

11 18 2011 DENY

We live in a society that when we find ourselves deep in the muck, in real trouble, the most popular tactic employed is to “DENY, DENY, DENY.” This occurs frequently in politics & has filtered down to the business sector & into personal relationships. If you are to DENY, you had better have the truth behind you. I’m Ken Trahan & Welcome to Walking in the Word with Williams Blvd. Baptist Church.

At some point in our lives, we have all been in a state of DENIAL. Anytime we DENY something in false fashion, we are DENYING Christ in sin. My life’s Scripture to sober me, humble me, & keep me focused on God’s desire for my life is—Matthew 10:32:33—
“Whoever proclaims Me before men, I will proclaim before My Father in Heaven. But whoever DENIES Me before men, I will DENY him before My Father in Heaven.”

To DENY falsely is to lie, to say good-bye to honesty. Every time we sin, we DENY Christ. Titus 1:15-16 says this about DENIAL: “To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted & do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds & consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions, they DENY Him. They are detestable, disobedient, & unfit for doing anything good.”

Some people see good all around them, while others see nothing but evil. What is the difference? Our souls become filters which we perceive as goodness or evil. The pure of heart learn to see good even in the midst of evil. But evil people learn to see evil even in the midst of good. Evil will always DENY offenses or responsibility.

2nd Timothy 2:11-13 says, “if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him. If we DENY Him, He will also DENY us; if we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself.” When you face hardships, do not turn away from God—His promise is for a wonderful future with Him. Jesus will stay by our side even when we endure so much that we seem to have little or no faith. Jesus promises to be with us always, even to the end of the world, Matthew 28:20.

In 2 Peter 2, Peter deals with false teachers & their ultimate destruction: “There were false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even DENYING the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.” These false teachers DENIED Jesus. Though popular at that time, Peter warned that they would be destroyed.

Jude 1:3-5 speaks of the doom of Godless men: “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write & urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the Saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality & DENY Jesus Christ our only Sovereign & Lord. I want to remind you that the Lord delivered His people out of Egypt but later destroyed those who did not believe.”

Even the ardent follower of Christ DENIES Him—witness the case of Peter in Matthew 26:34-35. Here, Jesus says to Peter, “I tell you the truth, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared, “even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you. & all the other disciples said the same.”

Of course, Peter would DENY Christ three times, seeking to preserve his own existence, rather than to proclaim His Lord. A better example of NOT DENYING Christ while DENYING self is found in 1st John 19:21. When the Jewish priests & Levites asked John The Baptist who he was, he confessed freely, “I am not the Christ.”

It is imperative for us to DENY ourselves & proclaim Christ. In Matthew 16:24-25, Jesus said to His disciples, “if anyone would come after me, he must DENY himself & take up his cross & follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for Me will find it.” The message was clear—we must follow Jesus through a true commitment, willing to risk our lives, lay down our lives, & never turn back.

When you are confronted with guilt, admit your guilt & repent. I will not DENY that I must defy this type of behavior & decry lying. We must get busy trying to stop DENYING, lying, & buying into the promise of profit that will leave us dying quickly. Remember—don’t DENY Jesus unless you are prepared for the consequences when He will DENY you!

For a text copy, e-mail me @kentrahan@aol.com & ask for DENY. For Pastor Tim Williams, thanks for joining us. I’m Ken Trahan. God bless you!