encounter by Peter*** would lead them all to ***apostleship*** or to the twelve ***who would sit with Him on thrones in heaven.*** (Matt. 19:27-28 ESV) *"Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me (obeyed me) will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." They could not have known the eternity effect of one small obedience.*

I submit to you that Jesus knows more of who you will become and your potential than your parents or teachers, etc. ***but He will always preface your opportunity with a level of obedience, no matter how small!*** At times it starts small or maybe not in some cases? Most times, we can't see the reason or purpose or its results! It's just, do it and trust! What would you have missed in life if you hadn't? ***EVERYTHING!*** Today by Holy Spirit direction, He is softly saying, my children started well but it takes ***continuous obedience*** to further their destinies. It starts simple and it tests the spirit of man to recognize something beyond this life.

Focus on Peter's interaction with Jesus by the Sea of Galilee (from Luke 5:1-11). It illustrates these important principles. ***Compliance (obedience) in small matters has eternal significance and leads to blessings from God.*** By simply agreeing to ***loan his boat*** to Jesus, Peter was ***called to follow Him,*** called to be a ***fisher of men.*** (vs. 1-3) Maybe obeying is opposed to your schedule. God always messes with our schedules and time. ***Notice:*** Because he successfully obeyed in loaning his boat, Jesus immediately presented another compliance opportunity for success...*"launch out into the deep and let down your nets."*

Jesus' request for Peter to follow him was His third request in the same day...and Peter obeyed all three times. Following Jesus (Obedience) is always beneficial to others. For one thing, Peter's action made it possible for more people to hear Jesus' Word of truth and life. Later on, when Peter assessed his instructions, he gave his opinion, "we've fished all night" but his obedient action made it possible. Jesus was helping him build his trust in Him, ***"at thy Word!"*** When Peter lowered nets back into the water at Jesus' request, ***his obedience translated***

into a huge catch for his co-workers, both a reward AND a sign! In a similar way, when we live out ***biblical principle of obedience*** our families will be enriched and those within our circles of influence will be encouraged to follow our example. (Romans 5:19) *"For by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners...so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."* Hey you, Noah, I've got a job for you. It will take about 100 years to complete. What about overtime! Will I get Universal Health Care? What about my 401 K? How about you and your family get to live! As we share how God responds to our obedience with His goodness, others will be motivated to seek after His Son, Jesus.

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War Memorial Under Fire

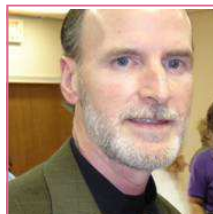
(Church Law Association Excerpt)

The attacks on freedom of religion in this country are growing in intensity and fervor, and unfortunately nothing is safe or sacred any longer. In a case we hoped we would never see in America, the Supreme Court has been hearing arguments today over whether a World War I memorial that features a forty-foot cross to fallen soldiers constitutes, unbelievable, an "excessive government entanglement in religion."

The lawsuit was brought by several atheists who were "offended" every time they drove by the cross. The target of their lawsuit is the famous "Peace Cross of Bladensburg", which lists the names of 49 fallen soldiers from the town of Bladensburg, and includes an inscription dedicating the cross to those heroes.

Arguments over whether religious icons in government constitute "excessive entanglement" are nothing new, and such arguments have unfortunately been successfully made to remove such things as the Ten Commandments from courtrooms. However, the judicial system has also openly acknowledged the importance of history in some cases; for instance, the use of "In God We Trust" on our nation's currency has consistently survived legal challenge (the latest being just last year). In fact, the Supreme Court itself has noted that the Establishment Clause must be interpreted "by reference to historical practices and understandings."

Taylor: What is truth from a Biblical perspective?



By Rev. Michael Taylor / Religion Columnist

Truth is getting a lot of attention these days. With this column, I want to write about truth from a biblical perspective. Webster's dictionary defines truth as the true or actual state of a matter, conformity with fact or reality, a verified or indisputable fact.

In John's gospel, the 14th chapter, Jesus is comforting His disciples. He has told them that He will be betrayed. He also tells them that He shall only be with them a little while longer. He also tells them that where He is going, they cannot come. All of this, of course, is Jesus preparing them for His death and crucifixion and His subsequent raising from the dead to be at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven.

As He speaking to them Thomas said to Him, "Lord we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus then said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

This is a powerful statement because Jesus is saying if you want to get to Heaven you must come through Me. In other words, believe in the Son of God and be saved. Jesus also said to Thomas, "I am truth." How can Jesus be truth if truth is a thing and not a person. We know from Webster's definition above that truth is a verified or indisputable fact not a person.

However, when we look at this from a biblical perspective, we have a better understanding why Jesus said, "I am truth."

Jesus is the Son of God. He is the second person of the Trinity. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. The Bible says in John's gospel that "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God, and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

John's gospel gives us three vital truths about the word which is Jesus. That He existed in the beginning, He was with God the Father and by His divine nature He is God. John's gospel also says that the Word became flesh. That is to say that Jesus Christ who is divine became a man and dwelt temporarily among us.

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Obedience Brings... continued from page 2

God may tell us to respond or act in ways that make little sense. Abraham, go! Where? Just go! Sampson, no haircuts for you **forever!** Adam, everything in here is yours but don't eat of **that tree!** Elijah, I've commanded a widow woman **there** to feed you! Joshua, march around the walls six times and tell all, no speaking but on the seventh time shout! That doesn't make sense. Kill a lamb put the blood on your doorposts or else! Don't use strange fire! Don't use my recipe for holy anointing oil, for yourselves. Isaiah, walk naked for three years (His backside was uncovered.) Abraham, sacrifice your son. Yes Sir. Peter, catch fish and the first one will have money in it. You must eat my flesh and drink my blood...obedience to these commands got their names in the Book of Life and into the book we esteem as sacred!

God has a plan for our eternal good and for His glory and it is not foolish to obey Him. Like Peter, we have no idea what God will do in and through us, **if we commit to living a life of obedience.** What might we have forfeited over our lifetime by not responding to His voice? You can trust his voice. How many others have missed out by disobedience?

Some drift in dry places for a year or two and wonder what happened. It cost a whole generation of 600,000 fighting men of Israel not to enter into the promised land. What might have been, could have, would have, should have. (I Peter 2:7-8 ESV) "*So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense". They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*" We would never have heard of certain men and women if they had not obeyed; Abraham, Noah, Mary, 12 disciples, Jeremiah, 3 Hebrews. I think you get the picture. There is a glorious end to those who **obey Him at His Word.** How could the principles of obedience be so powerful, that they take me to my destiny? **Obedience is the first law of heaven.** It is the principle through which the designs and purposes of God are accomplished. *Even hesitation can cause an elongated arrival to your purpose or...a swing and a miss!* Connect by obeying period. ♥♥♥

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

M-O-T-H-E-R

"M" is for the million things she gave me,

"O" means only that she's growing old,

"T" is for tears she shed to save me,

"H" is for her heart of purest gold;

"E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining,

"R" means right and right

she'll always be. Out them all together, they spell

"MOTHER". A word that means the world to me.



Employees Sue Your Church/Ministry *(Excerpt from Church Finance Today)*

Twenty years ago, employment practices liability insurance (EPLI) policies were scarce. Even a decade ago, most employers didn't purchase that type of coverage. That has changed.

"Churches have this belief that they don't have these type of issues and that they would never have an employee sue them," said Cori Cable, associate corporate counsel with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Co. "But the fact is it does happen. There may have been a time a few decades ago where churches were rarely sued by employees, but that is no longer the case. Employment practice claims against churches are now more common, and it's because of allegations of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and other wrongful termination acts. The damages awarded through settlement, and judgments are increasing, too.

Many churches don't see themselves as employers in the traditional sense, said Brian Gleason, senior risk manager for GuideOne Insurance. Therefore, they don't consider the risks and potential negative outcomes like for-profit businesses might.

"In some ways, churches are probably more at risk than many businesses in that both the board and the supervisor, who likely is the pastor, do not have significant experience in human resources issues," says Gleason. "So they are more likely to make mistakes in the process than average business owners."

Most churches carry insurance policies such as comprehensive general liability (CGL) which protect against liability claims for bodily injury, property damage, and personal injury. Other types of insurance that are commonly carried by churches are classified as personal liability or malpractice insurance and may be known as Directors and Officers Insurance and Error and Omissions Insurance. These protect employers and often the managers who work for them by providing coverage for negligent acts, omissions, or misleading statements that result in lawsuits being filed against the company.

However, Cable said, typically none of these types of insurance address employment claims, which deal specifically with perceived wrongful acts involving employees or applicants and generally are specifically excluded under standard general liability coverage.

Yes, this also includes perceived wrongful acts against prospective employees. And employer – including a church – is exposed to the risk of such lawsuits even before hiring for a position, according to data provided by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. A prospective employee may file suit against a church by alleging discrimination after an interview, for example.

Churches also mistakenly think such claims will be covered under another type of policy they already have.

"I would say to those in ministry don't realize there's pretty much an industry standard exclusion for claims that arise in the employment context," said Steve Case, assistant vice president and senior corporate counsel at Brotherhood Mutual. "So if an employee sues a ministry for bodily injury, emotional injury, harassment or anything like that, there are exclusions in the general liability forms specifically for those types of claims. That is why ministries have to pick up other coverage, such as workers' compensation, to cover employee bodily injury claims and EPLI to cover other employment-related claims brought by employees."

Most EPLI policies address up to 20 acts that precipitate employment-related claims. Anything that can hurt an employee of a church could be converted into a claim, Bentz said. Inequities in pay, failure to promote, or inadequate supervision are examples as are failure to institute or enforce a policy. Denial of tenure is another. Obviously the threat is different if you have 5 employees as if you had 500 but you can see the variation of claims you might get."

Taylor: What is Truth... continued from page 3

As Christians we take a biblical world view. That is to say that we see truth and what is true according to the word of God. The holy Bible. That is why Jesus being the word could say I am truth. That is not to say however that truth as defined by Webster's is wrong.

Truth is in fact a verified or indisputable fact. We just believe as Christians the facts are laid out in the Bible. We believe every answer to life and the truth on any topic is laid out in the Bible. Jesus was saying to us it is an indisputable fact

that I am the Son of God. I am the way, the truth and the life.

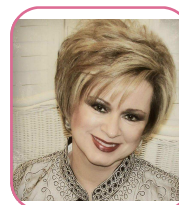
Our challenge during these difficult days in our world's history is to get into the word for ourselves and seek out the truth. In a world today of much fake news and made up facts should we not at least study the Bible and see what God has to say to us on each new topic?

My hope and prayer are that many will search it out and find in fact that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.♥♥♥

Church/Ministry Tax Date to Remember

May 15th

If you are required to file a 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, 990-T it is due by this date.



Keep good records!
Dr. Jan Harbuck - PCAI
Office
Need Help?
Call 1-866-268-5600