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East Columbus Bulletin

WHEREFORE, PUTTING AWAY..."

"Wherefore, putting away falsehood, speak ye truth each one with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath..." (Ephesians 4:25-26).

In verses 24-32 a series of "don'ts" and "do's" are given, all on the basis of a conclusion Paul made in verses immediately preceding them. In verses 22-24 he had urged that Ephesians put off the old man and put on the new man who is an imitation of God, which new man "has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth." These practical and essential commands are often prefaced by the word "let", which word appears often in Paul's letters, nine times in Ephesians.

Because he urged that the "old man" be "put off" and says to put away "falsehood," one understands that "falsehood" is part of that old man. Of course, that should be fully understood without explicitly saying so. The devil is a masterful liar. In his cunning deception he beguiled Eve to eat the forbidden fruit by his denial of God's warning, "In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). He is called the great deceiver and "when he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar and the father thereof" (Revelation 12:9; John 8:14). Rather than speaking a lie, we should speak truth for, after all, such must be our conduct if we imitate God. He cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

Next comes the exhortation, "be ye angry and sin not. Let not the sun go down upon your wrath." He returns to this appeal later in the same

Times of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- The Pines/Cady Hills Bible Study -Sun. & Thurs. at 7:00 p.m.
- Young Bible Scholars --To be announced.
- Lady's Bible Classes at YMCA – To be announced.
- Don't forget homebound members can view the Sunday Bible Class live (9:00 a.m.) and Sunday Sermon (about 10:20 a.m.) on Facebook on the public East Columbus church of Christ Facebook page or view afterwards streaming anytime.

News and Notes

- **Prayer Requests:** Doug Wheeler, Steve Coburn, and Mike Butler, Lee Gallop
- **Others to Remember:** Wade McCrary, Jim Ratcliff, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler. Willena Woods is in Windsor Place (visits available by appointment only).
- **Sick:** Steve Coburn had successful hip surgery 9/28. Benny Parker had successful foot surgery 9/28. Wade McCrary is recovering from a shoulder injury.
- **Deaths:** Our prayers and sympathy go out to the Wheeler Family following the death of Pat Wheeler on Wednesday, November 3rd. Services are at Gunter Peel on Sunday November 7th. Visitation is 1:00 p.m. beginning and services to be held at 3:00 p.m.

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passage, saying "put away wrath, anger" (vs. 31). The command, "be angry and sin not", is an implication that one may be angry, yet not sin. Such is not likely, but still possible. Jesus was angry because of the hardness the heart of some of His adversaries (Mark 3:5). Paul's Galatian letter evidenced anger because false teachers were enticing the Galatians to accept things as gospel that were no part of the gospel. He warned, "Though we, or an angel from heaven should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we have preached unto you, let him be anathema" (Galatians 1:9). There is righteous anger when the downtrodden are stomped ever lower, when innocent children are abused, and when the aged are fleeced out of their life savings by unscrupulous men who are concerned only with themselves.

Still, there is danger that anger which is not wrong might develop into sin: when anger at an injustice turns into a burning desire for revenge, to inflict injury on the one with whom one is angry, thus the appeal, "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Speedy reconciliation and forgiveness is the apostle's thought—an important rule to apply in all human relationships, especially in close family ties. How often do people grieve for lost opportunities of giving or seeking forgiveness after a loved one dies. There can hardly be a torment greater than that a parent has died and the surviving child was estranged from that parent, or perhaps had spoken some unkind word or shouted, "I hate you." In such instances the adjustment and acceptance of the death of a loved one will never come or will be long delayed because the surviving one did let the sun go down upon his wrath, did not settle his differences with the other, before the end of the day. "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath" is essential to our own peace of mind and preserving healthy, wholesome and loving relationships with others.

Let us recognize and appreciate the divine wisdom in this command from God!

Jim McDonald <http://www.lawofliberty.com>

God Has Spoken: Truth Versus Falsehood

Plain language is needed to distinguish truth and falsehood. Politeness must not get in the way of clarity nor diminish the seriousness of error and lying. Jesus said to Jews who refused to accept the truth, "You are of your father

the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). Those who follow after lying are following the devil. That is deadly in its seriousness. No lie is of the truth (1 John 2:21), so we should never confuse the two opposites.

The true church is the Lord's (Matthew 16:18), not mine, yours, or ours. Acceptable worship is "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24), not after the teachings of men (Matthew 15:9). Brotherly love is according to truth, but "if someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20). Truth declares that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Matthew 16:16-20); therefore, whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ is a liar (1 John 2:22-23). Following truth makes one free (John 8:31-32), but following lies leads to condemnation (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12). "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

False doctrines concerning obedience are lies. Truth declares that obedience is necessary to salvation (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:8-9). Truth teaches that faith in Christ, repentance of one's sins, confession of faith in Christ, and baptism for remission of sins are essential acts for salvation from one's past sins in order to become children of God (John 8:24; Luke 24:46-47; Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32; Acts 2:38). To teach justification by faith alone is to teach a lie. (James 2:24,26). Truth is offensive to those unwilling to receive it. We cannot change that reality and we must not hide truth in a cloak of false politeness in order to proclaim a message inoffensive to anyone. Should we offend God rather than those who will not receive the truth?

Gilbert Alexander