

In
Search
of ...

Truth & Right

THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES CALLED
GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

A publication of the
**Wellsburg
church of Christ**
Which meets at:
112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070
304-737-1422

We appreciate so much your presence here with us today. We would like to extend an invitation to join us at any of our other times of worship.

TIMES OF SERVICES SUNDAY

Bible Classes*

10:00 AM

AM Worship

10:45 AM

PM Worship

6:30 PM

Today's Sermons:

AM: Matthew

26:26-28:20

*PM: The Jerusalem
Church -02*

*Audio CD's are available
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:
www.truthandright.org*

*If you have any questions regarding
what we teach and practice, please
feel free to ask.*

Gossip: A Heart Disease

David Hartsell

What is gossip? It is negative, unflattering words that when spread hurt the reputation of others. Sometimes gossip is made up out of thin air. Other times the bear facts related, might be true, but many significant factors are left out, thus leaving the wrong impression. Some gossip can be true but can serve no good purpose to pass it on to others. How does the Bible describe gossip? God's Word often uses words like whispers, backbiters, and evil speaking. (Romans 1:29-32, 2 Corinthians 12:20, & 1 Peter 1:1) But how serious is this behavior in God's sight. Briefly, let us look at some truths about gossip and its spiritual dangers.

Why is whispering so detrimental? What are its fruits? First, whispering often causes strong friendships to dissolve. (Proverbs 16:28) Can you imagine how this would interrupt spiritual unity and progress in a congregation if the conflicting friends



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were brethren? We must carefully measure everything we say for the consequences can be powerfully negative. Also, backbiting can feel like the “piercing of a sword.” (Proverbs 12:18) Has unfair, critical talk about you gotten back to you? It hurts so deeply! This is not what Jesus has taught us to do. He commands us to treat others in the way we would like to be treated. (Matthew 7:12) Loose speech not only damages the reputation of others, but it diminishes the usefulness of the gossip. The only one who wins in this scenario is Satan.

Since God’s Word offers such serious warnings against whispering, why do people do it? There are many reasons people participate in loose talk. Let’s just look at a few of them. Some pass on negative information either because they are unaware of the truth or unconcerned about its veracity. Paul said that he was slandered when people reported he taught it was alright to do wrong as long as good was accomplished. (Romans 3:8) That concept is not true. He did not teach it. And it, no doubt, hurt his influence with some. Envy is another reason people will gossip. Some at Corinth were jealous of Paul’s authority and influence over the brethren there. Therefore, they strongly criticized his right and ability to lead God’s people. (2 Corinthians 10:10-11) Paul warned those backbiters that he would deal with them when he came back to Corinth. Finally, some just like meddling in other people’s affairs. It’s exciting to them. Peter strongly cautions disciples not to be busybodies (1 Peter 4:15) He puts this sin in the same category as being a thief, an evil doer, or a murderer. God disapproves of careless speech.

How can I refrain from gossiping? The simplest answer is to love God. We show our love for Him best by “keeping His commandments.” (1 John 5:3) And when we love Him we love each other. Jesus once said, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35) That love will not just refrain from evil speech but it will uplift and encourage others. (Ephesians 4:29) Are we the faithful, wise Christians that can listen to sensitive things and give sound

advice while keeping quiet about the whole matter? Or Are we a verbal sieve through which everything we are told flows. God has shown us what is good. Let’s not forget it!

Wilderness

*Gary Henry
via-WordPoints*

“Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.”

Mark 1:12,13

Strange as it seems, some things grow best in barren places. Faith and spiritual maturity are two such things. These qualities can flourish in a “wilderness” of difficulty. Just when it seems they can’t survive, they do survive and even grown stronger.

Yet faith and spiritual maturity don’t *automatically* grow in the midst of difficulty. They only do so when we make right choices in regard to our attitude. When tribulations test us and we’re driven out into the desert to wrestle with the devil, it’s critically important that we discipline our minds. The wilderness is no place for the weak-minded or the careless. Much depends on how we train ourselves to think, and the greater the difficulty, the greater the consequences that come from the attitude that we adopt.

Knowing Jesus as we do from the New Testament, what would have been His attitude toward His wilderness experience? First, He would not have been *naïve* about it. He knew too much about the enemy to be flippant about the matter of temptation. Second, He would not have *complained* about being tested. His attitude would not have been one of resistance or resentment. And third, He

would not have *bragged* about His ordeal. Successful though He was in dealing with difficulty, He would not have been smug about it, nor would He have thought condescendingly about others who had not suffered as much as He had. Concerning the wilderness, Jesus' thinking would have been realistic, courageous, and respectful of others, whether they had suffered much or little.

During Jesus' days in the wilderness, He was helped by the Father: "angels ministered to Him." Like Jesus, we can be sure of God's help during the times when we're tested. We need to maintain an attitude toward difficulty similar to that of Jesus, but if we will think as He thought, we'll be helped as He was helped, if not with angels then with whatever other help God knows we need. Having been helped, then, we'll have a spirit more sturdy, more healthy, and more deeply devoted to the God in whom we trust.

"The lives that are getting stronger are lives in the desert, deep-rooted in God."

Oswald Chambers

Mammon is Our Major Obstacle

Gary Henry
via-WordPoints

"You cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24

Those who are seriously reaching forward in life will run into no bigger obstacle than "mammon." Money and material possessions, while not wrong in themselves, tend to draw our hearts and our hopes away from God, and their temptation is so powerful that none of us can say we've mastered the difficulty. This is a problem that no human being can afford to ignore.

The problem of mammon affects every individual. When Jesus said, "You cannot serve God and mammon," He was speaking to an audience that probably included more poor people than rich. The difficult decision whom to serve, whether God or mammon, is universal. It's the fundamental choice that every person must make who lives in the world, whether rich or poor.

Mammon has to do with *this* world. And all we have to do to "worship" it is to make it our top priority or our main interest. Some of what's in the world is manmade, of course, and manmade things that are evil should be avoided completely. But even if we're only talking about the good things God has made, we have to make a choice whether to worship the *creation* or the *Creator*. When we worship God, He gives us many gifts to enjoy (and then let go of) as we make our way to heaven, but if we have such a fixation on God's gifts that *He, the Giver*, gets only what's left over of our love, then we've become worshipers of mammon.

The most foolish thing we can do is *assume* that we've got it all under control. We are never in more danger than when we underestimate the power that mammon has to attract *our own hearts*. The fact is, it has a seductive, powerful pull on virtually every human being. And if we say we've got our this-worldly desires under control, almost any objective party could probably look at the way we spend our time and see that we don't. When it comes to spiritual priorities versus worldly ones, many of us are attempting a juggling act that we're not nearly skilled enough to pull off.

"Materialistic concerns and one-sided values are never sufficient to fill the heart and mind of a human person. A life reduced to the sole dimension of possessions, of consumer goods, of temporal concerns will never let you discover and enjoy the full richness of your humanity. It is only in God -- in Jesus, God made man -- that you will fully understand what you are." John Paul II

Those Serving This Week

Sunday AM

Class Prayer	Dave Harless
Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ken Prager
Scripture	Ezekiel 44:16-31
Reader	Blake Headen
Prayer	Don Coen, Sr.
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Lord's Supper	
Bread	Ed Roberts
Fruit of the Vine	Dan Marton
Serve	Chuck Isinghood
Serve	Don Coen, Jr.
Closing Prayer	Earl Miller

Please inform the one in charge of announcements if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities.

Sunday PM

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Song Leader	Ed Roberts
Scripture	Ezekiel 45:1-12
Reader	Dan Marton
1st Prayer	Dave Harless
Speaker	Tim Henderson
Communion	Don Coen, Sr.
Closing Prayer	Chuck Isinghood

Wednesday

Announcements	Harold Marshall
Class Prayer	Dan Marton
Song Leader	Tim Henderson
Invitation	Dave Harless
Closing Prayer	Don Coen, Jr.

News N Notes

Please continue to remember these in your prayers:

Recovering:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| - Earl Miller | - Ann Rudolph |
| - Marie Roberts | - Phyllis Coen |

Prayer Requests:

- Zeda Goddard
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother.
- Cary and Grace Lancaster
- Alfred & Mary Jane Myers
- Albert Miller, Earl Miller and Marie Robert's brother.
- Zeda Goddard's sons, Dallas and Terry, and her daughter Tammy Garrison
- Rick Miller, Dorothy Lancaster's nephew
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband, as he continues to deal with cancer treatments.
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Bud and Merl Frey

Don't forget our Shut-ins

Nursing Home:

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

At Home:

- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Betty Hunter
- Pauline Midcap

Special Note for the Men:

**Business Meeting TODAY after
Morning Worship Services**

Send them a card—give them a call—let them know we are thinking about them.

If someone needs to be added to this list, please call 304-914-2262