

TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

 WELLSBURG
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 12 Issue 23

June 4, 2017

IS THAT WHAT YOU MEANT TO SAY?

An insurance agent was writing a policy for a cowboy. "Have you ever had any accidents?" the agent asked. "No, not really," replied the cowboy. "A horse threw me off and kicked me in the ribs once, and I got bit a couple of times by a rattlesnake, but that's about it." "Don't you call those accidents?" demanded the agent. "Oh no," said the cowboy, "They did them things on purpose!"

It occurs to me that many things that appear to be accidents, or that we pretend are accidents, are actually intended outcomes. Sin is seldom if ever accidental. We may say that we "didn't mean to do it" or "didn't mean to say it," but, most of the time, that isn't really true. And, even if we didn't mean to do it or say it, surely the tempter meant for

us to. Righteousness isn't an accident either. Jesus didn't accidentally live a sinless life. It took purpose of heart to resist temptation and do right at every turn.

Barnabas encouraged Christians that "with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord" (Acts 11:23). Paul commended Timothy because he had "carefully followed" Paul's "doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance" (2Tim. 3:10). The life of a Christian is truly a purpose-driven life. It is lived with a sense of purpose, by those who choose to do right on purpose.

This applies to every aspect of our lives, including our speech. We will not say the right things accidentally. We must choose to say them.

In Psalm 17:3 David wrote, "You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress." David was right before God because he had determined to control his mouth. We must also control our speech if we are to be acceptable to God. The Bible says that "If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless" (James 1:26).

We are to be thoughtful and purposeful with everything we say. Proverbs 15:28 states that, "The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil." The righteous man doesn't just say whatever comes into his mind. He "studies how to answer!" The New Testament commands, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Eph. 4:29).

Yet how often do we just talk without thinking about the effect of our words? In the

Book of Job, Job's three friends had a lot to say to him that was pretty useless. Of them and their words Job says, "I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters are you all! Shall words of wind have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer?" (Job 16:2-3). One paraphrased translation of this has, "I've had all I can take of your talk. What a bunch of miserable comforters! Is there no end to your windbag speeches? What's your problem that you go on and on like this?" (MSG). Job's friends, though intelligent men, had not chosen to speak words that would have a positive effect.

Let us all give thought to the impact of our words. Words are powerful, and they will not be a power for good unless we purpose to make them so. Let's do our best to make sure that what we say is what we mean to say, and that what we mean to say is good.
— Steve Klein

Turtle on a Post

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he

ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3).

Alex Haley, the author of "Roots" and other books, had a picture in his office which showed a turtle sitting atop a fence post. The picture was there to remind him: "If you see a turtle on a fence post, you know he had some help." Mr. Haley said, "Anytime I start thinking, 'Isn't this marvelous what I've done!,' I look at that picture and remember how the turtle - me - got up on that post."

1 Peter 5:5 says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

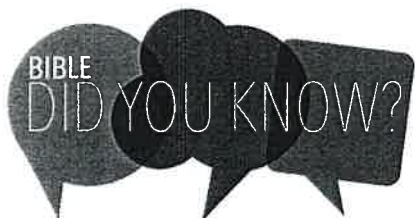
A Bar of Iron

"Therefore He said: 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'" (Luke 19:12-13) "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Pet. 4:10)

One of Ripley's "Believe It or Not" items pictures a plain

bar of iron worth \$5. The same bar of iron if made into horse shoes would be worth \$50. If it were made into needles, it would be worth \$5,000. If it were made into balance springs for fine Swiss watches, it would be worth \$500,000. The raw material is not as important as how it's developed.

God has given each of us various talents, and their worth to Him is dependent on how we develop them.



A disciple named Epaphras was instrumental in the conversion and spiritual development of many saints at Colossae. "Just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf," Col. 1:7. "Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God," Col. 4:12



MONTHLY CHALLENGE

DIRECTIONS: Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

1) HAND OUT INVITATIONS TO VBS

John 1:41 "He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah.'" We have a great opportunity to bring friends and introduce them to the teachings of Jesus next month during our Vacation Bible School. It is easy to become discouraged and, like Peter, view such efforts as unfruitful and a waste of time. "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing..." Luke 5:5. But in truth, positive results will only be seen unless we are willing to continually "let down the nets" and cast the invitations far and wide. "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully," 2 Cor. 9:6. The challenge for this month is to pick up at least 5 VBS invitations every Sunday to hand out or mail through the week. Let's dedicate this month to having willing hands. Jesus was willing to have his hands nailed to a cross for us. Let's be willing to fill our hands with invites and send them out.

2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge."