

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember the health concerns of *Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Beth Ellen, and Pete Rowland.*

Alan and Mi Young Blaylock placed membership with us at Franklin Drive. We are so happy to have them worshipping and working with us!

Joey's father is dealing with some serious health concerns. Please remember Joey during this time, too.

John Garlock (Bryan's dad) is home and recovering from heart and blood pressure issues.

The Truth Sometimes Hurts Jonathan Perz

How much do you appreciate the truth? The truth is easy to hear when it is flattering, encouraging, and uplifting. However, the truth can sometimes hurt. Do you always desire the truth from those around you, regardless of whether it is favorable or not? Do you always demand the truth from those who preach and teach the gospel of Christ?

The truth pleased the rich young ruler until Jesus told him the one thing he lacked (Mark 10:17-22). Some would call such a declaration of truth unloving, but the Spirit called it love (note verse 21). How do we feel when someone courageously and honestly points out our shortcomings (Prov. 27:6)?

Some of the Jews who heard Peter on Pentecost appreciated the truth, though it indicted them. They chose repentance and baptism (Acts 2:36-40). Whereas those Jews who heard Stephen speak that same truth hated what was spoken. They responded by stoning Stephen to death (Acts 7:54-60). How do we respond to the truth?

The Galatians loved the apostle Paul—so much that at one point they were willing to pluck out their own eyes and give them to Paul. However, in the very next verse, Paul was compelled to ask if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth (Gal. 4:14-16). Do we despise those who tell us what we need to hear?

Simply stated, unless we have a love of the truth, we will never appreciate the truths that hurt (2 Thess. 2:10-12). Unless we are willing to accept painful truths, we cannot know the sanctifying power of truth (John 17:17). Unless we obey the truth, we will be condemned (Rom. 2:8).

How much do you appreciate truth? The answer is painfully obvious when we are confronted with agonizing truths that require change in our lives. Change hurts, but the truth saves. How will you respond the next time you are confronted with the truth?

I Confess!

Allen Dvorak

I confess I belong to that part of the United States' population identified as the "religious right" (expression to be said with a sneer or contempt in the voice). I am unabashedly religious, believing that one's life should be conducted with devotion to God and my moral and social values are

decidedly conservative, i.e., to the "right." But it is becoming popular to characterize the "religious right" as a bunch of fanatical nut-cases who are trying to put a stranglehold on social progress. We are supposedly responsible for whatever bad happens in this great nation of ours.

Let me tell you about myself. I still think that it is wrong to lie and deceive, regardless of what power or position one may have in society (Eph. 4:25). I believe that it is wrong to cheat my fellow man in business (Eph. 4:28). I see very little difference between the man who steals from me by means of dishonesty in a business transaction and the thug who holds me up at gunpoint. The dishonest businessman merely hides behind the appearance of respectability, but he is a thief just the same. I believe that character is crucial, both in public and private life.

I believe that life is a gift from God (Psa. 127:3) and abortion is the taking of an innocent human life. Abortion displays selfishness and an astonishing lack of natural affection and is an abomination in the sight of our Creator (Prov. 6:17; Rom. 1:31). I believe that God makes parents responsible for raising their children -- not the government, schools, the church or Little League (Eph. 6:4). I believe in the appropriate discipline of children in the molding of character, including the spanking of a child who refuses to accept instruction or correction (Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 22:15). I prefer to see the tears of a disciplined child than to have to read about how he shot his classmates at school. I despise the physical abuse of children.

I believe that adultery and fornication ought to be cause for shame (Heb. 13:4) and not rewarded, financially or otherwise. Homosexuality is not simply an "alternate lifestyle," it is unnatural behavior and a sin (Rom. 1:26-28).

I believe that the poor should be helped, but the lazy should go without (Eph. 4:28; 2 Thes. 3:10). I believe in personal accountability, that each person should be held responsible for his/her actions, including those who commit their injustices against others in the name of religion. I believe that it is fitting that individuals are rewarded for hard work, but I don't believe that wealth gives anyone the right to break the laws of the government. I believe that punishment under the law should reflect the seriousness of the crime.

I confess to holding all of these values, but I deny that such values will destroy this nation or impede the progress of society. In fact, if our country is to remain great and free, we must return to these values (Prov. 14:34).

Be Grateful and Do Not Complain

Nathan Lee & Eric Wallace

Exodus 15:22-18:27 It is incredible to see how quickly the Israelites started to complain and lose faith in God. Not even one week since leaving Egypt and they already started to complain. We can empathize with them a little, understanding how precious water is to life and how their expectations after deliverance were not exactly met. But there was no excuse to complain to the same God who just released them from hundreds of