

WALKING IN WISDOM (**Colossians 4:5**) Number #27

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
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Slandering Saints by John T. Polk II

John "heard a loud voice saying in heaven, 'Now salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down" (**Revelation 12:10**). GOD IS GREATER THAN THE DEVIL! God's Kingdom, Christ, and Christians are stronger than the Devil's empire! All the Devil has that he can use are accusations against what is right and Christians.

Accusations are mostly unproven lies, and though he may hurl an impressive number of them, it is as Jesus said, "There is no truth in him" (**John 8:44**).

1. Accusations cannot change the truth: Jews brought Jesus to Pilate, "And said to him, 'If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.'" (**John 18:30**) Jesus Christ ... an "evildoer?" As Pilate said, "Why, what evil has He done?" (**Matthew 27:23**), and then, after examination, confessed, "I find no fault in Him at all" (**John 18:38**). Christians are trying to reshape their lives to be like Jesus. "Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation" (**1 Peter 2:11-12**). Sinful people called Jesus "an evildoer," and "speak against" Christians doing "good works." Don't believe everything sinners claim about Christ or Christians.

2. The fact remains: there is a difference between Good & Evil: God, through **Moses**, told Israelites: "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil" (**Deuteronomy 30:15**). **Solomon** asked God for "an understanding heart" "that I may discern between good and evil" (**1 Kings 3:9**). God's prophet, **Amos**, said: Hate evil, love good" (**Amos 5:15**). To **Christians**, Paul wrote:

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good" (**Romans 12:9**). The difference between "good" and "evil" is clearly drawn, described, and determined. Jesus said, "the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation" (**John 5:28-29**).

There are not enough "shades of gray" to confuse those who follow God's Word.

3. The Wicked Will Not Escape: "Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner does evil a hundred *times*, and his *days* are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong *his* days, *which are* as a shadow, because he does not fear before God"

(**Ecclesiastes 8:11-13**). When people aren't immediately "struck down" from Heaven by God; or their case drags on through the court system; or there is not enough "justice" in the Justice System to bring about conviction, people think they have gotten away "Scot free!" The human justice system may be completely corrupted, but God's Judgment is perfect and His punishment eternal!

4. Why Wickedness Continues: "But to the wicked God says: 'What *right* have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you? When you saw a thief, you consented with him, and have been a partaker with adulterers. You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit *and* speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son'" (**Psalms 50:16-20**). In these verses, God describes a "wicked" person as one who disregards what the Bible teaches while: 1. Quoting from it for selfish purposes; 2. Justifying stealing by calling mass thievery just a "racial protest," or "flash mob," or establishing "legal rights" for the thief; 3. Giving legal and moral approval to adulterers; 4. Speaking evilly with lies, blasphemy and slander. **Today, Christians must make**

their choice of "Good" known through every available avenue: Voting, Vocation, Vacation, Voice and Vision.

Nothing said or done by the Devil or his angels (**Matthew 25:41**) must ever deter a Christian from this way. Into a lions' den of criticism, struggle and anguish, we must "Have faith in God" (**Mark 11:22**).
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Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ **"Human happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected."** ~~GEORGE WASHINGTON
- ~ **"There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues are created."** ~~WINSTON CHURCHILL,
British Prime Minister, 1948
- ~ **"As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate."** ~~ALBERT SCHWEITZER



The Obligation of the Free

In Acts 5:17-18 we see the apostles arrested for proclaiming Christ. While sitting there in the common prison, *"at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.'"* (Acts 5:19-20). A couple of interesting things from this are important for us to note.

First of all, it is important to note that they were not delivered out of prison to go and seek safety, but to "go" about the work they were called to do -- i.e. to preach the gospel. This was to be their main focus in life, and they were to do it regardless of what others would think of or do to them (cf. Mark 16:15).

Secondly, they were to speak *"all the words of this life."* *"This life"* is in reference to the Christian life. This also reveals to us that Christianity is a way of life -- a way of living. But what I think is most interesting is that they were to speak *"all words"* concerning this. *"All words"* means that they were to tell the whole truth about the gospel of Christ, not just part of it. In fact, one Bible version translates this verse as speaking *"the whole message of this Life"* (New American Standard). They were to declare the *"whole counsel of God"* (cf. Acts 20:27).

Here's the thing for us to note: Like the apostles being freed from prison, we have been freed from the prison of sin (Rom. 6), and because of that we have an obligation to go and tell the gospel truth, the whole gospel truth, and nothing but the gospel truth -- in our lives and in our language.

It is too easy to not live according to the standards of Christ. It is too easy not to tell all of the truth of the gospel. But Christians have an obligation. Without a doubt, as we can see from the lives of the apostles, the obligation of the free is to be brave! It takes courage to tell the truth and stand firmly upon it. It takes fearlessness to confront those who are teaching error. It takes fortitude to be with and for Christ always.

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love." (1 Cor. 16:13-14)

- Edd Sterchi