

THE MESSENGER



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

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri
Website: westlakechurchofchrist.org

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 13, Issue 3

Evangelist and Editor:

Dempsey Collins

Jan. 15, 2012

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

The Sin of Slander

by Bob Dickey

A certain preacher announced his sermon topics for a gospel meeting. One sermon bore the title, “Don’t Turn That Wild Thing Loose On Me!” I didn’t hear the sermon preached, nor do I recall conversing with anyone who did. However, I feel quite certain that I know what he preached about. You probably do too. THE TONGUE! You see, “It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8).

A slanderer is one who slanders. The word slanderer is from the Greek word DIABOLOS and is defined thusly, “An adjective, slanderous, accusing falsely, is used as a noun, translated “slanderers” in I Tim. 3:11, where the reference is to those who are given to finding fault with the demeanor and conduct of others, and spreading their innuendoes and criticisms in the church” (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, by W.E. Vine, Vol. III, pg. 39). DIABOLOS is also one of the names of Satan, and from it the English word “Devil”, because no one ever becomes more devilish or diabolical than when he stoops to the sin of slander.

Perhaps one of the most significant examples of the sin of slander being committed is recorded in the first chapter of Job. God described Job in these words, “There is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil” (vs. 8). However, Satan replied saying, “Doth Job fear God for naught? Hath not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land, but put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face” (Job 1:9-11).

“He will curse thee to thy face” were slanderous words uttered by Satan himself. The innuendoes to the effect that Job was serving God because of marginal gain, instead of true consecration, were slanderous in nature. The Devil is never more devilish or diabolical than when he falsely accuses, and that is what slander is: it is false accusation!

Flapping tongues have endangered governments and nations, ruined reputations, alienated families, put communities to feudin’ and fightin’, divided churches, destroyed homes, caused murders, and wrought chaos and havoc in general. One of the surest ways to make spiritual cannibals of God’s people is to turn loose one slanderer among the flock, let him go unchecked and undisciplined, and it won’t be long until the whole congregation is biting and devouring one another.

Dear reader, the next time someone calls you off to the side and then in hushed tones begins to give you some juicy tidbit of information that is injurious to the reputation of the one referred to, just inquire whether or not your informer has gone and talked to the one talked about. If he hasn’t then don’t allow your ears to be the

dumping ground for his garbage! If you do, however, hear him out, then inform him that the TWO of you are going to the one talked about and seek to bring him to repentance.

A large tire company, in one of its tire advertisements says, "It has to be good; we've put our name on it." Just remember that anyone who won't sign his name to the smut he peddles is peddling something you'd better not buy!

Heed the warning given in James, "If any man thinketh himself to be religious, while he bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

The Christian who is sincere in seeking to use "sound speech", who is striving to be certain that "no corrupt speech proceeds from his mouth", will make every effort to avoid using such expressions as these mentioned. Our hope is that each of us will give careful consideration to our language, lest we profane that which is holy and place ourselves under condemnation.

The Tongue

by Philip B. Strong

"The boneless tongue, so small and weak,
Can crush and kill," declares the Greek.

"The tongue destroys a greater horde,"
The Turk asserts, "than does the sword."

A Persian proverb wisely saith,
"A lengthy tongue - an early death."
Or sometimes takes this form instead:
"Don't let your tongue cut off your head."

"The tongue can speak a word whose speed,"
The Chinese say, "outstrips the steed."
While Arab sages this impart:
"The tongue's great storehouse is the heart."

From Hebrew hath this maxim sprung,
"Though feet should slip, ne'er let the tongue."
The sacred writer crowns the whole,
"Who keeps his tongue doth keep his soul!"

What is It?

- You don't look at it often in the mirror.
- You don't go on shopping trips for it.
- You don't have a weekly appointment at the beautician for it.
- Avon, Revlon, and Mary Kay don't sell cosmetics for it.
- You don't have to diet to get it back in shape.
- Men don't whistle at it or write poems about it.
- This thing can determine whether or not you are a beautiful person more than the form of your face, the dimensions of your figure, the lavishness of your wardrobe, or the size of your family's income.

- It can:
- *give new delights
 - *make a person into a beautiful person
 - *heal bruises and scrapes
 - *soothe tempers
 - *give hope to a despondent soul
 - *make or break your marriage
 - *make your home a paradise or desert
 - *draw people to you or send them away in disgust
 - *make friends or lose them
 - *attract people to Christ or send them away from Him
 - *save potential suicides or drive people to self-destruction
 - *establish your reputation
 - *label your character
 - *leave a lasting impression on people

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