

church of Christ at Greenwood

371 West Main Street
Greenwood, Indiana 46142
317.888.8288
churchofchristatgreenwood.org

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“It is better to be thought a fool...”

As Terry Mikel was speeding toward Tucson, he passed a car — an unmarked Arizona Highway Patrol car. The officer pulled Terry over. When Terry explained that he was late for a class he was teaching at the University of Arizona, the officer took pity on him and let him off with a warning. Before he went back to his car he said, “Slow down and drive safe.”

Terry felt obligated to correct him. “Excuse me, Sir, but it should be, ‘Slow down and drive safely.’ You said, ‘Drive safe.’”

The officer walked back to his car and wrote Terry a \$72 speeding ticket.

We just can't do it, can we? We just can't seem to keep our mouths shut! When we stop and look back, we know we shouldn't have said a word, but at the time we felt so compelled to speak. Maybe you didn't get a ticket as a result, but you've said something just as foolish with negative consequences, haven't you? So have we all.

James was certainly right when he wrote, “...If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body as well . . . For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. But no man can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.” (3.2, 7-8) The tongue lives in its own cage, but far too often we fail to keep the cage door shut!

This is so often what happens when we are faced with a question about God's will in spiritual or religious matters. Instead of waiting to learn what His will truly is, we become presumptuous and speak when we are not yet sure what He has spoken on the matter. Consider the following:

Pharaoh had released the children of Israel from their slavery in Egypt after God had persuaded him to do so by a series of plagues upon the Egyptian land and people. No sooner had the Israelites left Egypt than Pharaoh changed his mind and began to pursue

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