

We did nothing to deserve it but He graced us with His love and made us His inheritance. God's people are the prize God gets out of this experiment of calling many sons to glory. Don't demean God's inheritance.

Now look at this. Yes, we have flaws. Others do not know our flaws. But flaws and all God forgives us, jumps up and down and sings rejoicing over us. He call us His jewels. We are the riches of the glory of His inheritance. God knows us. He knows our flaws and yet He still sees us this way. So how should I see myself? The same way God sees me. God defines men. I do not define me. Others do not define me. God defines me.

Written by; Rickie Jenkins

Article taken from; Campbell Road church of Christ (Facebook Page)

## **Marietta church of Christ**

8150 Driggers St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32220

### **Times of Worship**

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

[www.mariettacoc.com](http://www.mariettacoc.com)



### **Truth: Part 3**

#### **Exchanging the Truth**

“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.” (Romans 1.25 NASB1995)

In our previous articles on truth, we discussed the importance of knowing the truth of God's word, then being able to speak the truth in a loving manner to those who need to hear it. Knowing the truth and speaking the truth are our responsibility. The final part of our truth series will focus on the danger of exchanging the truth. Unfortunately, this is something many have done and we must be on guard not to do the same.

We must start by recognizing the truth has been made evident (Romans 1.19-20). God has made himself and the truth known. He has not hidden it, kept it a secret, or only made it available to certain people. Creation itself, as well as the sustaining of the world are evidence of God's power, and His revealing of truth. People must make the choice if they are going to know the truth or ignore the truth. The excuses of truth having not been revealed or is incapable of being known are invalid.

Why do people then exchange the truth? Romans 1.21 says, “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks.” First, some people are indifferent to God, and are not thankful for what God has done. They have forgotten about God, and instead substitute something else in place of God in their lives. Despite God revealing the truth, they have failed to learn more about Him, and grow in the knowledge of God's word. This lack of knowledge then leads to them worshiping something else (Ephesians 4.17-19).

The second reason why people exchange the truth is because they think they are wise (Romans 1.22). Instead of seeking wisdom from God's word they instead seek wisdom from other sources. By these alternative sources many think they have become wise, and have gained superior knowledge. As a result, they may even look down upon and belittle those who believe in God's word. Even going as far to claim they are more "progressive" or "enlightened." But in reality they have become fools, "Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world" (1 Corinthians 1.20).

The final reason people exchange the truth is they would rather serve themselves than God (Romans 1.23-25). By doing so they are choosing to serve the corruptible man, instead of the incorruptible God. The message of the gospel is denial, humility and submission. These characteristics are the opposite of what many want. Many would rather indulge in the desires of the flesh, have a prideful attitude, and view people through the lens of "what can you do for me."

What those who exchange the truth fail to realize is, to give up the truth is to believe a lie instead. The ideal life the world sells, one of self indulgence in the desires of the flesh and greed, is a lie and doesn't bring a person ultimate fulfillment. But this is the lie the devil has been selling since the garden of Eden, when he tempted Eve by saying "You surely will not die" (Genesis 3.4). The sad reality is some would rather believe a lie and live in a lie than face the realities of their decisions. They are comfortable where they are, and would rather stay that way than make a change. Change can be hard, especially when it's something that has been going on for a long time. But we can't continue to believe the lies Satan sells. The only path to a life of ultimate fulfillment is in service to God, and obedience to the commands found in His word. This path leads to a joyful life while here on earth, and in the life to come. "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person" (Ecclesiastes 12.13).

Written by; Derek Steen

## How Does God See Us?

Self-condemnation is deflating. Have you ever had someone compliment you or praise you but then you walk away and say, "Yeah, but they don't know me." And, then when others don't compliment or praise us we ask, "Why don't people notice me?" Have you ever had someone tell you, "I would complement you but I don't want you to get the big head?"

We measure ourselves by others but are unaware others measure themselves by us. "Oh, I wish I were as pretty as she is." But, she does not think she is pretty. "Oh, I wish I were as confident as he is." But, we do not know the struggles with a lack of self-confidence. "Oh, I wish I were as smart as he is." But, we do not know how much time he puts into study, and thinks he is dumb. "Oh, I wish my family were like theirs." But we do not know the struggles they face in their marriage, with their kids or financially. We make superficial judgement based on what we see. Doing that, we will always be less than the other person.

But, here is the good news. I am not measured by you, nor you by me. I am measured by God. God defines me, not others. I do not even define myself. Listen to how God looks at His children. "The Lord God is in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will quiet you with His love. He will rejoice over you with singing" (Zeph. 3:17). That simply means God jumps up and down with joy over you. Well, if God is jumping up and down over me, then why am I jumping on myself? Get off!

Listen again, "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts. On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him" (Malachi 3:17). Did you see that? God calls us His jewels. How do you treat special jewelry? Do you trash it? No, we cherish it. Well, God prizes, treasures us. So stop trashing yourself. Also, notice, "As a man spares his own son..." How do you feel about your children? Do you despise them? Do you talk down to them? Do you replay all the negative things about them? No, we don't. Then why would we do that to ourselves?

Listen again, Paul prayed that the Ephesians may know, "that the riches of the glory of God's inheritance in His saints" (Eph. 1:18). Did you read that? God's people are the glory of the riches of His inheritance. God's people ain't nobodies. God's people are somebodies! Then, let's live like it. Inheritance speaks about something that is gifted not earned. God places His inheritance in His people. ...

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