



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

300 Eagles Nest Farm Road, Hawk Point, Missouri 63349 • Ph: 636-597-3755 • FAX: 636-597-3743

*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

July 2012

## Letters of Faith

Look to the honest man.  
I will lead you and I will show you in My Word  
what it means to be honest.  
Look for honesty in those you would follow.

Dearly Beloved,

Almost 35 years ago the Holy Spirit prophetically spoke these words through us about the need to be honest. He brought them to our attention again recently as we noticed so many good Christians are being lured into believing lies that are coming from both liturgical and political leaders alike. With nationally vital elections mere months ahead of us this year, it is imperative that we all refocus our hearing and our discerning on the truth being spoken by honest men and women.

True to the Scriptural admonition to examine all utterances carefully and to hold fast to what is good (1 Thess. 5:21), we call your attention to the words in Rom. 12:17 (Amp.): **“Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is honest and proper and noble—aiming to be above reproach—in the sight of every one.”** and to the admonition expressed in Prov. 4:24: **“Put away from you a deceitful [dishonest] mouth, and put devious lips far from you.”** Remember it was the lies of the Pharisees and their hired false witnesses that were used to arrest and condemn both Jesus and Paul. Can you see (hear) parallels to those Pharisees in today’s heated political arena?

I can’t think of a time in our history when it was more important than it is today for us all to know the truth! And I can’t remember a time since I became interested in our political system in early high school that there was so much misinformation being publically disseminated. And surely there has been **“evil for evil”** in many of the political ads we have been subject to for months.

The word “honorable” is derived from the roots of the word honest! In 2 Cor. 8:21 the Apostle Paul says: **“...we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.”** The Amplified Bible version of this verse concludes: **“For we take thought beforehand and aim to be honest and absolutely above suspicion not only in the sight of the Lord but also in the sight of men.”**

Why did Paul feel it was necessary for him to emphasize his honesty in financial matters? Because there were others who felt it was their right to use some of the offerings for their own use.

How greatly we need such humble and honest leaders in the Body of Christ today and in our governing offices! According to this prophetic word of God to us, we are to seek out leaders who have a reputation for honesty both in the Body AND in the community. Charisma

is not enough! Great power to fascinate in speeches is not enough! Charm and giftedness must not be allowed to cover the lack of honesty, veracity, and moral character.

We have been shocked and appalled to see ministering couples whose marriages we know are shams giving “marriage seminars.” They defile the attending couples by their tainted spirits and by their subterfuge. The Holy Spirit does not anoint dishonesty, so you might ponder where the apparent “anointing” on some of these ministries really comes from.

Honesty is very important in God’s eyes! His primary directions to the remnant of Israel involve honest behavior: **“These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,’ declares the Lord.”** (Zech. 8:16-17 NASB)

God not only hates lying, dishonest judgments, and perjury, He specifically declares that He commits liars—those who practice lying—the dishonest—to the second death in the lake of fire with very unsavory company: **“...for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”** (Rev. 21:8 NASB)

That verse should put the fear of the Lord in all of us anytime we toy with the idea of lying our way out of an embarrassing situation. It has been our observation over the years of pastoring, teaching, and counseling that one of the first signs that a Christian is involved in sin is that they begin to lie with a greater frequency and with greater fervor to protect themselves from being exposed. And they become very angry when they are confronted about their lying! They become deaf and blind to the truth and live and breathe in their fantasy of infallibility. Anyone who disagrees with them is cut off from friendly contact. Ask any family of an addict or a controller!

Jesus said to those who were challenging Him and His words and actions by telling lies about His birthright and bragging about their own position with God: **“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.”** (John 8:44) Pretty tough words from our Redeemer but remember He never said or did anything that His father hadn’t told him to. (Ref. John 5:19)

Honest people—people one could count on trusting—have always been in short supply though the centuries.

Diogenes, a fourth century B.C. Greek writer/philosopher, cynically demonstrated the dearth of trustworthy men by roaming the streets of Athens in broad daylight with a lighted lantern held high declaring that he was “in search of an honest man.”

Shakespeare wrote in Hamlet: “Ay, sir. To be honest, as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand.”

Most unfortunately, far too few people have “honest” as a descriptive adjective attached to their name like Abraham Lincoln, who was affectionately called “Honest Abe.” George Washington, the first president of the newly-formed United States, shared his heart attitude toward this key attribute of character as the author of Moral Maxims: “I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles,

the character of an honest man.”

In 1800, long before prayer in (or about) public facilities was considered un-kosher (politically incorrect) by some present-day politicians, the second president of the United States of America, John Adams, wrote the following on the occasion of his moving into the newly-built White House: “I pray Heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof.” It is carved onto a mantel over one of the White House fireplaces.

All three of these Godly men’s lives exhibited their desire to be honest Christians. Oh, that we might once again be blessed with such honorable leaders! The Scriptures show us that honesty is a key ingredient that should continue to be used in choosing leadership: “... **select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation** (King James Version says, of honest report), **full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.**” (Acts 6:3) You can read into this verse that it is as important in God’s eyes for any candidate for high office to have a reputation for honesty as it is to be wise or showing signs of being full of the Holy Spirit—all are standards for serving God’s people!

The word “honesty” implies complete fairness and openness with others and stresses freedom from deceit or fraud. Honesty exemplifies an unbending moral straightness as well as integrity—uprightness.

That is why cheating in any guise is dishonest. Whether it be in financial matters—like not paying our tax obligation or not paying our debts on time and in full—or in social matters—like cribbing on an exam in school or faking information on a job application form—all dishonesty large or small is an abomination to our Holy God.

If we feel the need (desire) to lie—to cheat, to cover up—for whatever “cause,” we should remember that Jesus is “... **the way, and the TRUTH, and the life...**” (John 14:6). He lives in us! Anything that draws us away from the truth is not honest, is not the right way, and will not minister life.

*Heavenly Father, how dependent we are on Your grace toward us. We are surrounded by temptations to whittle away the meaning of Your absolute truth and what it means to be honest so as not to appear too “straight-laced” or “mean-spirited” by our friends and colleagues who have learned to accept the demands of our times.*

*But we don’t want to compromise Your Truth with our lips or our lives, and so we lay down our desire to please the world and embrace the fullness of Your character in our lives.*

*Help us to “to keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which (we) are slandered, those who revile (our) good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” (1 Peter 3:16) For “When a (Christian’s) ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even (their) enemies be at peace with them” Prov. 16:7*

*Thank You for remaining true to Your character.*

May grace and peace and honesty be yours in fullest measure, Beloved, and may we all live such a life that our God will once again grace us with honest leadership in our pulpits and our public offices.

Huge Haglin Honest Hugs,

