

## TELL ME YOU DIDN'T MEAN IT LORD!

Charles Pogue

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus said, “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you” (Matthew 5:44). The fact that our culture is geared to watching out for old number one in no way modifies, tempers, or sets aside Jesus’ instruction. A young woman known to me was heard to say she would lie if it gave her some kind of advantage. One problem with lying to gain an advantage is that the lie despitefully uses someone else. Another consequence of the lie is that it makes the one suffering wrong an enemy to the liar. The liar will sooner or later face the consequences of the lie, but what about the individual who suffers the wrong brought on by the lie? That is the person Jesus is speaking to in the mountaintop discourse. Do good to your enemy, pray for them; bless not curse!

It is not enough to restrain one’s self from picking up a 2x4 board and knocking the liar upside the head. We must bless not curse, and do good to the one who demonstrates hate. Paul wrote to the Romans, “Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head” (Romans 12:20). The apostle does not mean for us to render good for the evil begrudgingly either, because in the very next verse he writes, “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (verse 21).

When one has been wronged, there are two things to be on guard about: the actions—do not avenge yourself (verse 19), and the attitude—bless, not curse (verse 14). With regard to the former, it may not be too difficult to resist picking up the 2x4. It may not be so easy to have the right attitude toward being wronged, but we develop it, because that is what the Lord commands. A friend of this writer, a man who served many years as a deacon in the church recently passed away. Some of the past words and deeds by a number of his relatives suggest a war over material possessions may arise. Some of his kin may cheat and defraud other family members. If they do, they will have their reward. What of those who are mistreated? They will have the difficult task of keeping their actions and attitudes consistent with the teachings of Christ and Paul. However, they have a consolation. It is the same consolation the beggar Lazarus had. The faithful are carried to Abraham’s bosom, and the sinful, who have made themselves better off through fraud, will have the same end and eternity as the rich man. The difference in where we spend eternity should make all the difference between whether we seek vengeance and harbor a grudge or take wrong joyfully, knowing by returning good for evil, we will have a greater reward than material wealth.

## God’s Definition Of A Good Man

Rod Halliburton

You’ve probably heard someone refer to someone else as a “good man.” But what exactly is meant by such a description of a person? In Jeremiah 5:1, God told Jeremiah to see if he could find a good man. The remainder of the fifth chapter of Jeremiah describes God’s definition of a good man.

First, a good man is one who is careful in his dealings with others (5:1.) The ASV renders this as one who “doeth justly.” Justice is to be determined, not by what is right in our own eyes, but in light of what is in accordance with God’s law (Psalm 119:66.) The man whom God considers a good man is one who is fair and honest in his dealings with others. Those in the early church were said to be “having favor with all the people” because of the exemplary lives they led (Acts 2:47.)

Second, a good man is one who is committed to seeking the truth (5:1.) Because of his desire for the truth, his interest in what is right is greater than his interest in who is right. A good man is one who places a high value upon the truth (John 8:32, I Corinthians 13:6, I Timothy 3:15, II Timothy 2:15, I Peter 1:22.)

Third, a good man is careful in his speech (5:2.) A good man’s speech is consistent with his lifestyle. A good man is one who speaks the truth. A good man is one who keeps his word, never making promises he is incapable of keeping or has no intentions of keeping (Deuteronomy 23:23, Matthew 5:33-37, James 5:12.)

Fourth, a good man is one who receives correction (5:3-5.) God’s chastisement is a manifestation of his love for us. God’s chastisement serves to correct our faults, strengthen our faith, and help prepare us for eternity.

Fifth, a good man is morally pure (5:7-8.) One of the many lessons we learn from the book of Jeremiah is that apostasy always leads to moral decay. As Christians, we are to shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Philippians 2:15.)

Sixth, a good man places his confidence in God (5:17, 24.) The people of Jeremiah’s day foolishly placed their confidence in their walled cities. David wrote that God would be his rock and his fortress (Psalm 18:2.) As Christians, we are to trust in the Lord with all our hearts (Proverbs 3:5-6.)

Seventh, a good man is one who is concerned with the welfare of others (5:28.) The people in Jeremiah’s day were consumed with satisfying their own desires. As Christians, we must be concerned with those who are less fortunate than ourselves (Proverbs 31:20, Ephesians 4:28, James 1:27.)

## NEWS AND NOTES

**"I was sick, and ye visited me..." (Matthew 25:36)**

*Carolyn Tinsley* was moved to Encompass Rehab last Monday, and is in Room 229 by the door.

*Stacy Williams* will have her heart ablation scheduled for a date in July.

*Steve Stoker* received his test results Wednesday, and his doctors have presented him with a new treatment option.

*Jana Nichols* suffered a concussion recently and has been dealing with its effects.

*Billy Joe Kee, father of Terry Joe*, has been in ICU at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville this week suffering from pneumonia and heart issues.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer Request List, and inform us of any needed updates. Also be sure to read any thank you notes we have received that are on the board.

**"Let all things be done unto edifying." (I Corinthians 14:26)**

*Welcome to James and Sandra Johnson* who have placed membership with us. Their address is 4746 Hwy. 358, Paragould, AR 72450. We will post the address and phone number on the bulletin board.

**"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:14)**

*Remember to check on our fellow members and their families during this time to see if any have needs.*

*Also remember that many may be willing to make more time for Bible studies during this difficult time.*

### Those Privileged To Serve

April 12, 2020

### NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

April 12, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING	SUNDAY EVENING	
Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard	Song Leader: Randy Oden	Sunday Bible Study
Opening Prayer: TBA	Opening Prayer: TBA	Sunday AM Worship 92
Closing Prayer: TBA	Closing Prayer: TBA	Sunday PM Worship 41
Bible Reading: TBA	Preacher: Terry Joe Kee	Wednesday Bible Study 26
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee		Contribution \$6120
LORD'S TABLE	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:
Presiding: TBA	Song Leader: Randy Oden	Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
	Opening Prayer: TBA	Proverbs 3:5,6
	Closing Prayer: TBA	
ANNOUNCEMENTS	DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER	
Randy Oden	TBA	

# The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

*"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16)*

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## KeeNotes

We rejoice with all the blessings that come our way. We are truly blessed as a nation, but even more as brethren in Christ. Even when circumstances change and we are troubled on every side we rejoice at all the blessings we have as Christians. These blessings are even more precious at times like these. I am so thankful that my brethren have prayers ascending to the Father in behalf of our nation, the world and one another. May God continue to help us see our blessings and not our troubles today.

We rejoice that during these days we can still be worshiping. Our coming together is a good thing. It rejoices my heart to see my brethren and be surrounded by those who have a like precious faith. It is hard to think that grocery stores are considered essential places to be able to go, but safely meeting to worship while practicing social distancing and sitting at distances far apart while meeting together is considered non-essential. Also, I am so thankful that during these times of distress in our country, we have all the ways of staying in touch and close to one another. Though our live-streaming has been a challenge with cameras and with other issues, it is good to have these ways of staying close. There were commercials which once said a picture is worth a thousand words; well, being able to see and visit with one another by our devices is a good thing.

I wish many could use Skype and Facetime and such things to keep close and in touch. If not for being with my daddy during these troubling times, I would have taken the time to use Facebook more and give lessons which might help troubled souls during troubling times.

We do rejoice that the Johnsons have asked to be identified with the church at Greensboro Road. James and Sandra have been worshiping with us for some time and it is good to get to know them. They live in Paragould and had been trying to spend some time in Sardis, Mississippi doing some fishing but that was cut short and they are back home. We are truly grateful to have them with us and look forward to getting to know them even better as time goes by. If you have not met James and Sandra, please make a point of doing so, even if you must while keeping your distance.

It is hard and a true reminder of how much we enjoy our fellowship, being together and being close to those we love, when we are needing to not hug, shake hands or embrace even when something good happens. Keep praying. If we know anything it is that prayer is powerful and God is truly on His throne.

#### SHEPHERDS

*Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden  
Jody Pickens*

#### DEACONS

*Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Marshall Lands  
Mark Wooten*

#### EVANGELIST

*Terry Joe Kee*

#### MISSIONARIES

*Michael Hughes  
Samrit Kammanee  
Arnold Kelley  
Guyana, South America  
Warren, PA*

#### SERVICES

##### SUNDAY

*Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.*

##### WEDNESDAY

*Bible Study 7:00 p.m.*

#### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

*Hear the Word of God  
Romans 10:17*

*Believe the Word of God  
John 8:24*

*Repent of your sins  
Luke 13:3*

*Confess your faith in Jesus  
as the Son of God  
Romans 10:9,10*

*Be Baptized for the  
remission of your sins  
Acts 2:38*

*Live faithfully  
Revelation 2:10*

*"Where there is no vision,  
the people perish..."  
Proverbs 29:18*

*God Give Us 2020 Vision  
in 2020*