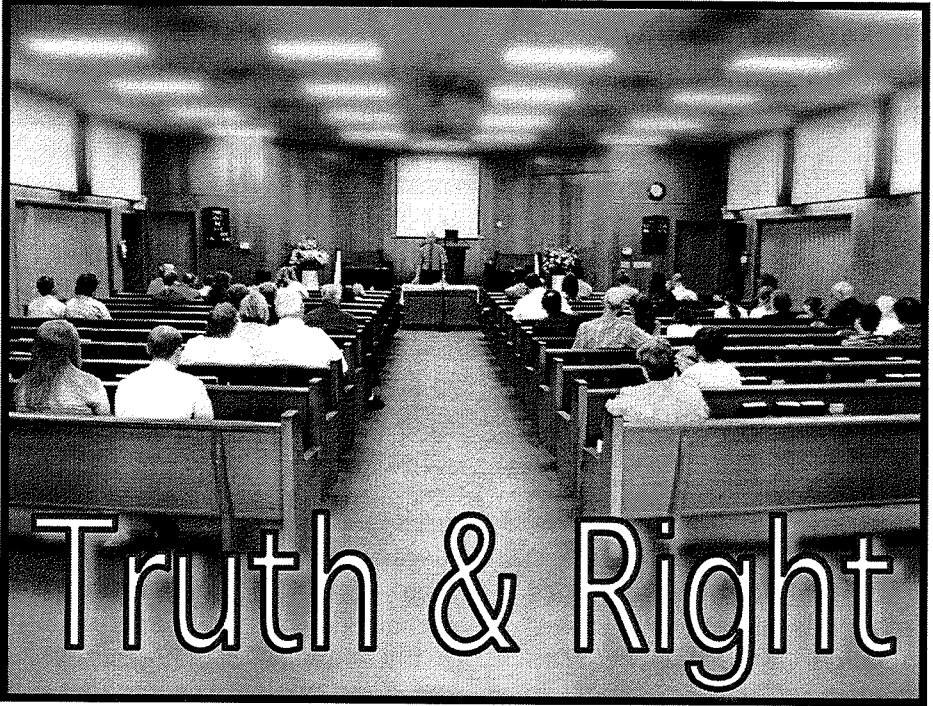


In search of...



Truth & Right

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A Good Name

Proverbs 22:1 says, "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold." This very short verse tells us a universal truth: reputation is a valuable thing. But more than that, we also know that reputations are fragile things. It sometimes takes quite a while to be known for doing good, but what about doing evil? Recently Jessica & I visited a gospel meeting and the sermon for that night's title included a few names. Let me list them and see if

you recognize them: Adam Lanza, James Holmes, Adolph Hitler; are any of those ringing a bell? I would imagine so. But not only are those names familiar to you, they are familiar to you for specific reasons. Those names have connotations because of the evil actions of the ones who bore them. "Adolph" is not exactly in the list of most popular baby names, you know? There is a reason for that.

Another good passage to look at is Matt. 16:13-15: "Now

when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Notice what Jesus said. "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Jesus knew who He was, but was interested in knowing what others thought. And, while from the number of different answers it is clear that the Israelites at that time did not know who He was, they had some ideas about Him. Jesus' reputation preceded Him. Because of His wisdom in teaching He was compared to John the Baptist and Jeremiah; because of His ability to perform miracles, no doubt, He was thought to be Elijah. You might want to ask this same question about yourself. "Who do people say that I am?" You might be surprised at some of the answers you get.

Another bit of insight into how important a good name and good reputation is would be the fact that in listing the qualities that an elder of the church is to possess, reputation among those outside of the church is listed. 1 Tim. 3:7 says, "Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into

disgrace, into a snare of the devil." The Scriptures were not saying that an elder must be well thought of by just the congregation that he is taking a leading role in, but of the community at large, and that if people in the community not in the Lord's Church would have something to bring against him, that would be enough to prevent this man from serving as an overseer. Clearly to God reputation is a serious matter.

Stop for a moment and think about whom your reputation affects, other than yourself, obviously. What about your family? The virtuous woman in Prov. 31 "looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her..." (vs. 27-28). Hopefully you are living in a way that your family members speak well of you to their neighbors & friends. But all too often there are family members that a person would rather not talk about because of what that person has done. Let me be clear: in the end, we cannot control the actions of others, so if they want to run us down or speak badly about us, then there is nothing we can do & they will have to answer for acting in such a way. But while we cannot stop people from talking, we CAN certainly not give them anything to talk

Twelve Anointed

A Z P Y U F F K F D R W X P A C S J E P
F M T O O P X T H D M C B X Z M F Y F H
H V J Z S G B Z I V C M B V A G W Q T C
Z G S W Q Q C M Z Q O M N I Y T A R X C
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B E E B S N R W G U T Y Q V D R C X I Y
A R E A B I H U R M X G M K J U S F D E
T D N E J Y G P O F Y K K Y E H K P D W
N A D B F W E L U I Z Y H R H C K D O D
X A D E L E A Z A R O F Q X O Q B T G S
M K P K N E V L E D A V I D A I V D J Y
J O Q C D Q H A Y V L N A O H Y K T R Z
L R Z S A U L Y I P C D B C A R K S K E
Z L W O T E J I Z Z V A S R Z K U W U G
Y U K L B Y E I T H A M A R B R J A C N
K M A O V Q H C O A W S L R F O D V Q N
A J Y M O Y U W I T Z V O E D Z N J G W
A O C O P V K J V H H S M G X U S M O H
R A S N R Z X I F O A W Y W X D Y A V T
O S I Y Y H R C X G T W A C F P T E G D
N H Q S S G U Y C I G A Z H X R E K R N

-In Exodus 28, we see Aaron

-and his sons Nadab,

-Abihu,

-Eleazar,

-and Ithamar anointed to serve as priests before God

-Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel in 1 Sam. 10

-Later, David was anointed to reign in his place in 1 Sam. 16

-Some had anointed Absalom, to usurp David in 2 Sam. 19

-But later Solomon was anointed rightful king in 1 Kings 1

-In 2 Kings 9, Jehu was anointed king over Israel

-In 2 Kings 11, Joash was anointed king over Judah

-Josiah's son Jehoahaz took his father's place as king in 2 Kings 23

about! Don't give them any ammunition!

Understand that a driving force in us living in such a way that we will have a good name is knowing that our lives are not "our lives." 1 Cor. 6:19-20 tells us, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." The brains we use to think, to feel, and to do our jobs were given to us by the Lord. He created everything that we have, and He gives us even the air that we breathe, without even thinking about it! So it is not my life. It's the life God has given to me; what am I doing with it?

Throughout God's Word several things are listed that we are to be known for doing/having in our lives, like being merciful, forgiving one another, being patient, humbly putting our pride aside and thinking of others, showing hospitality, being mindful of spiritual things instead of carnal things; do any of the above describe you? Be known for doing good; it will show!

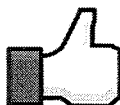
It should go without saying that our actions play a large part in forming the reputations that we will have, whether good or bad. Observe what is said in Acts 3:8-10: "And leaping up he stood and

began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

There it says that the people **recognized** this man as the one who was lame and asked for alms at the Temple Gate. But more importantly, at this moment they were recognizing the **change** in him, because now he was walking! If you are a Christian, that means that you have dedicated your life to following after Jesus the Christ and have had your previous sins washed away by His precious blood; what a monumental event! But do others see it? Can the people around you at work, at school, or at home see the change in your life? If someone is a Christian then they must of necessity have the reputation of being a Christian!

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