

## Actions of the Righteous

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

### I. Intro

- A. Empowered Actions and Supernatural Expectation
- B. Put on the NEW SELF:
  - 1. The rest of the letter is all about how to do that.
  - 2. How to serve
  - 3. How to walk
  - 4. How to be the church
  - 5. How to treat others
  - 6. How to protect and defend
- C. Ephesians is getting very practical
- D. Today: Because you have been made new, there is a basic trait of the life of a believer:  
Tell your neighbor about Jesus!

### II. Text

- A. Therefore:
- B. Having put away falsehood
  - 1. Put away: apothemi: east Texas translation: drop it, you aint got no business being a part of that.
  - 2. Falsehood: state of being untrue
- C. Let each one of you:
  - 1. You are included...yes you
  - 2. There is something for all of us to do
- D. Speak the truth
  - 1. Simple enough...except this has been a human problem from the beginning
  - 2. The truth will set you free, because its not your truth...IT'S HIS!
- E. With his neighbor:
  - 1. Who is your neighbor?
  - 2. Whoever God puts before you
- F. For we are members one of another
  - 1. All of humanity has the same cry and need
  - 2. Physical needs: air, water, food, shelter
  - 3. Emotional needs: Love, respect, purpose, direction
  - 4. This is only found in completion when in relationship with Jesus.

### III. Point: 3 Questions that need answers

- A. What Needs to be Put Away?
  - 1. Falsehoods
    - a) Things declared to be true though knowingly not true: LIE
    - b) Things practiced as true, but are not
    - c) Things believed to be true, but do not match up with scripture
    - d) Deceptions, keeping the truth from being exposed
  - 2. How do you put away falsehoods?
    - a) Speak that which is true
    - b) Confront the falsehood, expose the falsehood, and live for truth
  - 3. This command goes back to the beginning of the Bible:
    - a) Genesis 3:4-5, Satan tells the first lie in the Bible: You will not surely die
    - b) Adam and Eve struggled with the truth when confronted about sin in the garden, and lied to God
    - c) Genesis 4: Cain lies about Able, covering up the murder
    - d) Genesis 11: At the tower of Babel, people lied to themselves, thinking they could become their own God.

- e) Genesis 12 and 20: Abraham lies about Sarah being his wife, so he is not killed...but showing he has yet to learn to trust God
  - f) Genesis 27: Jacob lies to Isaac and tells him he is Esau, in order to get the birthright, and had help from his mom.
  - g) Genesis 37: Joseph's brothers are liars, but God uses their treachery to protect Israel.
4. The Ten Commandments:
- a) [Eph 4:25 ESV] 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
  - b) Falsehoods have been confronted from the beginning, and we are again being challenged in this.
5. Remember: [Jhn 8:31-33 ESV] 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"
- a) Jesus challenges them to abide in the truth
  - b) And there immediate response is to lie:
    - (1) Slaves to Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and, when this was spoken, Rome
    - (2) Just to name a few
- B. What Truth Needs to be Spoken?
1. In context, we see that speaking the truth in love is vital to our mission
  2. We cannot be about falsehoods, and we must connect to truth.
  3. Truth must be spoken, and lived out.
  4. We cannot only speak true things, we must live that which is true, believe and act.
  5. Truth needs to be spoken to your neighbor:
    - a) We speak to them about Jesus
    - b) We tell them He is the only way
    - c) We explain He is the standard bearer for our lives
    - d) We speak of grace, and show them grace.
    - e) We speak of love, and show them love
    - f) We demonstrate that which we have discovered to be true.
  6. When you encounter someone who has yet to come to faith:
    - a) The way you see them matters
    - b) See them as Jesus sees them
    - c) See them as people who have yet to discover the hope of Christ.
    - d) If they are bitter, remind yourself of the way you were before Christ
    - e) If they are angry and awful, realize that you are sometimes as well.
  7. **BUT SPEAK THE TRUTH TO YOUR NEIGHBOR!**
  8. You have something to say.
- C. Who are We Members With?
1. We are a part of the family of God, and all humanity has a hunger for that acceptance.
  2. We do not have the privilege of choosing who we are sent to minister too, and the results are not up to us.
  3. End of the Spear:
    - a) Elizabeth Elliot: Husband Jim was killed in 1956 by an Ecuadorian tribe, and she them ministered and lived with them for two years.
    - b) Rachel Saint: Sister to Nate Saint, also killed by the same tribe, she also lived with the tribe, eventually died of cancer in 1994 after a lifetime serving in Ecuador with the tribe.
    - c) These ladies eventually led many of the tribe to Christ, some of which were involved in the killing.
  4. You are a part of a story in which you do not know the fullness of.

5. Serve as you are called, and see everyone as someone bearing the image of God!
- IV. Close