

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	25
Sunday AM Worship	37
Sunday PM Worship	21
Wed. Bible Study	21
Offering	\$1562

**WHO THEN
CAN BE
SAVED?**
 MARK 10:26

THERE IS AN ANSWER!



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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 WSKK
 93.5 FM

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

Being Honest In A Dishonest World
 by Tom Wacaster

In a world of "dog eat dog, take care of number one," honesty and integrity are rare. I wish I could say that we still lived in an honest and law abiding country, but the statistics speak otherwise. Five years ago the FBI crime report revealed that more than 13 million crimes are committed each year. I have serious doubts that the number has decreased by any significant amount; more likely there has been an increase. That amounts to almost 36,000 crimes each day, 1,484 crimes per hour, 24 per minute, and one every 2.5 seconds. Ninety percent of these involved property and included such crimes as burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson. The National Coalition to Prevent Shoplifting says this crime now amounts to \$24 billion annually. Employee thefts amount to another \$22 billion. Tax cheating, according to the IRS, is big business in our nation. Auditing of nearly 2 million returns in a recent year showed derelict tax payers owed \$10.5 billion. Just this past week it was reported by FOX that several billion dollars were pilfered from the government in 2015 under the guise of EIC's - Earned Income Credit. That same report pointed out that the problem of such fraud is so massive that the IRS simply has no way of investigating and/or recovering the losses. For a dozen years we have had 1 million divorces annually. Infidelity and marital dishonesty has been given as the number one reason for marital breakups in our family troubled land. Those are frightening statistics! On every hand we are faced with those who are dishonest. It has become a

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way of life. But God's call is to maintain honesty and integrity. "Provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Romans 12:17). "That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without" (1 Thess. 4:12). "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men" (2 Cor 8:21).

We are once again in the middle of another political campaign season. I used to think these came around every four years, but the older I get it seems they come more often. The complete dishonesty on the part of most candidates is astonishing. No longer does there seem to be any attempt to hide their dishonesty and hypocrisy. It is open, and with little shame (if any) attached thereto. One renowned newspaper columnist has observed, "We know that the Clintons are liars. But what scares me is that they do it so well." If the truth were known, it is not just politicians and used car dealers whose "reputation" precedes them; according to the above statistical information dishonesty has infected our populace from the head to the foot. It will not be long before another President, Vice President, and newly elected officials in the Senate and House will be sworn in and take their respective seats in Washington. Meanwhile we hold our breath as to what "scandal" will rock Washington next. It has almost become a way of life, and a sad one at that.

Major William Dean died in 1985. He was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor and was considered one of American's greatest heroes. He fought in the Korean war and was captured and tortured. Dean resisted all efforts by the communists to extract military information from him. In order to maintain his sanity he would resort to mind games, or reciting passages from the Bible. One day the general was informed by his captors that he was to be taken out and shot. A firing squad was standing in readiness. The condemned was granted a few moments in which to write a letter to his wife. He penned what he thought would be his last words. In addition to the words of love and devotion to his wife, he wrote a sentence for his son. "Tell Bill the word is 'integrity.'" There are two passages that I want to leave with you. "Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity than he that is perverse in his lips and is a fool" (Proverbs 19:1). "Jehovah, who shall sojourn in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh truth in his heart" (Psalms 15:1-2).

I sometimes wonder why anyone would choose not to believe in God. If you question whether or not disbelief is a choice, then please consider the simple fact that every child is born with the ability to look at the evidence and from a very early age will ask his parents, "Mama, where did the earth come from?" or "Mama, who made the stars and moon?" The despair and hopelessness that accompanies disbelief is enough to drive men away from atheism rather than toward it. Some years ago I filed the following two

incidents that demonstrate my point:

Clarence Darrow, famed atheist of the last century, was reported to have said these words at the age of seventy-eight: "I am waiting to die, without fear or enthusiasm. I no longer doubt. I know now that there is nothing after death -- nothing to look forward to in joy or in fear...I am not the agnostic any more, I am a materialist. It took me more than fifty years to find it out. All my life I have been seeking some definite proof of God - something I could put my finger on and say 'This is fact.' But my doubts are at rest now. I know that such fact does not exist. When I die -- as I shall soon -- my body will decay. My mind will decay and my intellect will be gone. My soul? There is no such thing."

The great agnostic of the last century, Colonel Robert Ingersoll, spoke at his brother's grave. What an orator he was! What an intellect was his. What a great power for God this man could have been. President Garfield, who was one of the pall bearers, said that the Colonel broke down and cried like a child in the delivery of that speech. Among other things, Ingersoll said: "Whether in mid-ocean, or amidst the breakers of the farther shore, a wreck must mark the end of each and all. Though every hour is rich with love, and every moment is jeweled with a joy, it will at its close be a tragedy as deep and dark as can be woven of the warp and woof of mystery and death. Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities; we strive in vain to look beyond the heights; we cry aloud, and the only answer is our wailing cry. From the voiceless lips of the un-replying dead there comes no word."

This, dear reader, is the epitome of despair. How much better to be able to say, "I have fought the good fight of faith," or "I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him." Ingersoll's words are a fair representation of the hopelessness of disbelief. No wonder the man broke down and wept such tears of disbelief!

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:16).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 29 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Sept 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Sept 12 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service (Song Service)
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell