

Trends

The share of Americans who identify as atheists has roughly doubled in the past several years. A recent study found that 3.1% of American adults say they are atheists, up from 1.6% in a similar survey in 2007. An additional 4.0% of Americans call themselves agnostics, up from 2.4% in 2007.

- via Pew Research Center

Psalm 14:1: "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

Sentence Sermons

"You can't convince a believer of anything; for their belief is not based on evidence, it's based on a deep-seated need to believe."

—Carl Sagan, scientist and atheist

Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

"You keep believing, I'll keep evolving." —Bumper sticker

Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

News & Notes

Pray for one another: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please pray for the success of our recent gospel meeting with Ron Halbrook. Ron's lessons were truthful and instructive. Be sure to listen to the audios and review the outlines. You'll benefit greatly! Share the material with others they'll benefit also!

Please pray for one another! "comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Please pray for Ryan & Jennifer and the brethren of the Northern Michigan church of Christ. They are now meeting in their newly purchased building in Roscommon, Michigan.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets a great example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

Words of Life is published by the **Westside Church of Christ** meeting at 1301 N. Enterprise, Bloomington, IN 47404

Times of Service: Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Editor: Craig Thomas (812-320-9569); craigthomas82000@gmail.com

Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You
have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



Oct. 21,
2018

Vol. 10,
No. 31

False, Falsehood, Falsely

Bill H. Reeves

In this article we consider what is false, a falsehood, or the adverb, falsely. The Greek word, *pseudes*, is not altogether unknown to most of us as in English we use it as a prefix (e.g., *pseudonym*, a false name to hide the true identity of the author), or *pseudoscience* (a series of theories and assumption regarded as scientific). We have also seen *pseudo* used in medical terms. Below we will notice that the word is prefixed to a number of words in the New Testament to form compound words, but expressing something that is false, lying or deceitful.

The opposite of *pseudes* is truth (*alethes*, made up of "a" meaning not, "letho" = to forget, and "alanthano," to escape notice). All together the word means not to forget, to escape notice, or, simply what is true to fact. Obviously the Scriptures condemn the former and commend the latter.

There is no middle ground, no half and half, no neutrality! A matter is either true or false. There are no "white lies," half-truths, or "recreational sex." In sex there is purity and there is fornication (1 Thess. 4:3; 2 Tim. 2:22; Rev. 19:8). We are either with Christ or against him, either gather with him or scatter (Matt. 12:30). There are no hyphenated Christians. We are either in Christ or not in him. There are righteousness and unrighteousness, true and false, facts and myths or fables. Forget any "inbetweens!" One might say: "I am neither 'anti' nor 'conservative,' just a Christian!" Sounds good, but don't fool yourself. There is no middle ground! It is one or the other.

Here in the Greek language are compound words, with *pseudoas* the prefix:

- ✦ *Pseud-adelphos*, false brother (Gal. 2:4).
- ✦ *Pseud-apostolos*, false apostle (2 Cor. 11:13)
- ✦ *Pseudo-didaskalos*, false teacher (2 Pet. 2:1)
- ✦ *Pseudo-logos*, false word (teaching), teaching/speaking lies (1 Tim. 4:2)
- ✦ *Pseudo-martur*, false witness (1 Cor. 15:15)
- ✦ *Pseudo-martureo*, to testify falsely (Matt. 19:18)
- ✦ *Pseudo-marturia*, utter falsehoods (Matt. 7:15)
- ✦ *Pseudo-prophetes*, false prophet (Matt. 24:11)

☛ *Pseudo-christos*, false Christ (Matt. 24:24)

These many words in the Greek text of the New Testament show the many faceted use of “pseudo” and how it is strongly condemned. The Christian has no use for it; he only is concerned with *truth*! Jesus says that: “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” (Jn. 14:6). So, no one comes to God the father except through Christ. Mohammad won’t get us to the Father, nor will Mary “the Mother of God,” or any other! And, Christ, the only means to get us to God eternally, is not divided (1 Cor. 1:13). Neither is his body, the church (Eph. 1:22,23), divided into numerous denominations. Denominationalism does not serve our God! If you are in it, come out of it (2 Cor. 6:17). Why stand in the judgment as a member of a church not once mentioned in the Scriptures?

To be like Christ we have to hate every false way; that is, lawlessness. Righteousness is the scepter of his kingdom (Heb. 1:8,9). Christians are citizens in such a kingdom!

2 Cor. 6:14: “*Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness?*” With what are we yoked? There is no fellowship or communion between righteousness and iniquity, between light and darkness!

Titus 2:14: “*who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works.*” Christians are a pure people. God’s will for them is sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3). Sanctification is setting oneself aside for a particular cause.

Rev. 2:2: “*I know thy works, and thy toil and patience, and that thou canst not bear evil men, and didst try them that call themselves apostles, and they are not, and didst find them false.*” This church was commended for putting so-called apostles to the test and found them false. Every congregation must constantly apply this test, for many false teachers are in the world (1 Jn. 4:1-4). They are tested with apostolic doctrine (Acts 2:42).

Life is made up of choices. **Josh. 24:14** “*And if it seem evil unto you to serve Jehovah, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah.*”

Truth becomes the servant of God; nothing else interests him. There are those who feign interest in truth but at the same time are given to wickedness, and hypocrisy. Consider those who came bragging on Jesus while trying him with captious questions: Matt. 22:16-18: “*And they send to him their disciples, with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, and carest not for any one: for thou regard-est not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?’ But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, ‘Why make ye trial of me, ye hypocrites?’”* John 7:18 is a good summary statement concerning speaking always and only the truth: “*He that speaketh from himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh the glory of him that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.*” That described Christ; does it describe me?

Leave the pseudo to the world and let us Christians serve God in spirit

(not in flesh, Old Testament rituals) and in truth (in reality, New Testament, not in figure or shadow), Jn. 4:24. Read the previous sentence again; many of us use the phrase “*in spirit and in truth*” apparently as a mere saying while not knowing what it means! That sentence can be helpful in understanding what we are saying in citing John 4:24.

Kindness and Compassion

Larry Ray Hafley

Kindness and compassion are missing virtues in our society today. They must first be attitudes of the heart (Prov. 4:23). Until they are implanted in the mind, they cannot be conveyed to others.

Children must be taught to be kind and compassionate. This can be done with younger siblings, with a new pet, a kitten, or a new puppy, perhaps. Teach your child to be gentle, or “easy with baby brother, because he’s not as big and strong as you are.” Show tenderness with facial expressions and soft, quiet words. Manifest concern for the pain of one who is hurt. To teach kindness and compassion, one must first exhibit it.

If you are not teaching these important qualities to your child, be certain that you are teaching their opposite. No, you would not purposely train your child to be cruel and inconsiderate of others, but when you do not train them to be kind and compassionate, you allow them to drift toward callous indifference to the pain and plight of those who suffer. “*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*” (Prov. 22:6).

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

Proverbs 4:23

Cookstove Apostasy

The early church prayed in the upper room, the twentieth century church cooks in the supper room. Today, the supper room has taken place of the upper room, play has taken the place of prayer, and feasting the place of fasting. There are more full stomachs than there are bended knees and broken hearts. There is more fire in the range in the kitchen than there is in the pulpit. When you build a fire in the church kitchen, it often puts out the fire in the pulpit. Ice cream chills the fever of spiritual life. The early Christians were not cooking in the supper room the day the Holy Spirit came, they were praying in the upper room, they were not waiting on tables, they were waiting on God, they were not waiting for the fire from the stove, but for the fire from above. They were detained by the command of God and not entertained by the cunning of men. They were filled with the Holy Ghost, not stuffed with stew and roast. Oh, I would like the cooking squad put out and the praying band let in, less ham and sham, and more heaven, less pie and more piety, less use for the cook book, and more for the Old Book. Put out the fire in the kitchen and build up the fire in the pulpit.

Gospel Advocate, May 30, 1935