

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Gossip's Corrupt Fruit

“GOSSIP” is idle talk or rumors about others. The word can also be applied to the person who initiates or repeats such idle talk.

Many jokes are made about gossip. Some seem to view gossip as a harmless exercise – an annoyance or nuisance at worst.

Christians should realize that gossip (slander, tale bearing, being a busy body) is sinful and carries with it the potential of much heartache and devastation. The sinfulness and seriousness of gossip is clearly illustrated by its effects which are listed in a number of scriptures.

1. GOSSIP MAKES A FOOL OF THE ONE WHO PRACTICES IT.

“...he who spreads slander is a fool”, Proverbs 10:18.

2. GOSSIP CAUSES DEEP WOUNDS, “The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body”, Proverbs 26:22.

3. GOSSIP WILL SEPARATE CLOSE FRIENDS, “A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends”, Proverbs 16:28.

4. GOSSIP BRINGS SHAME UPON THE TALE BEARER. "Argue your case with your neighbor, And do not reveal the secret of another, Or he who hears it will reproach you, And the evil report about you will not pass away", Proverbs 25:9-10.

If you are tempted to gossip, work on purifying your heart (because evil speech proceeds from the heart, Matthew 15:18-20), increase your love for others, and learn to use your speech "to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers", Ephesians 4:29.

- Tom Moody [edited]

SOME THINGS PAUL KNEW

1) All Things Work Together for Good. Paul said in Rom 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." God's plan of redemption works together for our good. When we love God, we obey Him and we have freedom from past sins and the hope of life eternal.

2) Paul Knew Christ Was Able. 2 Tim 1:12 "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." Paul had confidence in Christ knowing that Christ was able to perform as He had said.

3) Paul Knew The Terror of the Lord. 2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may

receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Paul knew that all men will stand before the Lord in judgment and to be unprepared is to be a sad day.

4) Paul Knew that His strength came from the Lord: Phil 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

5) Paul Knew We have an House Not made with hands, eternal in the heavens: 2 Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

- Unknown

WHAT MAKES GOD HAPPY?

WHAT IS GOD'S DELIGHT?

We all like to be made happy or to delight in something. But have you ever thought of the above questions in regards to God? There are a number of things found in the Bible that tells us what makes God happy or delights Him. Let us note 3 for this study:

1) THE UPRIGHT IN THEIR WAY: Prov. 11:20 - "They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight." The ideal of one being upright, simply is that his way of life is according to God's Desires. What more can the God from whence man came expect? Except just this - to find his creatures walking according to His Desire?

The beloved John said that he had no greater joy than to find or hear that his children were walking in truth (I John 3:4). God is the same - therefore let us walk upright according to His Truths, and stop trying to please ourselves in this life. It is recorded that those who "walketh uprightly" shall "abide in God's tabernacle and dwell in His holy hill." (Psa. 15:1-2).

2) THE PRAYER OF THE UPRIGHT: Prov. 15:8 - "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight." Then in Prov. 15:29 - "The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous." The needed question: Does our prayers make God happy or delight Him?

If we are living according to His will, then our prayers are not only accepted and answered by him, but He is delighted to hear the prayers of His children. It makes any father happy to answer the request of his child, especially when that child is walking according to His desires. God is no different than any other father in this respect. The N.T. teaches us the following: 1 Pet 3:12 - "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

3) THOSE WHO OBEY GOD'S VOICE: When Saul disobeyed God, the prophet Samuel said: 1 Sam 15:22 - "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." We all need to be aware that God has always expected His children, as well as all men, to obey His voice. It would be good for us to read the following scriptures:

Matt. 7:21 - "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Luke 6:46 - "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" No man truly can call Jesus - Lord, unless he is found doing the things which the Lord said. That is why no man, regardless of who he is, can rightly call Jesus Lord, UNLESS he has been baptized into the Lord Jesus Christ. (Mk 6:15-16).

Rev. 22:14 - "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Truth is: NO MAN can go or enter into Heaven, who does not first obey the commandments of God and His Christ, the Lord. All men in the world MUST obey the words of the Only true and Living God of Heaven, as revealed in the Holy Bible.

You may say that all 3 of the above points come about to be the same thing. That is true, but what more could the Creator expect of that which He created, but that the created obey Him. Obedience is the overall thing that makes God happy. It is in this main point that God, our Father, delights.

- Wendell M. Powell

Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and my palsied hand.

Blessed are they who know my ears today
Must strain to catch the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
That my eyes dim and my wits are slow.
Blessed are they who look away
When coffee was spilled at the table today.
Blessed are they with a cheery smile
Who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say
"You've told that story twice today."
Blessed are they who know the way
To bring back memories of yesterday.
Blessed are they who make it known
I'm loved, respected and not alone.
Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss
To find the strength to carry the cross.
Blessed are they who ease the days
On my journey Home in loving ways.

- Unknown

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *"The Distinctiveness of Christianity!"* (Text: Luke 5:24-26); Sunday evening: *"The Bible and Young People!"* (Text: 2 Tim. 3:14-17).

GOSPEL MEETING 2015: Our Gospel Meeting is scheduled for July 19-24, with Jerry Crolus, of Conway, AR, preaching.