

Lifting Up The

STANDARD



“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).

The Same Family But Not On The Same Page



“Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.”

(Genesis 32:1)

Beginning In A Messed Up Family

Jacob’s messed up family life contributed to him becoming a schemer and a deceiver as taught by his mother; however, God completely changed Jacob into a man who would be used in a major way for the glory of God.

Jacob’s Father And Mother

Isaac, and Rebekah, started out with God in control of their lives; however, as time went on, they both ended up far from God. Rebekah was a deceiving manipulator, and a liar, and Isaac ended up with little or no discernment concerning the things of the Lord.

Jacob’s Twin Brother

Esau was a “*cunning hunter*,” with the emphasis on *cunning*. Jacob stole his birthright and as a result Esau determined to kill Jacob. Rebekah advised Jacob to escape to uncle Laban’s place for a “*few days*” which turned out to be twenty years and Rebekah would never see her favourite son again.

Twenty Years of Deception

Jacob would spend twenty years of his life being deceived by his uncle. There is no doubt that “*whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.*” If we sow deception, we reap deception.

The Wrestling Match With The Lord

In Genesis chapter thirty-two, Jacob finds himself between a rock and a hard place. Behind him is his very angry father-in-law, Laban. In front of him coming in his direction is his brother with 400 men. Esau had said he would kill Jacob.



C. H Spurgeon Regarding Ecclesiastical Separation

“A chasm is opening between men who believe their Bibles and the men who are prepared for an advance upon Scripture. The house is being robbed, its very walls are being digged down, but the good people who are in bed are too fond of the warmth, and too much afraid of getting broken heads, to go downstairs and meet the burglars... Inspiration and speculation cannot abide in peace. Compromise there can be none. We cannot hold the inspiration of the Word, and yet reject it; we cannot believe in the atonement and deny it; we cannot hold doctrine of the fall and yet talk of the evolution of spiritual life from human nature; we cannot recognize the punishment of the impenitent and yet indulge the ‘larger hope.’ One way or the other we must go. Decision is the virtue of the hour.”

C.H.S., Sept. 1887, *The Sword and Trowel*.



C. H Spurgeon Continued From Page One

“Long ago I ceased to count heads. Truth is usually in the minority in this evil world. I have faith in the Lord Jesus for myself, a faith burned into me as with a hot iron. I thank God, what I believe I shall believe, even if I believe it alone.”

**C.H.S., Oct.16, 1887
Sermons, 33.575.**

“The argument I have heard hundreds of times when people have been urged to come out of false positions and do the right. But what have you and I to do with maintaining our influence and position at the expense of truth? It is never right to do a little wrong to obtain the greatest possible good... Your duty is to do the right: consequences are with God.”

**C.H.S., 1868, Sermon at
Metropolitan Tabernacle.**

““The day will come when those who think they can repair a house which has no foundations will see the wisdom of quitting it altogether. All along we have seen that to come out from association with questionable doctrines is the only possible solution”
C.S.H., July 1889, The Sword and Trowel

A Major Turning Point

In Genesis 32:24, we read: *“Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.”* This was the major turning point in the life of Jacob. From this point on, he was used in a great way in God’s plan of the ages.

Victory Through Yielding

In Genesis 32:7, we read: *“Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed.”* After spending a night alone with the Lord, everything changed. At this point, his name is changed from Jacob which means *deceiver* to Israel. Israel means *“God prevails.”*

“Jacob Went On His Journey” “Jacob Went On His Way”

In Genesis 29:1, we read: *“Jacob went on his journey.”* The Hebrew word journey in this verse has been translated *“feet”* 216 times. In Genesis 32:1, we read: *“Jacob went on his way.”* The Hebrew word way here has been translated *manner* eight times.

The first reference has to do with the physical journey that Jacob was taking in life. The second reference has to do with a change in his manner of living. In our text, we read: *“the angels of God met him.”* This is the second time we find the phrase *“the angels of God”* in the Book of Genesis. The first time was in chapter 28:12, where previously the angels met with Jacob, as did the Lord. Personally, I believe that was the night in which Jacob was saved. And now, twenty years later, Jacob meets up once again with these angels.

The Way of The World

The first time we find the phrase *“his way”* it is in Genesis 6:12. There we read all flesh had corrupted *“his way.”*

The Way of Esau

The next time we find the phrase *“his way”* is in Genesis 25:34. It refers to Esau who was a part of God’s family; however, he despised his birthright, and the Bible says he went *“his way”* Not everyone who is in the family of God is going the way that God wants them to go.

The Way of Jacob

The third time we find the phrase *“his way”* refers to Jacob. We know that Jacob started out his life as a schemer, and a deceiver; however, he met with the Lord, and He changed his life completely. Jacob reveals the Christian life with its old nature and its new nature. As a child of God, sometimes Jacob lived in the power of the flesh and sometimes he lived by faith. In Genesis 32:1, Jacob is living by faith and so we read *“Jacob went on his way and the angels of God met with him.”*

In The Same Family But Not On The Same Page

In Genesis chapter thirty-three, we have a tremendous story of forgiveness and reconciliation. In verse four, we read: *“Esau ran to meet him, (Jacob) and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: And they wept.”* Although it was good that these men had reconciled their differences, it was very

important that Jacob continue on “his way.” In Genesis chapter 33:16, God had commanded Jacob to “return onto the land of thy fathers, and thy kindred; and I will be with thee.” Jacob made the right decision, and in verse sixteen, we read: “So Esau return that day on his way.” After a side trip to Succoth, which was a very costly mistake, Jacob returned to Bethel. He had the people put away their strange gods, change their garments, build an altar unto the Lord, and we read that Jacob said God “was with me in the way which I went.”

The Way of Esau

In Genesis 36:7, we read that Esau moved his family for monitory reasons. We also see the connection of Esau with the Edomites in Genesis 36:9. In Genesis 36 we also find the descendants of Esau included the Amalekites, who became bitter enemies against Israel.

In Exodus 17:8-16, Aaron and Hur held Moses’ arms up so that Joshua and the Israelite army could defeat the Amalekites. The Bible says that Esau was “A man of the field” (Genesis 25:27). Jesus said the “field” represents “the world” (Matthew 13:38). From the very beginning we read that Esau “despised his birthright.” This indicates that Esau was a man who lived after the flesh and indicates why he ended up establishing himself as a powerful nation in the land of Edom.

Life is made up of a series of moments in which we make decisions that will affect us, and our descendants in the future. Esau chose *his way* and Jacob chose *his way*. The end results we’re very different. It must have been a hard day for Jacob when he decided to let Esau go “his way.” Again, they were both of the same family; however, they were not on the same page.

Different Doctrinal Pages

The Word of God refers to several different types of doctrine.

Proverbs 4:2, “good doctrine.”

Jeremiah 10:8, “doctrine of vanities.”

Matthew 16:12, “the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.”

Mark 1:27, “new doctrine.”

Acts 2:42, “apostles doctrine.”

Acts 13:13, “the doctrine of the Lord.”

Ephesians 4:14, “every wind of doctrine.”

First Timothy 1:3, “other doctrine.”

First Timothy 4:6, “sound doctrine.”

First Timothy 6:3, “doctrine which is according to godliness.”

Titus 2:10, “the doctrine of God.”

Hebrews 6:1, “the doctrine of Christ.”

Proverbs 6:2, “the doctrine of baptisms”

Revelation 2:14, “the doctrine of Balaam.”

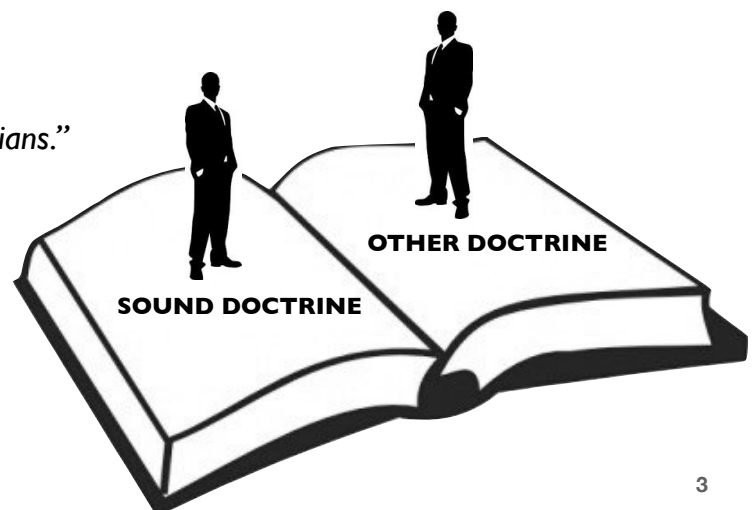
Revelation 2:15, “the doctrine of the Nicolatians.”

Hebrews 13:9, “strange doctrines.”

Colossians 2:22, “the doctrines of men.”

First Timothy 4:1, “the doctrines of devils.”

**If Jacob Had Continued
With Esau They Would
Have Both Ended Up
Enemies of God**



Our Age of Apostasy

At a time when there is a great need to make church members aware of what is sound doctrine and what is contrary to sound doctrine there are few who will “*speak the things which become sound doctrine*” (Titus 2:1). Few, very few, are those who will expose those who are promoting things that are “*contrary to sound doctrine*” (First Timothy 1:10). We are living in an age of the comfortable pew where preachers refuse to “*charge some that they teach no other doctrine*” (First Timothy 1:3).

Jacob’s Obedience Demanded That He Withdraw From His Brother

Again, Esau and Jacob were of the same family; however, they were not on the same page. The command of God for our age is plain.

Second Thessalonians 3:6,

“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly.”

The compromising pastor will reject this command and in doing so he decreases doctrinal purity for an increase in numbers. Ignoring the fact that “*A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*” (Galatians 5:9), and ignoring the command to “*earnestly contend for the faith*” (Jude 1:3), he offers a comfortable pew where goats and sheep can all feel at home listening to only the “*smooth things*” (Isaiah 30:10).

Doctrine Is The Scriptural Foundation For Fellowship

Acts 2:42,

“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship.”



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