

ARE YOU AN ENEMY OF GOD?

There is only one God, and He is all powerful. Job said to God, *"I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You"* (Job 42.2). Our almighty God is the One who will determine your eternal destiny. If God is so powerful and will determine where we will spend eternity, the last thing we want to do is to become His enemy. Consider three ways that you might become the enemy of God.

The enemy of God is someone who is of the world. James wrote that *"Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"* (James 4.4). The world is defined as *"the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life"* (1 John 2.16). The Holy Spirit described those who are of the world as those *"whose god is their belly and whose glory is their shame – who set their minds on earthly things."* Of these individuals, we are told that *"they are the enemies of the cross of Christ"* (Phil. 3.17-19). If you involve yourself in worldliness, you will become the enemy of God.

The enemy of God is someone who is guilty of sin. In Romans 5.8, Paul refers to those who are sinners. He then writes in verse 10, *"For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son"* (Rom. 5.10). Sin is breaking the laws of God (1 John 3.4). In Colossians 1, the Holy Spirit tells us that *"you, who were once alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works"* (Col. 1.21). If you break the laws of God and fall into sin, you make yourself His enemy.

The enemy of God is someone who does not believe in Jesus. In Romans 11, there is a comparison being made between Gentiles who have come to believe in Jesus and obey the gospel and Jews who chose not to believe. To these unbelieving Jews, Paul writes, *"Concerning the gospel they are enemies"* (Rom. 11.28). Faith is more than believing in Jesus. Faith is believing to the point of obeying. If you do not believe as evidenced by not obeying God, then you make yourself His enemy.

As terrible as it is to be the enemy of God, He is also a God of grace. Even though you might be His enemy, God made salvation available so that you can be transformed into His special people through the gospel. (Eph. 2.11-13). CLP

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

August 6, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE PROBLEM OF LYING

A man had twelve cigars. He went to the insurance company and had then insured for millions of dollars. After the paperwork had been completed and the cigars were properly insured, he went home and smoked them one at a time.

Later this man filed a claim with the insurance company claiming that the cigars had been destroyed by twelve small fires. He took the insurance company to court and won on the basis that the insurance company did not make a distinction between a small fire and a large fire. The insurance company was forced to pay the claim.

After the insurance company paid the claim, they had this man arrested on 12 counts of arson, because he purposefully set fire to property that was insured for millions. He was convicted.

God is a God of truth (John 17.17). Jesus always tells the truth (John 14.2). We are to be people of honesty. We are not to tell lies. We are not to live a lie. God takes lying very seriously. We are warned that *"all liars will have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death"* (Rev. 21.8). Are you willfully telling someone something that is not true? Lying may seem easy, but it is not something anyone can spiritual afford to do. CLP

LESSONS FROM THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

ACTS 8:27

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Acts contains the most successful story ever told. From a few disciples to thousands, the church grew. (Acts 13.49)
2. In Acts 8, persecution caused the disciples to be scattered. Among them was Philip who wound up in Samaria. (Acts 8.26ff)
3. The account of the Ethiopian eunuch is rich with lessons we can apply to our lives today.

I. THREE QUESTIONS

- A. Who was this man?
 1. **ACTS 8.27:** *“Behold, a man of Ethiopia”*
 2. **ACTS 8.27:** *“a eunuch of great authority”* (Gen. 40.2)
 3. **ACTS 8.27:** *“under Candace the queen”*
- B. What was this man doing?
 1. **ACTS 8.27:** *“had come to Jerusalem”* (cf. Ex. 12.48,49)
 2. **ACTS 8.27:** *“to worship”* (cf. Deut. 23.1).
 3. **ACTS 8.28:** *“he was reading Isaiah the prophet”*
- C. What happened to this man?
 1. **ACTS 8.32-35:** *“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”*
 2. **ACTS 8.36:** *“See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”* He felt a sense of urgency.
 3. **ACTS 8.37,38:** *“And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.”*

II. THREE LESSONS

- A. LESSON ONE: I need to keep learning.
 1. This man invited Philip to teach him and asked him a question. He wanted to learn. (Acts 8.30,34)
 2. Like the Ethiopian eunuch, we need to keep learning and growing in knowledge. (2 Pet. 3.18)
- B. LESSON TWO: I need to be open minded.
 1. Instead of being set in his ways, this man was willing to listen to what Philip had to say. (Acts 8.35)
 2. Like the Ethiopian eunuch, we need to keep an open mind and be persuaded by scripture. (James 3.17)
- C. LESSON THREE: I need to change. (Acts 8.36)

CONCLUSION: Are there changes you need to make in your life?

THE PURPOSE OF COMMANDMENTS

What is the purpose of the commandments of God? It is not uncommon for someone to refuse to obey the gospel because they do not want to give up a sinful lifestyle. How many times have you asked, “what’s the big deal?” How many people have dismissed the laws of God because they did not see any harm in what they were doing? “It’s not hurting anyone, so why is it wrong?”

In Isaiah, God gives us some insight into why He has established a law to follow. In this passage, God tells His people who had not been obedient, *“I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go”* (Isa. 48.17). The things that God teaches us are for our benefit. They help us live better more prosperous lives. We are emotionally, physically, mentally, and most important, spiritually better when we live by the teachings of the Bible.

He goes on to say, *“Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea”* (Isa. 48.18). God laments over the condition of Israel. Israel had refused to obey the commands of God. They were struggling. They had not known peace. They were not righteous in the eyes of God and therefore were the target of His wrath. In our lives, we may know hardship and sorrow. But when we are living in obedience to God’s commandments, we can still know peace and be right in the eyes of God. The world around us will be baffled and wonder how we can be so filled with hope in the midst of hardship (1 Pet. 3.15). Such is the life of those who keep God’s commandments.

Every problem that exists in this world can be traced back to sin. Every disease, every crime, every natural disaster, every heartache, every tragedy that has ever happened is directly or indirectly caused by someone who broke the commandments of God. God did not put a law in place arbitrarily to prevent us from having fun. God did not implement commandments to assert His dominance over us, though He right could. He gave us a law to follow for our benefit. Paul tells Timothy that “the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart” (1 Tim. 1.5). He goes on to say in verse 8 that *“the law is good if one uses it lawfully”* (1 Tim. 1.8). To the Romans, Paul wrote that all of God’s commandments *“are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’”* (Rom. 8.10-13).

When I come to realize that God gave me a law to help me, I am more inclined to listen and obey His commandments. Let’s always remember that everything that God does is out of love. CLP