

The Harvester



Preparing Souls

To Serve The Lord



Volume 33

December 2012

Number 5

"Do You Understand Biblical Morality?"

A Preview of Our 2013 Lectureship Book

By Brian R. Kenyon

When deciding the wording of this lectureship, we chose "morality" over "ethics," though the two terms are, for all practical purposes, interchangeable. Whereas "ethics" may be defined as "prescribed values" within a social system and "morality" as "prescribed values" within personal character, both must have an objective "standard of prescription." As this lectureship will show, the Biblical standard of morality is the only true, objective system of ethics that works in every culture and to which all people are accountable, whether or not they believe in God and/or the Bible as the inspired word of God (cf. Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16). Thus, the term "Christian morality," or "Christian ethics," can be misleading, if by such terminology we think that the system applies only to Christians—what is "morally right and wrong for Christians" is, ultimately, morally right and wrong for all people! The Bible, of course, must be "rightly divided," or "handled aright" (ASV), in order to truly know the Biblical standard of morality (2 Tim. 2:15). The following are just a few excerpts from this year's book. We hope this will "whet your appetite" for interest in the lectureship and the book!

The practical approach Kyle Butt takes to show the supremacy of Biblical ethics is captured in the following,

Numerous faulty systems for determining ethical behavior have been proposed by the secular community, as well as those in false religious systems....In truth, it would be impossible to complete the list of various ethical systems that have been proposed. Thus, in order to show the supremacy of Biblical ethics, we will analyze the question of the death of innocent children, and contrast the Biblical approach to the subject with the secular communities' approach to it.

One of the most controversial areas of current ethical debate involves end of life decisions. The heart of Melvin Otey's chapter on the subject may be seen in this quote,

There is a significant difference between intentionally taking a human life, or failing to preserve a human life when one is ethically obligated to do so, and allowing a person to die as a natural consequence of irreversible illness or injury. In the former case, an active intervention or wanton disregard violates the sanctity of human life. In the latter, one simply refrains from futilely sustaining something that approximates a cadaver, and there is no indication in Scripture that God expects people to use aggressive, futile treatments to prolong life as long as humanly possible without regard to the quality of it. There is nothing morally wrong with accepting what is both inevitable and imminent, particularly where resistance will make no eternal difference.

Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, January 22, 2013



Tom Holland Contact the office today to RSVP. We are asking that attendees make a \$10 donation to the school. Hope to see you here!

The school will host its second annual appreciation dinner on the Tuesday night of our lectureship. Our guest speaker will bring wisdom and humor from the "Pastime Porch." Please join us to hear



Reproductive technologies are also areas of ethical controversy. Though the following quote appears in Daniel Stearsman’s chapter on birth control, it serves as a good representation of the approach every ethical discussion on these technologies should take.

Contradicting voices from the research lab to the physician’s examination room to the court room leave people scratching their heads and looking for clarity. Listening to one side may convince us of a particular view, while further examination of the evidence may lead to a different conclusion (cf. Pr. 18:17). The “experts” of science, medicine, philosophy, law, and religion have weighed in on the debate. However, have we considered the most significant voice? How do we avoid a way that seems right, but is wrong, even fatal (Pr. 14:12; 16:25)? God’s word—which furnishes us completely for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17)—has much to teach us here and will provide clarity among divergent voices.

Polygamy is a topic that challenges many. We often ask, “How do we explain God’s apparent approval of polygamy in Old Testament law, yet teach it is sinful in the New Testament age?” Also, many on the mission field deal with this culturally challenging topic. Steve Atnip sheds informative light, as evidenced below,

Thus, if this marriage arrangement in the Garden is God’s original design for marriage, then why do not all aspects of that marriage equally apply, both with regard to gender and to number within that marriage? It was a “both” that constituted marriage as God initially intended it (Gen. 2:25; Mt. 19:5-6, “twain”), not a threesome or more. Thus, it should be evident that the Christian has full grounds for a “both” (“twain”) in marriage. Please give a New Testament Scripture to have more than a “both” in marriage. Remember, it does no good to go back to the Old Testament for an example, for Jesus specifically repudiated those laws, going back to the Law of the Garden (Gen. 2:24). He could have gone back to Jacob and pointed out that Jacob had four wives, and divorced none of them, but he did not choose to go back to Jacob, for Jacob did not model the original marriage situation, which showed marriage as God envisioned it.

Finally, consider the conscience. Is it a safe guide for morality? David Stearsman writes,

[L]et us think about the conscience as a guard more than a guide. “Let your conscience be your guard, let the Bible be your guide” conveys the Biblical view of the conscience. The conscience purely as a guide can be harmful without the proper knowledge.

This sampling of quotes shows this lectureship book will fulfill a much needed area of study. Reserve your copy today! It will also make a great gift for anyone you love!

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The Harvester

Published Monthly
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“Do You Understand Biblical Morality?”

38th Annual Lectureship **Jan. 21-24, 2013** Brian R. Kenyon, Director



Rick Kenyon



Ted Wheeler

MONDAY

9:00 Is There an Ultimate Lawgiver Jody Apple
 9:40 The Supremacy of Biblical Ethics Kyle Butt
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Assessing the Command, Example, & Necessary Inference
 Hermeneutic George F. Beals
 11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Morality In Principle

1:30 Is the Conscience a Safe Guide? David Stearsman
 2:00 What Role Does Motive and Intent Play? Jody Apple
 2:30 Does “Moral Neutrality” Exist? George F. Beals
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Does Evil’s Existence Disprove God? Thomas Wise
 7:45 Reconciling a Loving God with Eternal Punishment
 Jackie M. Stearsman



Will Vann

TUESDAY

9:00 Moral Implications of Romans 14 George F. Beals
 9:40 “The Law Written in Their Hearts” (Rom. 2:15)
 Jackie M. Stearsman

10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Divorce in the Old Testament David South
 11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Morality In Marriage

1:30 Polygamy Stephen Atnip
 2:00 Divorce and Remarriage Johnie Scaggs
 2:30 Submitting to Both Civil Law and to Moral Law
 Nathan Franson



Jackie Stearsman



David Stearsman

3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit Wilken Roger
 7:45 Jesus and the Samaritan Woman Jimmy Clark

WEDNESDAY

9:00 What About Law Enforcement and War? Will Vann
 9:40 Is Civil Disobedience Ever Justified? Bruce Daugherty
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Slavery in the Biblical World Jimmy Clark
 11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Morality In Preaching

1:30 Are Differences of Opinion Immoral? Heath Johnson
 2:00 Preachers and Prejudice Ulysses Richardson
 2:30 Preachers and Family Responsibilities Nathan Kidwell
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Avoiding the Works of the Flesh Jeffrey McNeal
 7:45 Moral Standards of Judgment Willie Nettle



Nathan Kidwell



Willie Nettle

THURSDAY

9:00 Abortion and Euthanasia Ted Wheeler
 9:40 Biblical Teaching on “Birth Control” Daniel Stearsman
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 End of Life Decisions Melvin Otey
 11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Morality In Biomedical Issues

1:30 Biblical Evaluation of the “Four Principles of Biomedical
 Ethics” Daniel Stearsman
 2:00 Embryonic Stem Cell Research Rolland Pack
 2:30 When Does the Use of Genetic Technologies Become
 Immoral? Brian R. Kenyon
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 “Fear of the Lord” and Morality Rick Kenyon
 7:45 Rewards of Living a Biblically Moral Life Melvin Otey



Jeffrey McNeal



Melvin Otey

Broadcast Live at www.fsop.net



Daniel Stearsman



David South



Johnie Scaggs

The standards of right and wrong seem to be constantly changing. Is this change justified? Is there an unchanging standard of morality? Does the Bible address these questions? Make plans now to join us for this important Bible study in Central Florida!



Wilken Roger



Ulysses Richardson



Rolland Pack

Obtain a copy of our 2013 book:
Do You Understand Biblical Morality? \$16

A new CD containing all our lectureship books (1994-2013) plus other FSOP works will be available by January. Reserve your copy for \$35 by emailing (fsop@fsop.net) or calling the office (800) 320-9780!



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Do You Understand the Local Church? ('12)
 Do You Understand the Biblical Value of Women? ('11)
 Do You Understand Expediency? ('10) **Each Is Just**
 Do You Understand Restoring the Erring? ('09) **\$16.00**
 Do You Understand the Biblical View of Man? ('08) **postage**
 Do You Understand the God of the Bible? ('07) **included!**
 Do You Understand Restoration? ('06)

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 Central Florida is already a great place to be in January but will now be made even better!*

Early Lectureship Specials: entire set of 16 available books \$100 or buy any 3 books and get 1 free!

Spring 2013 Semester Begins Jan. 7

Register on-line, by calling the office, or by selecting classes from this form and mailing it to the office with your name, address, and phone number!

Resolve to Learn More Bible! Enroll Full or Part Time!

Day	Time	Lakeland Classes	Instructor	Credit
Monday	__ 8:30-12:00	First and Second Timothy (238)	Davis	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Greek II (223)	Kenyon	3
Tuesday	__ 8:30-12:00	Wisdom Literature (248)	J. Stearsman	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	General Epistles 249 (252)	Bauer	3
Wednesday	__ 8:30-12:00	Eschatology (276)	J. Stearsman	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Ethics (285)	D. Stearsman	3
Thursday	__ 8:30-12:00	Prison Epistles (136)	Kenyon	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Church History: Restoration (242)	Wheeler	3
Friday	__ 8:30-12:00	Gospel of John (227)	Wheeler	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Minor Prophets (246)	Elledge	3

Extension Classes				
Thursday	__ 6:00-8:30	Jeremiah (TBA) (Orange Street church of Christ, Auburndale)	Bauer	2.5
	__ 7:00-9:30	Isaiah and Jeremiah (113) (Wesconnett church of Christ, Jacksonville)	Atnip	2.5

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