

Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 11/9/09

The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson



Thought of the Week:

God is Truth

Verse of the Week:

Jesus answered, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

Former Texas Christian University head football coach Jim Wacker revealed great integrity during the 1985 season. Wacker discovered some boosters had been giving money under the table to some of his star players. Instead of turning his head the other way, he dismissed the players. His team went from conference contender to an "also ran," but there was no question about the integrity about his program.

The kind of integrity Wacker demonstrated is the same kind that God wants to develop in each of His children. Godly integrity is more valuable than winning football games. Divine integrity is based upon God's nature. The word integrity means a "quality of being complete, undivided, morally sound." God is complete; He is undivided; He is free from mixture of anything foreign to Himself. All idols are fabricated, but God is the real thing. God is all He claims to be. No man is all he claims to be, and most folks don't even know themselves. But God knows Himself perfectly, and He lives up to His own standard of perfection.

Divine integrity is also based upon the fact that God is perfectly accurate when He describes people, places, and things. The religion of evolution says that man evolved by random chance, but God says He created man. Muslims say Mohammed was the final revelation of God, but Jesus said He is the revelation of God (John 14:9). If God says homosexuality is sin (which He does), then it is sin. Whatever God says is true, and whatever His Word says is true. His Word is truth, no matter what man thinks. Jesus said, "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17), and Paul said, "[God] does not lie" (Titus 1:2). It is impossible for God to lie or to be proved false. Because God knows all things, He is the possessor of all truth (Numbers 23:19). If God is a liar, we have absolutely no hope. Man would then make up truth, but that would be only his subjective opinion. But God is not a liar, and we can have faith in everything He says.

Whatever promises God makes, He keeps. God proved His faithfulness to Noah when He sent the flood 120 years after warning Noah. Most people didn't believe the truth of God's Word, but Noah trusted God and built the ark by faith. God proved His faithfulness to Abraham by granting him a son after Sarah was past childbearing years. God's Word transcends the bounds of nature. God fulfilled prophecies of the Messiah when Jesus came to earth. Throughout the gospels, events took place to fulfill Scripture. Matthew 1:22-23 says, "Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet [Isaiah— seven hundred years before the time of Christ] might be fulfilled, saying, 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which translated means, 'God with us'" (NAS). He who calls you is faithful! God fulfills His every Word, whether it be a prophecy of the future, a blessing for obedience (Romans 8:28), or a cursing for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28). What a God of integrity we serve!

Jim Wacker was known as a man of integrity. Yet, our awesome Lord Jesus is the only perfect example of integrity the world has ever seen.

Time Out:

- 1) As Christians, we must deal with people honestly. Are you an honest person? Deceit causes people to lose trust in us. Let us be trustworthy. Observe what God says about integrity in Psalm 15.
- 2) In Christ, all God's promises are fulfilled. He has placed His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee of what is to come (2 Corinthians 1:18-22). Have you fulfilled your commitments as God fulfills His?
- 3) The Bible says that the devil is a liar and the father of all lies (John 8:44). When he lies, he speaks his native language. When we lie, we are following the devil's footsteps. How do you feel about telling falsehoods?
- 4) Are lies okay in some situations?
- 5) Are lies okay because everybody tells them?
- 6) Do you hate lying with a passion?
- 7) Do you feel strongly either way?