

It seems to me the Lord is saying, "If you expect me to take extenuating circumstances into account as I judge you, then you had better be doing the same toward your fellowman. If you hold them to the 'letter of the law,' then you can expect the same from me toward you." There would be a lot less criticism, a lot more forgiveness and a lot less grudge-holding if we would just keep this in mind. You will never regret not holding a grudge and the fact that you forgave another. (To be continued.)

Written by; Kenneth E. Thomas

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Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com



Some Things You Will Never Regret (I)

Who would dare say the he never did anything that he didn't later regret? Probably no one in his right mind. John, by inspiration, says that the man who says he has not sinned makes God a liar and His word is not in him (1 John 1.10). Certainly one whose heart isn't hardened though the deceitfulness of sin will regret past mistakes and repent of them (2 Corinthians 7.10; Hebrews 3.13). Let's study about some things you will never have to repent of, and for which you will never have any regret.

You will never regret telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. When you tell the truth, you don't have to worry about remembering what you told. When the subject comes up again you simply relate the facts as they are and it will always be the same. This cannot be said of those who practice deceit. They must always be careful so as not to be tripped up when the subject under consideration is discussed and questions are asked. One who so conducts himself must be miserable indeed!

The reason for being honest and truthful should not be because we simply want good human relations; the overriding reason for any morality in life is because we are responsible to our Creator and must give an account one day for the deeds done in the body (2 Corinthians 5.10). Paul admonishes us, "Therefore putting away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another" (Ephesians 4.25, NKJV)...

To the Colossian brethren Paul said, “Do not lie to one another, since you have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Colossians 3.9-10).

Lying is a way of life with many. That’s a fact which you, too, have had to accept sadly. I’m confident as you deal with your fellow man in the market place, on the athletic field, and even over a friendly game around the table, you have found this to be the case. It shouldn’t be surprising that this is so in a world that is under the control of Satan, the “god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4.4). However, even among non-Christians, in past years honesty was more common than it is today. Sadder still, is that many times brethren will be dishonest with you; this is about more than one’s heart can stand. It used to be an isolated case that such would happen and then only under extreme pressure. Even then, when such was brought to light, the brother/sister would humbly admit his/her sin, confess it, and repent with tears. Today, too often you catch a brother/sister in a lie and it doesn’t seem such a big thing to him/her — or even to other brethren. The practices of the world have affected us so that many things which used to cause horror are only mildly protested, if at all, by some.

We must understand that lying will keep one out of heaven, the eternal city of God. “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, NKJV, emphasis mine, KET). You will never regret telling the truth.

Doing your best. If you try as hard as you can to do the best you can do, as my step-father used to say, “That’s all a mule can do.” None of us measure up to our own potential. But something can certainly be said for the one who is always willing to try when called upon to be of service to Christ and to others. Few, if any, will criticize a person who does the very best he can. I don’t believe the Lord will either, but He does expect us to put out effort. In Ecclesiastes 9.10, the wise man said, “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.” Some of the apostles Paul’s enemies said of him that “his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible” (2 Corinthians 10.10b), ...

but he said to the brethren at Rome, “So as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are at Rome also” (Romans 1.15).

Preachers, and other members of the body of Christ: do the best you can with the ability that you have and you will never have any regrets. Make the application of this to every area of your life as a Christian and you can lie down at night with a clear conscience before God and man. See Paul’s statement in Acts 20.17-27.

Thinking before acting or speaking. Someone said, “Be sure you put your mind in gear before you put your mouth in motion.” Paul, by inspiration, said it in these words: “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Colossians 4.6). We sing a beautiful hymn which pleases to us and to others, “Angry words! O let them never from the tongue unbridled slip!” It is so easy to sin in anger. In fact, the Scripture states that “the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (James 1.20, KJV). Knowing this, Paul writes, “Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4.26-27). The old adage, “Think twice before you speak” is good advice because it follows a biblical principle. “Therefore, my brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (James 1.19).

Forgiving another, not holding a grudge. The consequences of “hold a grudge” or being unwilling to “forgive another” are of much greater detriment to the grudge-holder than to the one against whom it is held! We all need mercy, but if we do not extend it to others, God will withhold it from us. Jesus said, “If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6.15) and James informs us, “For judgement is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy (James 2.13, NKJV). We often expect more of others than we ourselves are willing to give. An old Indian proverb said, “Do not judge the other fellow until you have walked three moons in his moccasins.” Jesus said, “Judge not that you be not judged. For with what judgement you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you” (Matthew 7.1-2, NKJV)...