

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

Put on the New Man in 2014

*What changes do you have planned for 2014?
Have you considered the changes God desires?*

New things can quickly become old. Many children have worn out their “new” toys. 2014 is not as new as it was last week. But, the “new man” does not grow old, just stronger. Paul tells us about him in Colossians 3--

v1-4 The new man is raised and alive when the old man is dead and buried. Colossians 2:12 says we are buried with Jesus in baptism and then raised (alive) through faith in the working of God. Before Jesus’ baptism, we are not raised with Christ or a new man but are lost and dead in sin.

v5-11 The new man puts off sinful habits and is renewed in knowledge.

This new way of thinking leads to a new way of living. He puts off sexual sins (fornication, adultery, homosexuality), lying, sinful anger, and filthy language.

v12-25 The new man not only puts off these things, he also puts on some things. He is kind and humble, like Jesus. He is thankful for what God has done. With Jesus’ words in his mind, he sings to God with other Christians. He lives by Jesus’ teachings, not human religion, teachings, or traditions.

Contact us if we can help you learn about or put on the new man in Christ in this new year.

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Author & Editor: David Halbrook

Killing Truth

Bill O’Reilly, a TV host who offers his opinions about news, has written a few books on historical characters who were killed. One is titled Killing Lincoln and another is Killing Jesus. On 12-20-2013, his show could have been titled “Killing Truth.” Mr. O’Reilly rebuked Phil Robertson (Duck Commander) for identifying homosexuality as a sin (Mr. Robertson identified adultery, stealing, and drunkenness as sin also). Mr. O’Reilly said that Christians who are like Jesus cannot identify others as sinners or their actions as sin.

The truth is that Jesus identified sinners and sin. He taught that adultery, fornication (which includes homosexuality), and theft are evil things and told one group that their worship was vain (Mk. 7:21-23, 6-7). He trained the apostles to teach people to leave their sins (Lk. 24:47). Peter told husbands that God would not hear their prayers if they mistreated their wives because God is against evildoers (1 Pet. 3:7, 12). Would you tell anyone these things? Jesus did. What would you do if someone said these things to you?

Speaking the truth in love includes identifying sin in self and others (Eph. 4:15). Don’t “kill” the truth, obey it! Can we help you learn and obey the truth?

When May I Tell A Lie?

Does God approve of any lie?

Did you know some religious groups approve of some lies?!

Things that once were clearly wrong no longer seem so clear to our society as they reject the Bible. Has this already happened to you? Here's a test: Is lying always wrong?

The Bible is clear, making no exceptions. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). Christians must not lie (Eph. 4:25). *...all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone* (Rev. 21:8).

The Koran permits Muslims "to recant while their hearts remain loyal to the Faith" ("The Bee" 16:106). If they are forced to deny their faith but remain loyal in their hearts, they will be forgiven for lying! When might they do this?

When can you trust an atheist when the consequence of their "non-belief" is that nothing is always, or ever, wrong?

"According to the common Catholic teaching. . . However, we are also under an obligation to keep secrets faithfully, and sometimes the easiest way of fulfilling that duty is to say what is false, or to tell a lie." This quotation is from The Catholic Encyclopedia (www.newadvent.org/cathen/10195b.htm).

Speaking *the truth* in love is God's way.

"Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

Matthew 15:3

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM

Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM

Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: **7:00 PM**

A Thousand Conflicting Interpretations

Recently, I read of a man who quit teaching the Bible because he no longer believed in God. One reason he gave for changing is "thousands of conflicting interpretations" of the Bible. The problem of division discourages many people.

Do you believe God approves of "thousands of conflicting interpretations" about salvation, worship, godly living, and leadership? This is modern denominationalism---separate religious groups with many separate teachings who accept each other anyway. Paul warned about teachings that differ from Jesus' in 1 Timothy 4:1-2. He did not say "accept them in spite of their teachings" but "shun" them (2 Tim.2:16-18).

In Scripture, the churches of Christ were not different kinds of religious groups (Rom. 16:16). Jesus did not give the apostles different teachings to start different kinds of churches. He gave them one set of teachings about salvation, worship, daily life, and leadership that would unite every person who accepted them (Matt. 28:18-20). The church of Christ in Quail Valley is serious about that unity. Are you? If so, let's sit down with an open Bible, identify what hinders that unity, and find God's solution.

Questions from this issue's articles:

1. When is the old man dead and buried and the new man alive in Christ?
2. If Christians are like Jesus what will they say and do about sin and sinners?
3. What is the difference between the teachings of the Bible, The Koran, and the Catholic Encyclopedia?
4. Did the apostles go into the world starting different kinds of churches? How can we be united?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

* All past and current issues of *Truth and Reason* are available at our website---tell a friend!