

## Responsibility

The Bible teaches that “every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12). This is a clear declaration that each individual bears a responsibility in regard to his salvation. Ezekiel proclaimed:

The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him (Eze. 18:20).

No one will give an account to God for someone else. Since God demands accountability, it is only logical to understand that God has given us the Law to which we will be accountable. Jesus says, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). All men, therefore, shall be responsible for obeying the Truth that is the New Testament of Christ. Paul states that the Gospel of Christ is the only power that can save man and that the plan to make man righteous is found in that Gospel (Rom. 1:16-17). Thus, no man can be saved without the Bible. The Bible teaches how one can become righteous in God’s sight—hear (Rom. 10:17), believe (Heb. 11:6), repent of past sins (Luke 13:3), confess that Jesus is the Christ (Rom. 10:9-10), and be immersed in water to have those past sins washed away (Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5).

The Bible also teaches that once an individual has obeyed God’s plan to save, he has the responsibility to remain faithful.

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire (2 Pet. 2:20-22).

Each individual with the capacity and ability to give account for his actions will do so on the Day of Judgment. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10). Is it not wonderful to know that if we simply obey God’s plan of salvation and remain faithful to Him, when He opens the book of our deeds on the Last Great Day, our sins will be covered by the blood of Christ, “blotted out” (Acts 3:19), as if wiped clean from the pages of history. Have you had your sins washed away? “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (22:16).

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**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)  
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535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574  
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES  
SUNDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.  
Morning Worship 11.00 am.  
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.  
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## The Good Confession

In 1 Timothy 6:12 the Record reads: “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” The Greek word rendered *confess*, is found 23 times in the New Testament. Two times it is rendered with the English word *profess*. The ASV (1901) in 1 Timothy 6:12 reads: “didst confess the good confession.”

One time the word is translated *profess* in the Authorized Version is Titus 1:16: “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.” What does it mean to profess to know God? It is a wonderful thing to know God and to know that we know Him. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 1:12: “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” Again, 1 John 2:3 states: “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.” We know Him if we keep His commands. If one professes to know God, and does not keep God’s commands, then that individual does not really know God!

The other time we find *profess* in the King James Version is Matthew 7:23: “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” These sad, sorrowful, sullen words are spoken to those who would not confess Christ as Lord in full obedience to His will. Romans 10:10 teaches: “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” One must believe (Mark 16:16), one must repent (2 Pet. 3:9), one must confess Christ (Acts 8:7), one must be baptized into Christ for (unto) the remission of sin (Acts 2:38), and one must live faithful until the end of life’s journey (1 Cor. 15:58). Do you not get it? If one fails to confess faith in Christ as God’s Son, or if one fails to continue to “walk in the light as He is in the light,” that one has ceased to advance toward eternal salvation!

We must do more than merely profess to know God? Remember, what you go after here will determine where you go in the hereafter. Let us not forget Christ’s own admonition: “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven” (Mat. 10:32-33). Let us never be ashamed nor afraid to teach the necessity and loveliness of the good confession.

Jess Whitlock, Evant, TX

## Are You a Lois or a Jezebel?

Mothers and grandmothers possess an exalted and precious place in the eyes of Jehovah. It has often been said that “the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.” In terms of lasting influence this is immeasurably true! On the pages of Divine History various mothers and grandmothers appear with their influence for good or evil weighed in the balances of the righteous and true God. Lois and Jezebel are two such women.

Lois was a godly woman. Under the Mosaic system she had been a Jewess, but later became a Christian by virtue of obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul says of her that in her dwelt the “unfeigned faith.” That earnest and obedient faith, no doubt by her holy influence, was passed down to her daughter, Eunice, and ultimately to her young grandson, Timothy. From a child this young man, who would later serve his Lord as a preacher of the Gospel, knew “the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15). Many a time the lad must have spent on the knee or at the feet of his mother and grandmother, who read to him the great truths of God’s all-sufficient Word (3:16-17). They thereby encouraged and counseled him to serve God whole-heartedly. Thus, when the apostle Paul came to Lystra in the company of Silas, while on his second missionary journey, there awaited him a certain disciple prepared through the godly efforts of Lois and Eunice to be of service to the cause of Christ.

Jezebel was the queen of Israel as the wife of wicked Ahab. She “stirred” him up to do evil (1 Kin. 21:25). Her reign of terror over the land brought death to the innocent, bathing the land with their blood. She was the patroness of many other immoral deeds. She was a priestess of Ashteroth, a worshipper of Baalim, and a despiser of Jehovah. She engaged in heathenistic practices such as infanticide, human sacrifice, fornication, idolatry, et.al. She persecuted and slew many of God’s prophets (18:4). She was an antagonist to the work of Elijah. She had innocent Naboth murdered in order that her weak-kneed husband might seize his beautiful vineyard (1 Kin. 21). Even after her husband’s death, her wicked ways persisted. The idolatrous religion she had planted in the land bore its wicked fruit, even until the destruction of both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, respectively. Her daughter, Athaliah, was queen in Judah as the wife of the son of Jehoshaphat—Jehoram by name. She was every inch her mother’s child. She too served Baalim and engaged in all the vile acts of the cultus. Jezebel’s sons, Ahaziah and Jehoram, ruled wickedly in her presence in Israel. Upon the death of Jehoram of Judah, Ahaziah, the son of Athaliah, ascended to the throne in the Southern Kingdom and began to walk in the counsel of the house of Ahab because of his mother’s influence (cf. 2 Kin. 1-11). Jezebel’s legacy was thus one of rebellion, idolatry, murder, fornication, covetousness, materialism, and so on. Athaliah in her greed and lust for power cut off the house of David—and subsequently the Messianic Line—to one male member, and he the infant Joash! Ultimately all the children of Ahab and Jezebel, as well as they themselves, departed this life by violent means yet in sin to be recompensed for their evil throughout all eternity!

Mothers and grandmothers can either be like Lois who left behind a family of faith, or like Jezebel who helped give rise to a corrupt and ruthless clan. In each case the influence of these women was undeniably a deciding factor in the lives of their children and their children’s children. While no parent or grandparent can force their family to obey God’s Word—for such is a matter of free will—yet their influence can help shape their course in life so as to contribute to their freely choosing to do so. In view of this, dear sister, are you a Lois or a Jezebel?

*Daniel Denham, Newport News, VA*

(While this is addressed specifically to mothers and grandmothers, it could equally apply to fathers and grandfathers – K.J.C.)

*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter, and Tim Smith. Myrtle Grimsley and Dawn mason were sick and unable to be out Sunday.

Lanny Niver will not, as of now, be having back surgery. However, he has lots of pain that comes and goes. Please keep him in your prayers.

Kathy Treadway has gone on vacation to Hawaii and other places, she will be gone three Sundays.

Those who were able to attend the cookout on Saturday had a good time.

Remember, on July 11 we will have a low country boil. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to participate.

## The Disappearance of Sin

A tabu subject from many pulpits today is sin. It has vanished from the vocabulary of an abundant supply of pseudo preachers who have no desire to offend or cause displeasure. Their message is one of encouragement without rebuke and entertainment without substance. They are attempting to delete sin from the consciousness of man. One would need to make a diligent search to hear any one of them utter the three-letter word, “Sin,” in this over-laden age of depravity.

Depravity is becoming the norm in a morally decaying society; while lying is accepted and encouraged by the morally weak. A lie is considered just an embellishment. Adultery and fornication is accepted as the norm, while families are laid waste in a flood of sin. Sexual immorality is no longer disgraceful, harmful, or corrupt. Yet, the Bible teaches that “Fools make a mock at sin” (Pro. 14:9).

Society and pseudo preachers may have succeeded in removing sin from the terminology of many people, but they are incapable of removing the penalty for sin. It is written: “For the wages of sin *is* death” (Rom. 6:23). God views sin as an abomination, it is that which is vile, wicked, and corrupt. The man who lives in sin has failed to live up to God’s standard of right. Man may try to ignore the penalty for sin or try to make it disappear, but God is in control and He will not ignore sin or remove the punishment for sin. Man must learn to view sin as God sees it. Then he will turn from wickedness to righteousness and from that which is vile to that which is pure.

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