

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Where is truth today?

(Jerry Fite)

When God was giving Moses sundry laws to govern His people, He gave four specific ordinances which emphasize telling the truth. *“Thou shalt not take up a false report: put not thy hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to turn aside after a multitude to wrest justice: neither shalt thou favor a poor man in his cause”* (Exodus 23:1-3).

These four commands reveal that truth can take a back seat to something considered more important.

TRUTH TAKES A BACK SEAT TO THE DESIRES OF THE WICKED

When King Ahab could not acquire Naboth’s vineyard legally, wicked Jezebel devised a deceptive plan whereby he could obtain it through falsehood. He was to *“set two men, base fellows, before Naboth... saying, ‘Thou didst curse God and the king.’ And then carry him out, and stone*

him to death” (1 Kings 21:10). Naboth had refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab, but he did not curse Ahab, much less curse God. It took two fellows who were base or “worthless” as to establishing truth, thus mocking justice (Proverbs 19:28). They were willing to *“put their hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness”*.

TRUTH TAKES A BACK SEAT TO THE MULTITUDE’S AGENDA

In 2012, Harry Reed, the then leader of the United States’ Senate, claimed that Presidential candidate, Mitt Romney had not paid his taxes for the previous twelve years. Recently, Reed admitted that this charge was a lie. He did not feel ashamed for his falsehood, but with victorious pride responded to his lie by saying “He didn’t win, did He?”

Truth should never take a back seat to lies offered to defeat someone, even if the multitude would have it so. God’s righteousness is never served by the end justifies the means concept (Romans 3:8).

TRUTH TAKES A BACK SEAT TO EMOTIONAL PULLS

A poor man has a hard road to travel each day, with many obstacles. Does our sympathy with him in his plight justify our ignoring truth to rule in his favor? God warns us to not favor a man just because he is poor, or if he is mighty. *“Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty; but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor”* (Leviticus 19:15).

Sabrina Rubin Erdely’s story in Rolling Stone Magazine of a girl being gang raped at a University of Virginia fraternity has recently been found false. Investigating witnesses and providing the University with the accusations so they could offer a response, never occurred. Why? Erdely wanted to show empathy to rape victims, who are often not believed. In deference to “Jackie”, Erdely and her editors did not pursue truth. Truth took a back seat to an emotional agenda.