

- III. Church—Work
- A. Phil. 4:15-16 - Evangelism

B. 1 Cor. 14:26 - Edification

C. Benevolence to Needy Saints

1. Acts 4:32-37 – Laid at apostes’ feet

2. 2 Cor. 8—9; 1 Cor. 16:1-2 - Choose

3. Acts 11:29 – Unto the brethren

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

Part Three

Character

(Webster’s 1828)

4. The peculiar qualities, impressed by nature or habit on a person, which distinguish him from others...

In various portions of the scriptures there is a focus on individuals that have certain characteristics that define their true “character.” This is part three of the three-part series:

The Ugly

2. Turpitude of mind; moral depravity; lothesomeness (Webster’s 1828).

The scriptures identify one, yes one, that personifies ugliness.

Jezebel

The scriptures do not have one thing good to say about Jezebel. (Even of Ahab, as evil as he was, when he was reproved by Elijah, the scriptures reveal, “when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. And the word of Jehovah came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house” (1 Kgs. 21:27-29).

Jezebel was a worshipper of Baal. She was responsible for the death of Naboth (see preceding), she “cut off the prophets of Jehovah,” that is, she “slew the prophets of Jehovah” (1 Kgs. 18:4, 13), and when “Elijah came near unto all the people, and said, How long go ye limping between the two sides? if Jehovah be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word” (1 Kgs. 18:21).

Thus, Elijah said to the prophets of Baal (that numbered 450), “call ye on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of Jehovah; and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken” (1 Kgs. 18:24).

When Jehovah defeated the prophets of Baal: “all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, Jehovah, he is God; Jehovah, he is God. And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there” (1 Kgs. 18:39-40). But that was not the end of the event: “And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to-morrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.” (1 Kgs. 19:1-3). That is enough said about the ugliness of Jezebel, i.e., “Turpitude of mind; moral depravity” (Ibid.).

It is, however, not where Jezebel’s moral depravity ends: There was a captain of Ahab’s army that carried out Jehovah’s judgment against Ahab (1 Kgs. 21:8-24), and now it is Jezebel’s turn. “And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her eyes, and attired her head, and looked out at the window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Is it peace, thou Zimri, thy master's murderer? And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down; and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trod her under foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and drink; and he said, See now to this cursed woman, and bury her; for she is a king's daughter. And they went to bury her; but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands.

Wherefore they came back, and told him. And he said, This is the word of Jehovah, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall the dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel; and the body of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel, so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.” (2 Kgs. 9:30-37).

and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron” (1 Tim. 4:1-2). The term “fall away” (ASV), is equal to “shall depart (KJV).” The action is a forward motion, i.e., it requires moving away from the object, or subject under consideration, i.e., “the faith.”

Regarding “the faith” the subject of apostasy, falling away, or departing from, was addressed by Jude saying, “I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints” (Vs. 3). Jude was constrained to write because, “there are certain men crept in privily, *even* they who were of old written of beforehand unto this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (Vs. 4).

Every New Testament writer addressed the subject of apostasy. However, the apostle Paul outlined the dangers in simple terms: “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, fashioning themselves into apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light. It is no great thing therefore if his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works” (2 Cor. 11:13-15). The question to be addressed is simple, i.e., Why is apostasy rampant? Ret



Not a God of Confusion

What does it take to convince a man to take heed to the word of God, and reject the words of man? It has been reported that “Followers of Jesus span the globe. But the global body of more than 2 billion Christians is separated into thousands of denominations. (Live Science).

Ponder this: In 2 Peter 3:14-18 and 1 Corinthians 14:33, Peter and Paul did not preach one doctrine to one denomination and a different doctrine to another! As Paul stated, “God is not a God of confusion.” In John 16:13-15, Jesus said the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) would guide the apostles “into all the truth:” Who is he that affirms the Holy Spirit sent confusion among men? ret

Authority IX

With Him is
Plenteous Redemption

Psalms 130:7

Web www.jonescoc.org Phone 405.916.4723	Church of Christ meeting at 12812 E Britton, Rd P. O. Box 596 Jones, OK 73049	ASSEMBLIES SUNDAY: Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Assembly: 10:30 a.m. Assembly: 5:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY: Bible Study: 6:00 p.m.
Volume I		0009

Weekly Reading

James 2:14-24; Isaiah 5:18-23; 51:12-13; Matthew 7:13-29; 10:24-3
Acts 2:36-38; 8:26-39; 9:1-19; 10:47-48; 11:12-14

Authority IX

I. Music—Worship

- A. Eph. 5:19 – Singing
- B. Col. 3:16 – Singing
- C. Passages where the term “sing” is used:
 - 1. Acts 16:25 – Paul and Silas
 - 2. Rom. 15:9 – Quote Psa. 18:49
 - 3. 1 Cor. 14:15 – “Sing with the understanding”
 - 4. Jam. 5:13 – “Let him sing praise”

II. Church—Oversight

- A. Acts 20:17, 28 – Elders: Note—Plural
- B. 1 Pet. 5:1, 2 – Note: Elders “among you”
- C. Eph. 4:11-16 – Pastors = *Shepherd*