



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

LIES WE LIVE

6-part series // @stsachurch

LIES WE LIVE

Part 1: God Doesn't Know Best

A LIE believed as a TRUTH will affect your life as if it were TRUE.

Devil: “When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44

Jesus: “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

“The LORD is good to all.” Psalm 145:9

**OUR DEFINITION OF GOOD IS SUBJECTIVE,
SHORT-SIGHTED, AND SELF-SERVING.**

“Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.” Mark 10:18

GOD IS ABSOLUTE GOOD.

**Who gets to define “good”?
Do I tell God what is good? Or does He tell me?**

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” Genesis 1:31

“Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.” Genesis 3:4-6

“Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.” Genesis 3:22-23

The fall of humanity traces back to one catastrophic decision to doubt the goodness of God.

THE ONLY WAY TO BENEFIT FROM GOD'S GOODNESS IS TO BELIEVE IT.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

“O Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace, help me in all things to rely upon your holy will. In every hour of the day reveal your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to throughout the day with peace of soul and with firm conviction that your will governs all. In all my deeds and words, guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events, let me not forget that all are sent by you.” Morning Prayer of St. Philaret

Are you willing to trust the goodness of the chef despite what you think of the ingredients?

Lent

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Part 2: You're Not Good Enough

The Performance Trap:

“To be better, I need to do more. Because I can’t do more, I’m not good enough.”

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

TRUE OR FALSE: “I’m not good enough.”

- My actions: TRUE
- My identity: LIE

Philippians 3:4-9

“If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”

**MY WORTH ISN'T BASED ON WHAT I DO, BUT WHAT HE'S DONE FOR ME.
MY VALUE ISN'T BASED ON WHO I AM, BUT RATHER WHOSE I AM.**

**WE DON'T WORK FOR APPROVAL;
WE WORK FROM IT.**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24

*What is infinity plus 1?
Or minus 1?*

**“For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”
Psalm 103:14**

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Part 3: I'll Never Change

"The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

"First cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also." Matthew 23:26

**REAL CHANGE IS POSSIBLE,
BUT IT HAPPENS FROM INSIDE OUT.**

PHASE 1: CRISIS

"Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day." Genesis 32:24

"I am the Lord, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things." Isaiah 45:6-7

**WE USUALLY RESIST CHANGE UNTIL THE PAIN OF
STAYING
IS GREATER THAN THE PAIN OF CHANGING.**

PHASE 2: COMMITMENT

"And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" Genesis 32:26

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Galatians 6:9

How many miss out because they give up too soon?

PHASE 3: CONFESSION

“So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."” Genesis 32:27

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6

**YOU CAN'T DEFEAT WHAT DON'T DEFINE.
GOD WON'T HEAL WHAT YOU DON'T REVEAL.**

PHASE 4: CHANGE

“Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed...And He blessed him there. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” Genesis 32:28-30

**GOD HAS A NEW NAME AND A NEW IDENTITY
FOR YOU TOO.**

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things
have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2
Corinthians 5:17**

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Part 4: That's True for You, Not Me

“my truth” (Urban dictionary): a convenient phrase for avoiding arguments because people can contradict your opinion but not your “truth.” Often used when seeking to justify a controversial personal stance or action because people are not allowed to argue with “your truth.”

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.... Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land.” Judges 21:25 and Ruth 1:1

“This is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the Lord; who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.” Isaiah 30:9-11

TRUTH IS ONLY POWERFUL BECAUSE IT'S TRUE.

MY TRUTH VS. THE TRUTH

see John 18:33-40

“Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all. But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” Then they all cried again, saying, “Not this Man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.” John 18:38-40

My truth is based on my feelings; THE TRUTH is based on God's word.

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

Proverbs 14:12

**My truth is all about empowering me; THE TRUTH is about
God's power in me.**

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." Matthew 7:24-25

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." 2 Timothy 4:3-4

My truth doesn't set me free; THE TRUTH does.

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." John 8:32-36

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

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Part 5: The Approval of Others Determines My Worth

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians 2:3-4

WHEN I OBSESS ABOUT PLEASING OTHERS, I FORGET ABOUT PLEASING GOD

“How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?” John 5:44

“...many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God.” John 12:42-44

SEEKING THE APPROVAL OF OTHERS CAN COMPROMISE MY INTEGRITY

“In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.” 2 Samuel 1:14-15

SOMETIMES BEING DISLIKED IS NECESSARY FOR ACCOMPLISHING GOD’S WILL

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse! Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Galatians 1:6-10

EVEN JESUS WASN'T LIKED BY EVERYONE

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.” John 15:18

HUMAN PRAISE IS TEMPORARY BUT GOD'S GLORY IS ETERNAL

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 6:1

GOD HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED ME.

“Let us give thanks unto the beneficent and merciful God... for He has covered us, helped us, guarded us, accepted us to Himself...” Thanksgiving Prayer

“...we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.” 1 Thessalonians 2:4

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Part 6: There is No Hope

What does lack of hope do to us?

Hope deferred makes the **heart sick**, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. Proverbs 13:12

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! **Now, Lord, take my life**, for I am no better than my fathers!" 1 Kings 19:4

**DOWN MOMENTS ARE PART OF THE
JOURNEY
TO CLIMB HIGHER**

Answer to Hopelessness:

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for **He who promised is faithful**. Hebrews 10:23

**DON'T LOSE HOPE,
GOD IS FAITHFUL**

"Then these three, as if with one voice, praised and glorified and blessed God, in the furnace saying: Bless are you, Lord, God of our fathers: praiseworthy, and glorious, and exalted above all forever. Daniel 3:51-52 (Orthodox Bible)

**PRAISE IS A REMEDY
FOR HOPELESSNESS**

True Hope is in the Resurrection:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a **living hope through the resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead,
1 Peter 1:3

RESURRECTION OF CHRIST IS A BANNER THAT HOPE IS ALIVE TODAY

I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it," says the Lord." Ezekiel 37:14

**My hope is the Father;
my refuge in the Son;
my protection in the Holy Spirit.
Oh, Holy Trinity, glory be to you.
(Orthodox Prayer)**

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Welcome

Whether you're just visiting or looking to stay, it's great to have you with us!

COFFEE'S ON US

Enjoy a hot cup of coffee and snacks.

WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU

Stop by the Connection Table so we can get to know each other and pick up your welcome gift.

FILL YOUR BUCKET

The Well and Sunday school runs for one hour with an inspiring message.



EVERYTHING IN ONE SPOT

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