



Today's Sermons

Morning: Worship: Giving
Evening: Worship: Prayer

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	14
Sunday AM Worship	23
Sunday PM Worship	n/a
Wed. Bible Study	n/a
Offering	\$1553



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Minister:

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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

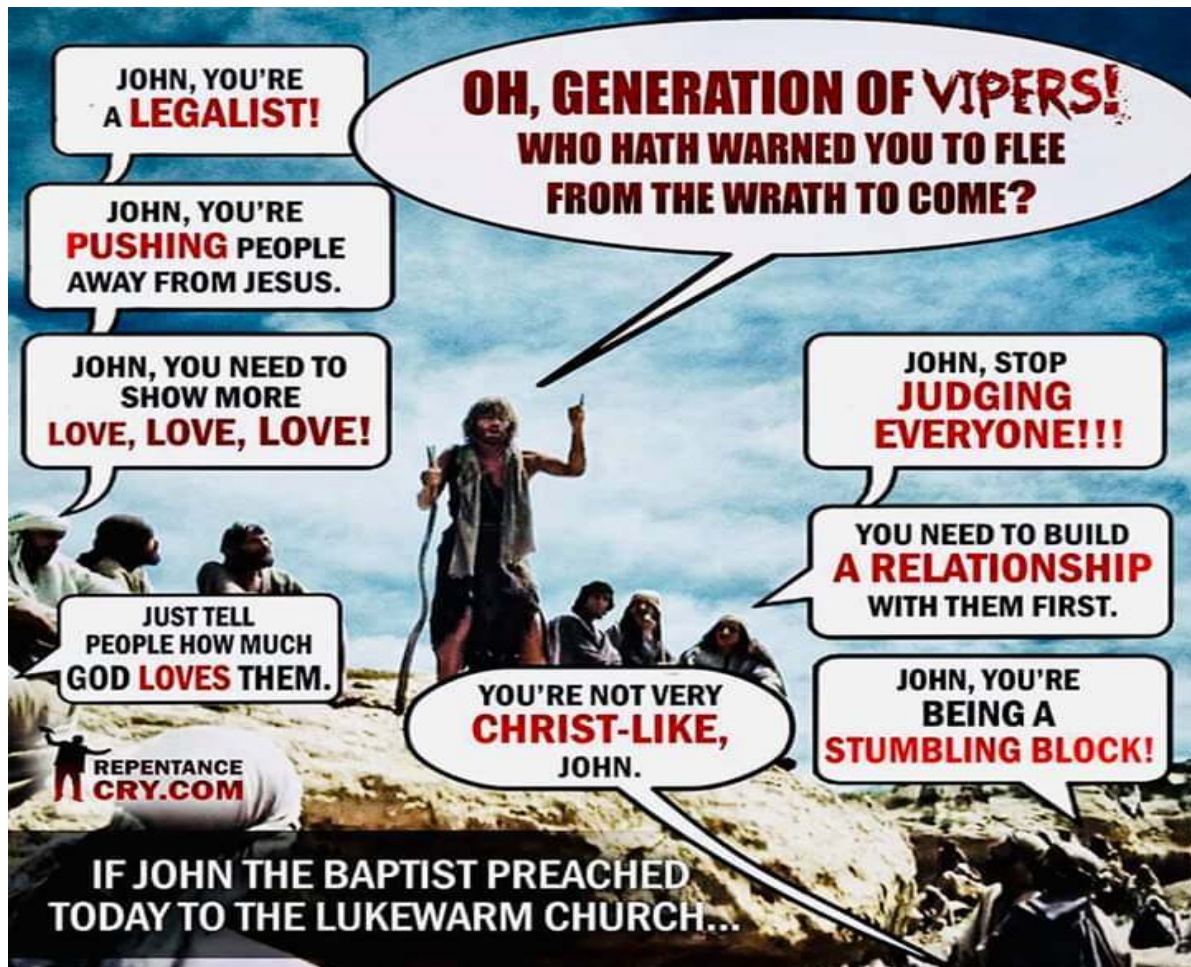
It's My Choice and You Cannot Question Me!

Tim Canup

We are living in a time and in a society where people have wholly embraced post-modernism, which says there is no absolute truth. We are trying to evangelize to a people to obey THE truth when they do not and will not believe there is any such thing as truth, absolute truth that is. Like a spoiled child who does not want to hear what the parent has to say, they have completely stopped their ears to anything and everything that does not fit their narrative. They have been so deeply imbedded with this false theory that they are almost seemingly unreachable.

Recently, a family member of mine (who was brought up in the church by his grandparents and an aunt and uncle) left the church and renounced his faith, his Christianity, and seemingly even religion. The first question is how did this happen? There are many factors that I believe have contributed to his decision. As he posted this news on Facebook, there were many who were literally cheering him on. Some of the things he stated and some of the things his "friends" said, literally broke my heart! Why should I care, right? What is it to me? It is his life and his choice. As he explained his new found belief system, he wrote: "For those of you that are from the 'religious' world and want to comment, don't. I'm not interested in debating with you on the merits of

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my newfound beliefs. I am merely explaining where I stand today. If you believe that I will be damned to eternal torment for my beliefs, then that is how you believe. I don't care and don't want to hear about it, thank you." I do care, and I also responded to him publicly, because I see what he is doing to his own soul and the Bible teaches me to care (Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19-20).

One of his friends wrote, "Jesus died for us all! He did not come to judge but to love us regardless of color, culture, or personal beliefs! We are to love Him and each other - no strings attached- no judgements." Another wrote, "As a very good friend of mine recently said, your beliefs and values are not subject to debate. You are entitled to them and NO ONE has a right or an obligation to tell you that you're wrong." And another, "There comes a point in ones [sic] life that you are mature enough to step out from under the shelter or someone's shadow and you do the research for yourself about the path to follow to 'salvation'. I do not condemn or judge any religion or spirituality. Nor will I ever preach to anyone about it. Each person has this choice and is free and I encourage them to research the true and original story of our Existence instead of following what someone has preached at your [sic] for generations and mind sculpted thru the years. I love you and support you, because in the end it is your choice and soul to do with what you see fit. That is between you and what you believe, not for me to ridicule, judge or determine."

Figuratively speaking, there are many around us who no longer believe that two plus two equals four! They have been duped, and some now have come to the conclusion that two plus two equals five while others believe that it equals three. Many embrace that it can equal whatever you want it to equal and no one is allowed to question the difference or the inconsistency, as long as it isn't four. They believe that it is one's own choice and right, and no person is allowed to question one's conclusion. As so many believe they should be able to make their own choice about the answer to this simple problem, I have to ask, what about the consequences? Should I not be concerned for the one who is coming up on the short end of it? For example, the employee who believes that it equals three is being cheated out of what is rightfully his and the employer is being cheated by those who believe it equals five. So who cares, right? If this were the literal case, MANY would be outraged and screaming loudly, I assure you. But when it comes to a set of guidelines that is to govern our lives, many simply dismiss this obligation! Many insist that you cannot question me and what I believe! So leave me alone! And any person who does is belittled and attacked as unloving!

This is the world in which we live, but it is not new; there is nothing new under the sun. This is simply man's way of saying, "I do not want to follow God's path, I do not want restrictions in my life, I do not want anyone, including the Creator, to tell me what to do." This is man's way of saying, "I want my sin, I love my sin, and I am not giving it up. So don't try to make me feel bad about it and don't remind me of the consequences of it. I love

my sin more than anything else, even my own family and my own soul! So leave me alone!" Sadly, too many are willing to do that very thing.

Jesus' words are just as true today as they were when He spoke them: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. ¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits...." (Matthew 7:13-16a). There is only one way to eternal life, and that way is by conforming our lives in complete (James 2:10) obedience (Hebrews 5:9) to the Will of the Savior, Jesus Christ, which is revealed to us in our New Testaments.

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:13-20).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 6 – Men's Business Meeting and Ladies' Bible Class
- Sept 16-20 – Gospel Seminar at the Ashe Civic Center with Eddy Craft
- Sept 20 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Jim Winters