



The Sword

*“And take... the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17

“The Sword” is published weekly by the OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST, as a teaching and information tool for the congregation. Articles are intended to encourage the study of God’s Word every day! — Jack W. McNiell, editor

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“God is Truth... What Are You?” by Peyton Jenkins

So over on Facebook, I'm in a couple of church discussion groups. It is really wonderful to discuss and debate scripture with fellow Christians, and to meet so many Christians from so many places. It can be both rewarding and fun.

Lately, however, discussions on at least one of those boards have started to dip. It seems that too many participants are trying to keep one foot in the church and one foot in the world. You and I know that there is no such thing as a halfway Christian; you're either in or out. But too often, brethren try to do Bible things in worldly ways. They try to filter the scripture through the manners of the world, to create a hybrid morality that will allow them to feel justified in God and yet believe what they want.

I am currently part of a discussion

on lying that illustrates this trend. The discussion started in the typical way: with a hypothetical situation so far in outer space that it's barely worth debate. The proposed situation is one in which a government hostile to Christianity has taken over, and Christians are a hunted species. If you were hiding Christians in your home, and the authorities came knocking on your door, should you turn them in or should you lie? Ultimately, the poster was looking for an example in which it would be okay to lie.

The discussion devolved from there, following a predictable yet frustrating pattern: for a lie to be a lie, it has to have evil intent...Rahab and Abraham lied and they were okay...here's another hypothetical situation...here's some opinion. Out of the current 33 posts, only two quote scripture (one is

from me). Most of the rest deal with semantics and opinions and hypotheticals. **For the record, lying is wrong. Unequivocally, automatically, always wrong.**

Jesus says in John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Satan is the father of all lies. In fact, Christ connects Satan's status as murderer with the fact that "there is no truth in him." In the garden, Satan spiritually murdered Eve through his lies. We throw around terms like "little white lie" but don't stop to think where lies originated, and what their purpose has always been. Satan uses lies to entrap us still today, and while it might seem innocent to fib to spare someone's feelings, that fib is part of a dangerous tradition and leads down a dangerous road. Let me say this again: Satan is a murderer because he is the father of lies.

Revelation 21:8 says that "the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Do you think it is a mistake that the inspirational Spirit included "all liars"

in this list? Do you think it is a mistake that He specifies "all liars", even though He didn't say "all murderers" and "all whoremongers"? God obviously thinks very strongly about lies, and has a punishment prepared for those who insist on telling them. This verse seems harsh to our mortal minds, living in a society that has embraced "little white lies" and the like, but again: Satan created lies; Satan uses them to steal us away. That was their original purpose, and remains their purpose today.

People attempt to use Abraham's lie in Gen. 12:10-13 and Rahab's lie in Josh. 2:3-4 as excuses. The Bible does not record God's words to them or His judgments on them, but make no mistake: their lies were just as damning as anyone else's. God had plans that involved these individuals, and He wasn't going to let their human weakness get in the way of those plans--but the foresight of God does not allow us to adopt the foolishness of men. Abraham and Rahab were chosen by God to fulfill certain tasks, but they were still human. It is absurd to think that their sin is anything but sin.

God is the God of all truth. To tell a lie is to fear the truth, and to fear the truth is to have a lack of faith in God. Put your trust in His faithfulness, His strength, and His wisdom, not in the lies of Satan and the promise of an easy way out. Never be afraid of the truth, for it is of God.

NEWS AND NOTES:

OUR PRAYER LIST:

Congregation:

- Lorene Cooper will be having bypass surgery January 28 at Center Point Hospital
- Please remember in your prayers all who have been sick, bereaved or in the hospital recently: Marjorie Alley, Freda Bentley, Lloyd Cooper, Irene Jennings, Jim O'Connor, Wendell Osborne, Alberta Petering, Opal Reed

Friends & Family:

- Cecil Albertson, from Blue Springs Church of Christ, had knee replacement surgery last week and is doing well.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Oak Grove:

- We will be restarting the Sunday afternoon Bible class from 4:45-5:30 pm each Sunday, beginning Feb. 21. We will be studying Personal Evangelism part 2.

Local Area:

- Mar. 21-24 "Home Grown" Gospel Meeting at Blue Springs Church of Christ

SERVING ONE ANOTHER:

LEADING IN WORSHIP: *January 31*

Announcements: Claude Andrews
Usher: Melvin Lunn
Lord's Table: Dixon Liljegren
West: Brent Hall – Glenn Wyman
East: Hershel Hunt – Walter Hutcherson

Sunday AM

Song Leader: David Wiesemann
Opening Prayer: Bob Alley
Second Prayer: Dustin Hall
Scripture Reader: Richard Petering
Sermon: **1 Chronicles 28:8-9**
"Seeking and Serving the Lord"

Closing Prayer: Roger Stephenson

Sunday PM

Song Leader: Sean McLaughlin
Opening Prayer: Dean Evatt
Sermon: **Deuteronomy 33:27**
"The Eternal God"

Closing Prayer: Tom Dyke

Wednesday Night:

Song Leader: Brayden Shelley

January 27

Devotional: Tom Newberry
Closing Prayer: Darrell Andrews

February 3

Devotional: Jim O'Connor
Closing Prayer: Vint Hall

OUR CURRENT RECORDS:

Wednesday: *January 20*

Bible Class 76

Sunday: *January 24*

Bible Class 82

AM Worship 89

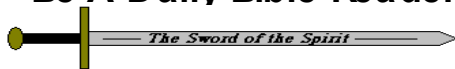
PM Worship 68

Contribution \$1,728

Budget \$2,020

The King James Version is requested for pulpit, classrooms, & scripture reading.

**Keep Your Sword Sharpened
– Be A Daily Bible Reader!**



Work Program 2008-2009

Team	Leader/s	Next Assignment
1	Jack McNeil	Feb. 7
2	Roger Stephenson	Feb. 14
3	Walter Hutcherson	Feb. 21
4	Vernon Logan	Feb. 28
5	Dustin Hall	Mar. 7
6	Roy Smith Tim Smith	Mar. 14
7	Justin Liljegren Dixon Liljegren	Jan. 31

WHO WE ARE:

The Oak Grove Church of Christ is independent of any denominational organization. We are not associated with any national or world headquarters. Yet, we cooperate voluntarily with our sister congregations in the Lord's work and fellowship.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to *"be perfectly joined together in the same mind and ... judgment..."* (1 Cor. 1:10). We try to follow the basic, innocent faith that was proclaimed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

If you are earnest about learning more by means of studying the Holy Bible and obeying what it says, you will truly find a home here at Oak Grove Church of Christ.

Oak Grove Church of Christ

104 SW 6th Street,
Oak Grove, MO 64075 (816) 690-4599
www.ogchurchofchrist.org

Head of the Church:

Christ (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18)

Elders: (1 Tim 3:1-7)

Claude Andrews
Walter Hutcherson
Richard Petering
Lowell Smith

Deacons: (1 Tim 3:8-13)

Darrell Andrews
Dean Evatt
Vint Hall
Hershel Hunt
Leland Reed
Tim Smith
David Wiesemann

Preacher: (2 Tim 4:1-5)

Jack W. McNeil
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– Schedule of Services –

Sunday:

Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.
Worship – A.M. 10:20; P.M. 6:00

Wednesday: Bible Study – 7:00

Bi-Monthly: "House to House / Heart to Heart"