



# Hunger For Truth

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Edited By: Craig Glickman -- svtday@yahoo.com  
Andrew Lacroix -- andrewlacroix@yahoo.com

HUNGER FOR TRUTH  
MINISTRIES

**Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:2**  
*“Let us Hunger For Truth”*

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It is our desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

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## *With Responsibility Comes Accountability*

*By: Andrew Lacroix*

Text: I Kings 2:26-27

In the devotional "So What Happened to Bathsheba?" (2/15/13 HFT), we saw the first events of Solomon's reign. Chapter two highlights four specific events. Three of them cover someone's death, but we will highlight the one who doesn't die. In our text Solomon calls for the current high priest who is named Abiathar. Our text points out that this is a man who deserved to die. Abiathar doesn't die, but he is told to leave.

Two questions arise as to these profound two verses in this chapter: First, why does Abiathar deserve to die? Because the position he held was not supposed to be his. Second, why does Solomon spare him? Because he aided David his father. David had overlooked the

fact that Abiathar was not supposed to be the priest at this time. This brings up a third question: Why is Abiathar in the position he is? The answer to this is in the last part of v. 27: "...that he (Solomon) might fulfill the word of the Lord which He spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh." Abiathar was the last of the house of Eli to serve as priest. Yet Solomon ejecting Abiathar from that position was indeed a fulfillment of Scripture.

In 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-36 we see just why the house of Eli was no longer allowed to serve in this capacity. Eli was a faithful man, and as a descendant of Aaron the great high priest, he was responsible for the duties of that office and accountable to God for it. However, as good of a man as Eli was, his sons were quite the opposite. I'd like to duly note two groups of people that are responsible for something and will be accountable for it now and in the future:

1. **Parents.** Eli failed as a parent and as a priest. His sons were called: "sons of Belial: they knew not the Lord." (1 Sam. 2:12) That was a popular euphemism for a good for nothing child. They were evil doers. Here in v. 16 they ignored two vital requirements for the office of the priest of the tabernacle. One of them was they had to wait for the fat to burn off the sacrifice before they could receive what the Lord had rightly entitled them to: the breast and right thigh (cf. Lev. 7:34). The fat had to be burned completely on the altar first, according to Lev. 3:3-5. This was a peace offering. These men, sadly, "abhorred the offering of the Lord." (v.17) Just a few verses later, they committed another offensive tragedy (v.22). Eli rebuked them by words, but not by actions. He should have chastened them by correction, removing them from the office of priesthood, or even executed them. His house, as well as Eli himself, were judged in verses 30-35.

In 1 Samuel 3:11-14, we see Samuel, the new leader of Israel, telling Eli just exactly what this judgment entailed. Those that were priests were held to a very high standard, and if they didn't fulfill their responsibilities, they were going to be held accountable. Eli failed as both a priest and a parent. Eli should have forced his children to behave properly and rebuke with an appropriate chastisement when necessary. The crimes his children committed were worthy of death, and Eli couldn't bring himself to put his own children, Hophni and Phinehas, to death. David had the same problem when it came to pass of Amnon's actions and Absalom had to do David's deed.

Now there was a law for a parent of a rebellious son, at least to this extent. This was the law of the rebellious son (cf. Deut. 21:18-21). A son who would not take chastisement and obey his parents time after time after time could, when they were old enough (20 or older is usually the age given, but that would have been different for each case), go before the elders, who would judge that son and all the men of that city would take him out of the city limits and proceed to stone him to death. I'm not authorizing anyone who has even the most rebellious son to have him put to death, but Eli indeed had the right to go and see this done and he might have saved face for himself. However, it was never recorded that anyone used this law to put a rebellious son away. No matter how sinful his sons were, he couldn't bring himself to do this. So if a rebellious son was to be put to death, perhaps we could conjecture what should happen to a perfectly righteous Son? He was not spared. The righteous Son I speak of

is Jesus Christ, obedient to death, even the death of the cross (cf. Phil. 2:8).

So Eli couldn't judge himself or his sons, and God had to for him. They lost the privilege of the priesthood, and all his descendants had to forfeit this claim. Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas were slain in I Sam. 4:11. Eli was also killed (4:18). Phinehas' grandson Ahimelech served until Saul slew him (cf. I Sam. 22:16-20), and in that same time period Ahimelech's son, Abiathar, escaped the wrath of Saul and David, being perhaps unaware of this prophecy or overlooking it, allowed him to be priest. He served David in great ways and was in the priest's office until Solomon fulfilled prophecy and kicked him out.

Note I Sam. 2:35 real quick. God said: "And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in mine mind: and I will build him a sure house; and He shall walk before mine anointed forever." Did any priest of Eli fulfill this? No. How about Aaron? No, not even Aaron himself. Only Jesus Christ did (cf. Heb. 2:17).

As godly of a man as a judge and priest that Eli was, he failed as a parent. A parent's job is to love their children, teach them, and rebuke them when necessary. Sometimes a word or two is all that is needed, but some crimes/sins need a stronger rebuke. Solomon was wise to this aspect in his many admonitions of child discipline. I may not be a father yet, but I do see the results of both properly and improperly disciplined children today, and the difference is like the difference between night and day. Godly parents, it is your responsibility of yours to properly discipline your child if he or she is out of line. A child is a precious stewardship, and you will be accountable for how you raise that child. Others, let's be careful to do right in front of that child as well, so we don't come off as hypocritical.

Eli was responsible for the many challenges of being a priest, and as a judge of Israel he did a good job until he failed to be the father he should have been, and God held him accountable in the end, judging him and his house and they lost the privilege they could have had for years on end. Zadok was the one who took over as priest after Abiathar was removed from his position. Let's not lose other stewardships because we were unfaithful with what God gives us.

**2. Parishioners.** That would be those in the local church. In Ezekiel 3:17-21 the prophet is given a stern warning about warning. This was the warning to those who heard it: Judgment is coming for you. Repent now. Ezekiel had to warn the people of that judgment. If he did not, they would die in their sin, but yet it would be as if he was the one doing the executing for his failure to warn. The same is said for him later in this very book (cf. 33:1-20). This was a call to action for Ezekiel, and the same should be for every Christian. Every few seconds, another soul will slip from life to either eternal life or everlasting punishment. More than likely, the soul that dies next is going to Hell for rejecting what light God has given them. Listen, Christian: God has given you enough light to show others the True Light: Jesus Christ, dying for them, so they don't have to die for their sins. This is a grave responsibility (no pun intended) with a sober accountability for such at the Bema Seat of Christ. We have a job to do in addition to all other things, and that is warning those around us of future judgment. Being a good testimony only goes so far. Having our churches in good locations may make them more accessible, but again, it only goes so far. We are required to warn, and warn those we

must. We cannot coerce people to come to church to hear the gospel, because many people have their own "church". We must tell them of judgment, as that soul slips further toward the crevasse of Hell.

If we fail in this matter, our hands will be bloody come the judgment seat of Christ. It will not be because we didn't win them, but because we failed to warn them. It doesn't mean everyone has to meet in one central spot for soul winning. Your own neighborhood needs you as well. Let's all go out next time or some different time and go warn the lost and dying. The world is getting darker by the minute, and in the same minute all of us are one minute closer to our end. People don't have to die for their sins! They can know that! They must believe, though, in the same saving faith with repentance. How shall they hear without a preacher? If you can't speak up, show up with a tract! It will tell them what they need to know. Then we must pray for each one, otherwise they remain blind to truth and they cannot be saved.

Only Paul didn't seem to fall short concerning his witness. Look at what he says to the unbelieving Jews in Acts 18:6: "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles." He told them and warned them time and time again; but they wouldn't believe, and furthermore blasphemed, therefore, just like when Ezekiel warned and the sinner refused to hear, they died in their sins, and Paul and Ezekiel were spared from accounting for them.

The same will go for us. How many times are we to warn someone of judgment? The Bible doesn't say. If we're only going to meet a person once, we ought to make the most of that one meeting. If it is a person you know quite well, don't hit them over the head with it, but passing references once in a while cannot hurt. If you are legally not allowed to pass religious pamphlets at work, then consider other means. How about inviting them out to lunch or dinner? Bring another Christian for moral and perhaps witnessing support. Talk about it off time or not on company grounds. This is one of those things where a Christian needs to have a good heart about it.

Solomon says, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." (Prov. 11:30) It is very wise for all of us to make a concerted, diligent effort when possible to share the gospel or at least hand a tract to them. There is practically no harm in doing it. If we all did our part, God will be glorified, and doesn't Isaiah 55:11 say, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it?" To us if we don't get a positive reaction we think nothing of it. No! It doesn't return to God with a red VOID mark on it! You never know in a person's darkest hour that individual finds that tract and comes to Christ. How many souls are there in Heaven that we witnessed to and don't even know they got saved? Why not keep going?

These are two sober responsibilities to which we will be accountable for, along with others, at the Bema Seat. Until that sobering time, let's ask God to forgive us when we fell short, and ask Him to help us in the vital aspects of each of our lives. Let's see our children turn out right and more people come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

## *“Alone” (Part #21) (By: Craig Glickman)*

This is the **conclusion** of a long, yet informative study on every appearance of the word “alone” in the Bible. This word appears 106 times in the King James Version. For sake of space, I will show only the reference but I encourage you to take your Bible and read the passages.

**Hebrews 9:7** – In this passage, we are reading about the sacrifice in the old covenant and temporary sacrifices by the Levites. The second room in the tabernacle was the inner sanctuary called the holy of holies; it symbolized the presence of God. The high priest was strictly forbidden to enter the holy of holies more than once a year. He entered it alone, just he and Almighty God! The Holy Spirit was teaching that under the old covenant, unimpeded access to the presence of God was not yet possible because close communion with Him could exist only when a person's inward conscience had been cleansed perfectly (vs. 8-9). This cleansing was provided for when Christ died as an eternal sacrifice for sin. In the OT, sacrifices were for temporary atonement of one's sin, and these OT believer's knew this, and were looking for a Messiah who would and did come to permanently wash away the sin of all mankind! O' what a Savior!

**James 2:17** – This passage teaches that we show our faith in Christ by our works! Works are not for salvation! Works come after salvation! They are fruit that we love Christ and desire to obey God and His word! This passage is saying that faith without works is NOT genuine Bible faith for it is alone, by itself or dead. Works without faith are dead works. Faith without works is dead faith! True faith always manifests itself in obedience towards God and compassionate deeds towards the needs of others. James is directing his teaching against those in the church who professed faith in Christ and His blood atonement and believed that such profession was all that was necessary for salvation. They believed that a personal, obedient relationship with Christ as Lord of their lives was not essential and that they could just live as they pleased. James said that such faith is dead and can not produce salvation or anything good (14-16, 20-24)! The only kind of faith that saves is “faith which worketh by love” (Gal. 5:6). We also must not think that we maintain a living faith solely by our own effort! The grace of God, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Christ work in our lives to enable us to respond to God by faith (Rom. 1:17).

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**Editor's Note:** I would like to hear from you how this study on the word 'alone' has blessed you and would greatly appreciate your comments regarding this study. Thank you.

## *Emotions in The Bible (By: Craig Glickman)*

There are many verses and passages in the Bible that relate to emotions and feelings of man and our Lord Himself in trials, suffering, affliction, and of course peace and joy. The following is an ongoing study of passages that have convicted, comforted, edified, encouraged or blessed me through hearing messages, devotions and studies over the years. I hope this is a blessing and help to you and I, and that the Lord may be honored and glorified in this series of studies on emotions in the Bible. Each issue, Lord willing, will have a verse or passage in the Bible covered. I am excited and privileged to do this. Praise God! I intend to break each passage down into the following: **Passage, Emotion(s), Cause, Effect, What does the passage say?, What does the passage say to you and I?, What should you and I do about it?, How do you and I stay accountable?**

**Passage:** Proverbs 15:1

**Emotion(s):** wrath, anger

**Cause:** A soft answer or grievous words

**Effect:** turning away wrath or anger and wrath

**What does the passage say?:** You could also title this passage “bite your tongue.” I am sure if we would be honest with ourselves, we would all admit to saying things during a time of emotion that we regret. We all can remember when someone in our lives has said something that hurt us. As believers, we should strive to not let that happen in the future. Words are easy to escape, but the reality is we can never, no matter how hard we try or what we do, take them back! Our wonderful Lord gives us wonderful advice on how we can be proactive in preparing for those times when Satan wishes us to say words that can scar. A soft answer is God's answer to prevent us from scarring with words.

**What does the passage say to you and I?:** The Bible says that no man can tame the tongue. Stop and think about that for a moment! We can tame animals and fish, but we cannot tame the tongue! That is an overwhelming and scary thought, if we don't have the Spirit of God to help us! The Bible says in Proverbs 16:24, “Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to bones.” those “pleasant words” must flow from a heart that is God-honoring, God-loving, and God-led. Remember if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all! That is a great principle!

**What should you and I do about it?:** Tell yourself, “I want to please and put you first Lord, so I am going to say something kind to them, despite what they said *and/or* did to me.” Also, tell yourself, “Lord, keep my lips from getting into arguments with others. I trust you to work things out for you are in control. Help me to say when somebody wants to argue with me, I am sorry. I don't want to argue with you.” We are responsible to be obedient to and please God 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost! It is not who is right, but what is right, and what is right, is God's word! The Bible is our measuring stick for all we say and do and the sole authority a believer is to live by! As believer's, we must willingly and diligently keep this front and center in our hearts and minds.

**How do you and I stay accountable?:** Ask yourself, What kind of heart do I have? Am I living an obedient life for Christ and earnestly striving to live for Christ? Allow the Holy Spirit to work in you and guide the words that you say, and if your start to say something that you may regret, just “bite your tongue.”

*Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)* (Reprinted from 12/09 Issue)

## **Jesus Loves You**

Jesus loves you because He:

### 1. Suffered For You

- A. He was falsely accused – John 18:28-40
- B. He was beaten & mocked – Isa. 53, Matt. 27:27-31
- C. He was sentenced to die on the cross – John 19:16-17

### 2. Died For You

- A. He gave His only begotten son – John 3:16-17
- B. The wages of sin is death – Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 6:23a
- C. He conquered death & hell (“It is finished”) – John 19:30

### 3. Was Buried For You

- A. He is the Son the God – Matt. 27:50-54 (36)
- B. He was laid in a tomb – Matt. 27:57-60a



C. The stone was rolled over the door – Matt. 27:60, 66

4. Rose Again For You

A. He said He would rise again – Luke 18:31-34, Mark 10:32-34

B. The stone was rolled away – Luke 24:1-3

C. The grave clothes lie alone – John 20:1-10

D. He conquered the grave (“He Has Risen”) – Luke 24:4-6, Mark 16:1-6, Matt. 28:1-6

5. Lives For You

A. He said handle me and see – Luke 24:33-43

B. He ascended into heaven – Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-53

C. He is at the right hand of the father – Col. 3:1, Acts 7:55-56 (Stephen)

D. Salvation is by grace through faith alone – Eph. 2:8-9, John 1:12, Rom. 10:13, 1 John 5:13

E. He is willing to give you eternal life if you will simply believe in Him – Rom. 6:23b,

## :) Children For Christ :)

Memory Verse: “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” – Prov. 15:1

### A SOFT ANSWER

**Choose the correct answer to the following questions:**

1. When facing anger, a soft answer will:
  - A. Encourage reconciliation
  - B. Encourage Peace
  - C. Both A & B
2. Harsh words will:
  - A. Stir up more anger
  - B. Stir up hostility
  - C. Both A & B
3. Read Colossians 4:5-6. According to this a believer's words should be:
  - A. Pleasant
  - B. Kind
  - C. Gracious
  - D. Cheerful
  - E. All of the above
4. Read Colossians 4:6 and Ephesians 4:29. According to these verses, “seasoned with salt” may mean \_\_\_\_\_ that is appropriate and marked by purity, not corruption:
  - A. Conversation
  - B. Anger
  - C. Grievous words
5. Speech with grace means:
  - A. Speaking the truth in love
  - B. Fervent and stern words when necessary to oppose false doctrine
  - C. Both A & B

\*\*\*Finally, take a sheet a paper and write a paragraph or two of how you can make your speech better by giving soft answers and guard your tongue from grievous words that stir up anger.

<p><b>“Being saved by grace does not give us an excuse to sin; it gives us a reason to obey.”</b></p>	<p><b>“A true disciple inquires not whether a fact is agreeable to his own reason, but whether it is in The Book!”</b></p>
<p><b>“Safety is not in the absence of danger, but in the presence of the Lord!”</b></p>	<p><b><u>Praises</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety and protection thru the Blizzard of 2013</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Prayer Requests</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman)</li> <li>• Lacroix family and friend Rick (Salvation)</li> <li>• Rusty and family, Jose, Rudney (Salvation)</li> <li>• Job situation for Brother Craig (Day shift)</li> </ul>

***Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman and Andrew Lacroix who are members of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.***

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***Thank you for reading this. I praise God for all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and I greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.***

***His Servants,***  
***Craig Glickman      Andrew Lacroix***  
***Prov. 3:5-6              1 Thes. 5:18***

