

– Continued from page 1 –

*him*” (Proverbs 18:13). If there is more than one version of an event, then all perspectives ought to be considered before reaching any conclusion.

It must be understood, though, that a conclusion is not always warranted. *“He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears”* (Proverbs 26:17). It is prudent to refrain from involvement in others’ disputes. One of the many faults of a 24-hour news cycle and instant access to online information is that so many feel obligated to have an opinion about everything as if every single person is an equally authoritative expert on every subject all the time. Yet, it is contrary to godliness to be *“a busybody in other people’s matters”* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:15). Unless one is required by some circumstance to render a verdict, it is often best to remain undecided. Since even juries can deadlock in their deliberations, it is appropriate to remember that a conclusion may not be necessary.

When a decision must be reached concerning a matter, corroboration is required. A principle of justice honored throughout Scripture is that *“by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 13:1; Matthew 18:16; Deuteronomy 19:15). If a case rests on the testimony of less than two witnesses, then it has failed to be proven.

Even in situations in which multiple witnesses agree, their testimonies may be impeached. *“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”* (Exodus 20:16) would be a pointless commandment if perjury was not a real threat to justice. False witnesses have conspired to end innocent lives, such as Naboth (1<sup>st</sup> Kings 21:1-13), Stephen (Acts 6:8-7:60), and Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:60). Caution must be taken so as not to believe what is false. All lies come from the devil (John 8:44) and believing lies results in condemnation (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:11).

While most subjects do not require a finding from every single person, divine truth can and must be settled straightforwardly. Jesus said, *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:31-32). Also, He said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life”* (14:6), and *“For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice”* (18:37).

*“Let God be true but every man a liar”* (Romans 3:4).

## NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGE?

David Osteen, adapted

**“Not Responsible for Damage”?** Says who? And, why not?

Have you ever seen one of those signs on the back of a vehicle when you were driving down the Interstate?

It must be nice to just wear a sign that declares you are not responsible and you are not accountable for any harm that your irresponsibility and/or carelessness might cause. Don’t worry about securing your load. Don’t trouble yourself with making sure you are transporting things safely. Never mind about taking the time to make sure you have done everything properly so as to not risk damage or injury to others. Just stick a sign up that says you’re not responsible and “Voila!”, you aren’t responsible. Must be nice.

Do we get to live life that way? The hurt, pain, damage that our decisions might make on others, do we just get to hold up a sign and say, “Sorry, not responsible for that”, and it is so? Unfortunately, we’ve probably all been guilty of that.

But what about the Christian? *“Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them”* (Matthew 7:12). If I would want someone else to take responsibility for damage they did to me, then shouldn’t I also take responsibility for damage I’ve done to others? Christians not only take responsibility to help others that they have hurt, Christians follow Jesus by taking responsibility in helping others that others hurt! Consider the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

It might be a comforting thought that we could just put a sign up saying we’re not responsible for damages that we cause, but honest hearts understand cause and effect and responsibility.

So, perhaps the sign we should put up instead should say, “I’m sorry for causing damage. Please tell me, and let me make it right.” Yes, that sounds so much better. That sounds right.

## ***"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"***

***ACTS 16:30***

### **LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

### **BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

### **CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

### **REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

### **BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

### **REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

## ***"THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER"***

***HEBREWS 10:24-25***

### **SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

### **WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

## ***"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN ANY TRESPASS... RESTORE SUCH A ONE"***

***GALATIANS 6:1***

### **CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

### **REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

### **PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

### **REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

## ***"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN"***

***PROVERBS 25:11***

"I have never met a man who has given me as much trouble as myself."

— D. L. Moody

## ***GIVE ME THE BIBLE***

KDNF 840AM

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

# ***"WHOLE COUNSEL"***

***ACTS 20:27***

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 38

SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2025

## **THE BALANCE BETWEEN GULLIBILITY & SKEPTICISM**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

As trust in government and journalism continues to erode, those who care about truth must contemplate whether to accept or decline official narratives.

Paul warned about being overly skeptical, saying, *"If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself"* (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:3-5). The type of person who always surmises that everyone is lying is the type of person whom Christians must withdraw fellowship from. Never believing anyone about anything will make for a very sad and lonesome existence.

That is not to say that everything deserves to be received as true. Gullibility is also unwise. *"The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him"* (Proverbs 18:17). Automatic belief in what is said will cause as much trouble as automatic disbelief.

*"He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to*  
– Continued on page 2 –

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