

### **What Kind Of People Were Ananias And Sapphira?**

Whenever we study the book of Acts and talk about Ananias and Sapphira, it seems that many of us are quick to conclude that these two people were cruds instead of Christians. We really do not know much about them except for this event, which apparently was not only sinful, but deadly for them. It may be that we have misjudged them. True, they sinned and they had to pay a terrible price, but could it be that they simply failed the test (temptation) that was placed before them? James warns us about this in chapter one of his little book. But what other kinds of things are implied by this account?

First, they were Christians. They had heard the word preached, they too were pricked in the heart (Acts 2.37), made the good confession (I Timothy 6.12), repented of their sins, and were baptized in the name of Christ to have their sins forgiven (Acts 2.38). They obviously had tender hearts that were at one time honest and good (Luke 8.15).

Next, we know that they were generous. As was pointed out several times in our Bible class discussions, the property, its sale, the revenue, and what to do with it was entirely under their control. Why did they decide to make a contribution of this sort anyway? We do not know, but we do know that if they were purely materialistic, they likely would not have sold this property, nor would they have given ANYTHING to the apostles for the good of the brethren.

This brings us to another implication: they were benevolent. Now we must admit and observe that their benevolence may have been short-sighted or even misguided, but they gave this money to the apostles, and it is implied

that it was for the good of the church.

It is apparent that they were also observant. After all, the record tells us that Barnabas had just done the same thing that they did. How public was this gesture? What were his motives in this giving? We do not know, but we are quick to assume that he was generous, giving, magnanimous, and an all around really great guy! But how do we know this? Well, we do not. We know he was an encourager, and by implication must have been a pretty nice fellow. But who knows...Ananias and Sapphira might have been really nice people too.

Did they sell this property and give part of the money just to “keep up with the Barnabas’s”? Did they do this just so they could boast? Were they merely “showing off”? We simply do not know whether this was their motivation.

We might do well to also remember that Peter asked them two very pointed questions: “Why?” and “How is it that thou hast conceived this?” Peter does not speculate nor castigate nor berate. There is no answer given by them, nor by our writer Luke why they did this. Neither the apostle nor the inspired scribe judged the motives of this wayward couple. But they did observe the fruit of the actions of these people. It seems perhaps that we ought not to be too hasty to speculate, castigate, nor berate or irritate. Surely we can inspect the fruit of others’ actions.

Peter does pronounce sentence, but their demise was from Heaven, not at Peter’s hands. We too may have to pass a sentence upon a brother or sister due to their sinful actions. But please remember, though we are to hate sin, we are to love the sinner. Especially is this so if the sinner happens to be a brother or sister in the Lord. We are not to treat them as enemies

and scum of the earth, but admonish them as fellow begotten brethren from our Father in Heaven (II Thessalonians 3.15).

Sadly, we know that they had devised this deed in their hearts, conspired together to lie and got caught. This helps to illustrate what the Law of Moses taught: "be sure your sin will find you out!" (Numbers 32.23). They were not evil and wicked, but they were tempted, succumbed to the temptation, sinned, and had to die. Surely, the "wages of this sin" was death, physically, immediately.

Surely of far greater concern and what ought to fill us with fear is the wage of eternal death and separation from God throughout eternity due to our sins! Let us learn the lesson: do not attempt to lie to nor otherwise mock God. He will not be mocked. To attempt such is folly and deception.

# RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

September 13, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

### Wednesday's Wisdom:

*"Beware of the philosophies of men; do not be taken captive by them!"*  
Steve Anticoli

**Fall Hocking Hills Hike:** We'll meet the Pomeroy brethren at 10 am on October 10 at the Cantwell Cliffs parking area. Take the SR 374 exit off of US 33 near Logan. We will lunch at the Rock House picnic area about noon. We'll walk the Rock House trail(s), then split up as we may have need to return to our homes or other plans.