

# THE MESSENGER



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Listen to **PROVE ALL THINGS** on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

## It Doesn't Belong to You

*by Loyd Barker*

James C. Bays tells of the time when he was eight, and playing by an open window while Mrs. Brown confided to his mother that her son had a serious problem. When Mrs. Brown left, his mother realized he had been listening and said, “If Mrs. Brown had left her purse here today, would we give it to someone else?” James replied, “Of course not!” The mother continued, “Mrs. Brown left something far more precious to her than her pocketbook today. She left a story that could make many people unhappy. That story is not ours to give to anyone. It is still hers, even though she left it. So, we shall not give it to anyone. Do you understand?”

The boy did understand for years to come that careless gossip which a friend leaves at your house is HIS – not ours to give to others. This would stop many church and family problems. Some things must be discussed with those who have a right to know to help solve the problems. But never to just spread. Don't steal from another's “purse”.

## Stop that Tongue!

*by Steve Patton*

James hit the nail on the head when he said in James 3:8, “but the tongue can no man tame; it is a restless evil, it is full of deadly poison.” Although small, its effect is the epitome of all fleshly evils. The tongue not only causes evil, it encourages, inflames and intensifies evil desires. Our speech not only affects our own fleshly desires but it may also stir other people and cause them to act immorally. Someone said the Lord arranged our ears and tongue to indicate which we should use the most. He gave us two ears on the outside and one tongue on the inside behind our lips and teeth. Yet man is constantly closing his ears and opening his mouth much to the chagrin of everyone but himself.

Many who claim to be Christians seem to think that James is saying that it is impossible to control your tongue and they make no effort whatsoever to slow down their mouth or to watch what they say. But if we look a little closer at what James is saying, we will see that nothing is farther from the truth.

James does say that no man can tame his tongue, but he does indicate that a man can bridle or control his tongue. In James 3:2 he writes, “If any man stumbleth not in word, the same is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also.” James clearly indicates that a man can control his tongue. He will never be able to reach the point of never having to pay attention to what he is saying but he can control his tongue. In order to control the tongue, a man must be constantly on guard to keep from using it wrongfully.

A good idea is to have some set safeguards built into your thoughts and to consider them when engaged in conversation. Here are a few ideas:

1. Will what I am saying damage someone's reputation or embarrass someone?
2. Would I want what I am saying repeated and myself be given as its source?
3. Would what I am saying make it more difficult for someone to correct his life? (After all what you are saying may be spread all over town.)
4. Put yourself in the shoes of the one talked about. If you had done the same thing, would you want it spread all over town?

Learn to bridle your tongue and to be constantly on guard about what you say. James says the one who can do that is a perfect or mature person.

## Gossip

Someone said, "Gossip is like a blotter – it absorbs a lot of dirt and gets it all backwards." Webster defines gossip to mean: "A person who chatters or repeats idle talk and rumors about others."

1. Gossip wounds. "The words of a talebearer are as wounds and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly" (Prov. 18:8). It can be often seen that the wounds of talebearing never heal. Sometimes the damage is so great that it can never be undone.
2. Gossip separates friends. "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends (Prov. 17:9). Again, Solomon said, "A whisper separateth chief friends (Prov. 16:28). A lot of friendships have been ruined by gossip.
3. Gossip sows strife and digs up evil. "An ungodly man diggeth up evil; and in his lips there is a burning fire" (Prov. 16:27). One who is eager to talk, he who must whisper will find something to talk about – even if he has to dig it up! His lips burn with a message of gossip. Strife is the result.
4. Gossip ensnares the soul of the gossiper. "A fool's mouth is his destruction and his lips are the snare of his soul" (Prov. 18:7). The person who gossips is digging his own grave with his mouth.
5. Gossip is classed with the worst of evil. It is mentioned with such sins as fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, murder, deceit, malignity, haters of God, etc. (Rom. 1:29-30).
6. Gossip is dangerous. "He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: Therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips" (Prov. 20:19).

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## NOTES & NEWS:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

*James 5:16*