

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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GOSSIP WOUNDS DEEPLY

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 4:6). Before relating something that may be detrimental, ask the following questions: Is it necessary that I tell this? Will it profit me or him about whom I am speaking? Have I considered every possible angle? An earnest endeavor to answer these queries may check the flow of harmful words. If that bit of gossip has made nothing of you, you make nothing of it!

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; 26:22). Such can tear open and cause to bleed wounds that may have been healed. Hate gives way to whispering. **"All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt."** (Psa. 41:7).

2. GOSSIP SEPARATES FRIENDS. **"He that covereth a transgression seeketh love: but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends."** (Prov. 17:9). **"A whisper separateth chief friends."** (Prov. 16:28). you have witnessed it. Bosom friends have become hateful enemies because of superfluous talk.

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! He will dip it up. His lips burn with a message of gossip. **"A forward man soweth strife."**

4. GOSSIP ENNARES THE GOSSIPERS OWN SOUL. **"A fool's mouth is his destruction and his lips are the snare of his soul."** (Prov. 18:7). He is digging his own grave. He is not only harming others, but bringing condemnation to himself as well.

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. (Romans 1:29-30).

6. GOSSIP IS INDEED DANGEROUS. **"He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips."** (Prov. 20:19). Such is not of a **"faithful spirit."** (Prov. 11:13). The apostles wrote the Corinthian brethren his desire to find them free from whispering, gossip or talebearing. (Cor. 12:20).

"Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." (Psa. 143:3). The Palmist was having difficulty in guarding his words. David's weakness is quite common with us today.

The lips serve as a door to one's

(Continued on page 4)

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Editorial.....

What Is Your Attitude?

The right attitude is essential for success in any line of endeavor. What a person **is** and what he **does** is affected by his attitude. Although a person should have the proper attitude in all lines of endeavor, we are especially concerned about one's attitude relative to spiritual things. Paul said: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5).

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD?

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Psa. 14:1). "In the beginning God created the heavens." The Psalmist said: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork." (Psalms 19:1). The apostle Paul declared, "For in Him we live, and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28). In order to please God, we must believe in his existence. (Heb. 11:6). God is not a man with flesh and bones, but a Spirit. (See Numbers 23:19; John 4:24; Lk. 24:39). God is omnipotent. (Rev. 19:6). God is love. (1 John 4:8). We cannot escape His presence. (Psa. 139:7-12). God's Will **must be obeyed**. (Matt. 7:21). In this age, God hath spoken unto us by His Son. (Heb. 1:1-2). What is your attitude toward God? Do you

recognize Him as being the creator? Do you glorify him as God? Are you thankful for His goodness? Have you obeyed His Will? Do you **fear and reverence** Him? Remember our attitude toward God will determine our actions relative to His will.

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRIST?

On one occasion Jesus asked the Pharisees, "What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?" (See Matt. 22:42). Jesus Christ was either the Son of God as well as the Son of man or He was the Son of man only. If Jesus was born of a virgin, He was God's Son! If He was God's Son, He was born of a virgin. Do you believe He was born of a virgin? Matthew 1:18-25 shows conclusively that He was born of Mary, who was a virgin! If Jesus was not born of a virgin, He was not the Son of God; He was not a good man; He was a liar and an impostor. Yes, He was born of a virgin and **He is truly God's Son!**

At his baptism, the voice from heaven said, "**This is my beloved Son.**" (Matt. 3:17). On the mount of transfiguration, a similar testimony was heard. (Read Matt. 17:5). On the day of Pentecost, Peter declared, "**This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses.**" (Acts 2:33). The apostle Paul said that Jesus was "**declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.**" (Rom. 1:3-4).

Jesus lived a perfect life. (See 1 Pet. 2:21-24; Heb. 4:15). He purchased the church with his blood. (See Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25-27). He is the head of the church with all authority both in heaven and on earth. (See Col. 1:18; Matt. 28:18). He has a **law** that we **must obey** in order to be saved. (See Gal. 6:2; James 1:25).

What is your attitude toward Christ? Do you believe that He is truly God's Son? Do you believe He was **raised from**

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)
WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE?

the dead? Do you recognize Him as being the **head** of the church? Are you thankful for the atonement He made on the cross for our sins? Do you believe He has **all authority** in heaven as in earth? Have you obeyed His gospel? (See Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:16-16). Remember your attitude toward Christ will determine your actions relative to His will and your actions will determine your eternal welfare.

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is one of the three personalities of Deity. He is one of the three that bear record in heaven. (See 1 John 5:7). It was by the Holy Spirit that the virgin Mary conceived and brought Jesus. (See Matt. 1:18-25). "**For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**" (2 Peter 1:21). The apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit and were "**guided into all truth.**" They were taught "**all things**" and had "**all things**" brought to their "**remembrance**" that Jesus had said unto them. (See Acts 2:1-4; John 16:13; 14:25-26). As a result of the Holy Spirit **inspiring** men to speak and write God's Word, we now have it in written form. Read and very carefully consider Eph. 3:2-6 and 1 Cor. 2:1-16.

The Holy Spirit is promised to **all obedient believers**. (See Acts 2:38; 5:32; 1 Thess. 4:8; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 3:24; 4:13). These verses very definitely indicate that believers **receive** the Holy Spirit but they do NOT indicate that anyone today receives Holy Spirit **baptism** or a **miraculous gift of the Spirit**.

What is your attitude toward the Holy Spirit? Do you believe that He is one of the three personalities of Deity? Do you believe He **inspired** men to speak and write the truth? Do you believe the **word** He revealed? Have you received the Holy Spirit? Remember your attitude toward the Spirit will determine your actions relative to the Word He revealed. This in turn will determine your eternal destiny! (To be continued)

(CRS)

How Simple Is Life?

It is the simple things in life that bring the most joy. The simple things come nearest expressing perfection. The complicated affairs bring sorrow and morose as dividends..

The Jerusalem church came nearest reaching perfection of any congregation ever established, for it was guided by inspiration. Theirs was a simple way. It is written, "And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." (Acts 5:42).

There are no complicated formulas to learn; no catechisms to teach, no specific wording to remember — just teach the gospel. The outstanding point of their lives is the fact that they taught the gospel daily. It was not some chance question, but a planned program that led them from house to house and in the temple daily teaching and preaching.

We know too that their spirit of sacrifices commended the message they taught. Following the time they suffered the beating of the Jewish Sanhedrin, they rejoiced to be worthy of suffering dishonor for his name. This was their strong point as Paul said, "For the sake of Christ, then I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor. 12:10).

What would have been the accomplishments of the apostles had they been able to use the telephone, radio, automobile, and press to further the gospel? They did not think themselves handicapped without them. We are not handicapped with them—our handicap is fear of preaching the gospel!

Their simple method was to go from one home to another preaching the gospel. Our methods should be copied from them. Their zeal and love was to preach and teach daily both publicly and privately. Our enthusiasm should catch from theirs.

—J. Hollis Roberson
in THE MEDITATOR, 8/14/49

Are We The Only Ones Saved?

Frequently, the question is asked, do you think that just the members of your church will be saved? The accusation is leveled that Christians teach that one must be in 'our denomination' to be saved. What is the answer?

No, definitely no, one does not have to be a member of "our denomination" to be saved. Furthermore, one cannot be saved in any denomination on earth—ours, if we had one, or anyone else's. There is no salvation in any denomination. On the other hand, everyone who obeys the gospel of Christ and lives pleasing to God will be saved.

"WE" have no denomination, and if we did, men would not have to be in it to be saved. No one that we know is so blind that he thinks that being in a denomination can ever take one to heaven.

We do believe that only those who obey the gospel of Christ and live Christian lives will go to heaven. Our concern should be to obey the Lord. We could fall down there. The saved are added to the church by the Lord. (Acts 2:47). We need not worry about which church to be a member of, for the Lord will add us to the right one.

—Elmer A. L'Roy
in THE LEADER

The Reynolds-Sutton Debate

The Reynolds-Sutton Debate was conducted in the Neighborhood Center in Albertville the week of July 16 as scheduled. It was estimated that from three to six hundred people were present each evening. The discussion was conducted on a high plane with considerable interest manifested by many radio listeners as well as those who attended.

I believe that good was accomplished and that **truth** prevailed. I predict it will be a long time before the local church of God denomination will agree for another such discussion here.

(Continued from page 1)

GOSSIP WOUNDS DEEPLY

heart. Through that door the heart lets one see what is within. Too frequently those ugly thoughts barge through the door. Heed should be taken in keeping the door tightly closed at the proper time.

Through that door march words that will either cut or cure—harm or help—condemn or comfort—slash or soothe—seclude or save! Your heart stands guard to your mouth. Train that heart to guard properly!

—Taken from
THE CHRISTIAN JOURNAL

Sentence Sermons

The most dangerous stumbling blocks are those under our hats.

Our heart is the mainspring for our tongue.

So you are just as good as half the folks in the church? **Well, which half?**

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