



The Full Gospel Church

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BEING HONEST WITH YOURSELF

There are many times that we need to be honest with ourselves. Many times we like to hide or convince ourselves that we are doing something correctly. When I attended Bible College, there was a fellow preacher who bought homeowners insurance from a member of the church. This preacher's home was hit by a tornado and there was damage to his home. When the preacher attempted to collect for damages, he discovered that he was not protected at all. The insurance salesman told him that the policy was cheap. Whereas the insurance salesman sold cheap insurance that did not provide coverage when it was needed. The insurance salesman not only lied to the client, but he was lying to himself thinking that he was providing a service by selling homeowners insurance at an economical rate. When the lie was discovered by the ones who bought the insurance that provided little or no coverage, it was usually too late for them.

Now the insurance agent was selling the required coverage dictated by the mortgage company. He did not disclose the shortcomings of the coverage to his clients. It could have been that he thought the client would think that he was trying to jack up the cost of the insurance. So when the agent said nothing about what was explicitly covered he was lying to the client and himself. He was not being reputable while he was think that he was a reputable businessman.

Being honest with yourself means that you acknowledge all of the facts and details with

what you are doing. It means that you are unwilling to face the consequences of full disclosure.

Now this week here in Philadelphia the current mayor found an FBI bug in his office. He tried to keep everything under wraps, but in our open society the news came out. Of course the opponent has been making everything of this that he can. I know that Ronald Regan took the blame for everything that went on in his office. He stood up and said that since he was in charge, it was his fault. On the other hand other, politicians have tried their best to sweep misdeeds under the carpet denying the very existence of any knowledge of the wrong doing.

Ronald Regan was called the "Teflon president" because before anything could be thrown at him he apologized for whatever, even if he had nothing to do with it or even had any knowledge of the incident. Take for instance the Iran Contra Affair.

Honesty begins with being honest with yourself. If you think that selling cheap insurance without the disclosure of what is and is not covered is righteous, then you are not being honest with yourself no matter how you justify the action. Before you can be honest with the rest of the world you need to be honest with yourself. If you can justify your misdeeds to others, you are lying to yourself.

Before you can even repent of your sin, you need to acknowledge to yourself that you are a

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sinner, and a liar. Many have not come to the altar of repentance for they have been lying to themselves all of their life. They do not see themselves as wicked and evil. They see themselves as righteous because they justify their misdeeds by telling themselves that they are just providing what the customer wants.

How can you repent if you do not see yourself as a sinner? To realize that you are a sinner you need to be totally honest with yourself. There is no room for self justification! You need to see yourself for what you really are.

Romans 3:23

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

No one is righteous before God. With all of the mess with politics, corporate scandals, and the increase of wickedness all around us, there is none righteous!

Romans 3:10

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Does the used car salesman see himself as a sinner? Does the insurance agent see himself as a sinner? Does the politician see himself as a sinner? Does the corporate executive see himself as a sinner? Do you see yourself as a sinner? If the answer is no, then you are not seeing yourself as God sees you. There is not a single person here who is not guilty before God.

Romans 3:1-31

1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

5 But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man)

6 God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

7 For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?

8 And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.

9 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

17 And the way of peace have they not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by

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the law is the knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

29 Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:

30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

The only way to get out from under the condemnation of our sinful ways is to seek forgiveness from the Lord Jesus Christ. Without the Lord redeeming us from ourselves there is no hope for us. Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost. Before Jesus came into my life I was lost and sinking deeper and deeper into sin. I was on the road of self destruction where I was becoming more and more corrupt and evil. You may look good to the world, but in reality, you are a sinner needing Jesus

Christ as your savior. Without Jesus leading the way in your life you have no hope. The world may like you, and you may be successful in business, but if your life is not built upon the rock of Jesus Christ you are on sinking sand. Look at Enron and the corporate leaders who were held in high esteem by the world until their world came crashing down around them.

Look at Bill Clinton, Richard Nixon, and others who have been caught in their wickedness. Without Jesus Christ they have no hope. Either do you have any hope without following the Lord Jesus Christ.

No matter how high you climb in the world, if your life is not following the precepts of Jesus Christ you will eventually find that all is naught. You will find yourself in a lake of fire crying out for mercy when you have missed the chance of forgiveness. Are you willing to take the chance of facing an eternity of eternal damnation when you have the chance to come to the Lord Jesus today?

If you think that the judgment of this world is severe, can you imagine what the judgment of eternity will be like where there is no end in sight?

Revelation 20:10-15

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those

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things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Are you prepared to meet this judge? Are you prepared to answer for your life? Are you prepared to stand before the righteous Judge Jesus Christ who gave his own life so that you may live? If you have not repented of your sins to the Lord Jesus now is the time. Now is the hour of your salvation. If you put off this opportunity any longer, you may find that the day of repentance may have passed you by. Now is the time to come to the altar and seek the loving forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Seek

the Lord while there is time. Jesus is calling you to come to him and take his loving Spirit. Are you ready to seek the Lord today? Are you ready to have a new master of your life? Jesus is calling you to come home to him.

Ask Jesus to come into your heart tonight.

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Services:

Sunday School 11:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 12:00 Noon
Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM

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