



TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

 **WELLSBURG**
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 15 Issue 38

September 20, 2020

DON'T LISTEN!

Do we have a problem with listening to too much?

Sometimes we hear things said about us that are really none of our business. Why do we listen, and why do we take these words to heart? Solomon teaches us a hard lesson in Ecclesiastes 7:21, but it's a lesson that will help us immensely if learned. The Holy Spirit inspired the following:

"Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee." What a lesson! In a time when we want to hear all, and when social media allows us to listen to it, let's go back and listen to Solomon. He reminds us that this isn't always a good idea! *"Take no heed"* means essentially, don't take it seriously. I've had to tell people (and tell myself) at times, "consider the source!" This is the essence of Ecclesiastes 7:21. Don't listen, nor take to heart

everything that falls out of someone's mouth (or keyboard). An enemy doesn't have your best interests in mind, anyway. Someone may ask, "What if it's a friend saying harmful things?" As someone once told me, "Hateful statements are sometimes made by kind people." We don't always know what a person's disposition is when they say things. You may be the nearest person to criticize when a friend is angry! Someone has said, "He was in the line of fire." Listen, dear one – "take no heed"! As I thought about Ecclesiastes 7:21, I also thought about the other side of this "coin." You see, it's true that harmful statements can be made in a moment, and yes, there are times when a person does damage with his sharp tongue (Jas. 3:2, 5-6, 8; Ecc. 5:6; Prov. 26:18-19). Yet, have we ever

thought about the fact that perhaps some of the damage could've been lessened if we'd not taken it the way we did? Maybe there would've been no lasting damage done if, after we have heard someone say something, that we remembered the words, "*For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others*" (Ecc. 7:22)! In other words, before we get too offended at what someone has said about us, remember that we probably did the same thing already! Did you mean it, or was your mouth in gear while your brain was in neutral? Were you angry, and this person was just the easiest "target"? Maybe that's what happened to our friend, too. Think the best about people instead of thinking the worst (I Cor. 13:7). See how your life is bettered for it! I know it is a hard pill to swallow in a society that prefers "information overload," but sometimes, the best advice is: "Don't listen!" You'll be happier when you don't have your nose in other people's business. Furthermore, the one who said something hateful will have some time to calm down, reflect, and repent before things get worse. Isn't this the way we live Matthew 7:12 and 22:39? — Jarrod Jacobs As God's

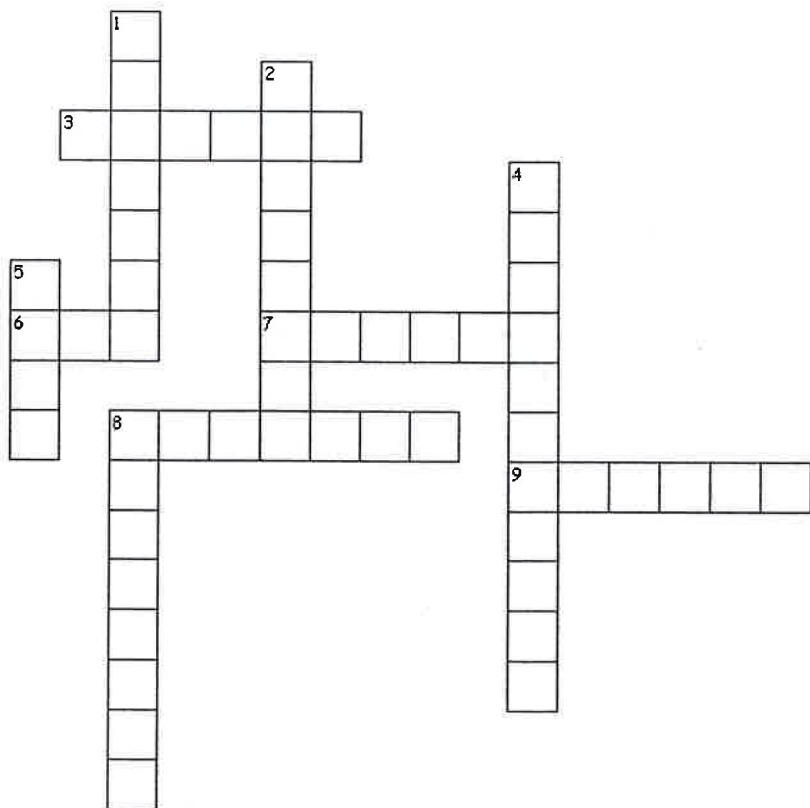
people, God wants us our eyes to be open spiritually. God instructs us to walk circumspectly (Eph. 5:15); in other words, don't walk blindly, be sober, and be alert. I want us to look at some specific things that the apostle Paul prays for us to be aware. In the book of Ephesians, Paul highlights a myriad of spiritual blessings that we have in Christ. Ephesians 5:3-14 are almost like an explosion of spiritual blessings that Paul enumerates for the Christian. These blessings belong to those faithful in Christ (Eph. 1:1-2). Some blessings we have in Christ are: being chosen in Him before the foundation of the world, the love of God, adoption by God, the grace of God lavished on us, redemption and forgiveness through the blood of Christ, the revealing of God's mystery (Christ, Eph. 1:3-14). God wants us to be aware of what we have in Christ Jesus. Just like the Psalmist says in Psalm 24:5 of the upright man, "*He will receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*" God wants us to know from where our blessings come. All spiritual and physical blessings come from God. I want to look at a specific passage of Scripture that brings

this point home. In Ephesians 1:16, Paul says he continues to pray for the Ephesian brethren. He prays that God may give them *“the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him”* (Eph. 1:17). Paul wants these brethren to have wisdom and knowledge of God’s revelation. He then continues in verses 18-19 by praying that *“the eyes of their heart may be enlightened, so that they will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and “what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might...”* It’s apparent that God wants us to be aware of some things spiritually. I want us to pay specific attention to *“the surpassing greatness of His power.”* Ephesians 5:20 says, *“which He brought about in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”* So, God’s power is demonstrated. He used His magnificent power in His scheme of redemption to not only raise Jesus from the dead, but also to seat Him at His right hand in the heavenly places. Jesus is far above all rule and authority, and every name that

is named (Eph. 1:21). This is a truly awesome God that we serve. He is the King of Glory (Psa. 24:7). God thought enough about us that He wanted us to know what He did on our behalf. He didn’t reveal these things in this detail to Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Obadiah, etc. Yet, He revealed them to us! He wants us to know that Christ Jesus reigns at the right hand of God. Open the eyes of my heart Lord! I want to see You! May we pray for wisdom and insight from the Lord (Ja. 1:17). With this in mind, what ought we be doing? We need to be *“redeeming the time because the days are evil”* (Eph. 5:16). How are you spending your time? Are you seeking God through His word? God invites you to know and understand Him. The LORD says in Jeremiah 9:24, *“but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things...”* God says, let us boast in only one thing, that we know Him and understand Him. Let us prayerfully seek to grow in grace and knowledge of God (2 Pet. 3:18).

— Jordan Lawson

The | | | | | | | | | | |---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---| | U | L | T | | M | | T | E | | | C | R | | S | S | W | O | R | D |



ACROSS

3. Husbands are to love their wives as their own ____ (Eph. 5:28).
6. In marriage, the two shall become ____ flesh (Eph. 5:31).
7. Wives are subject to their husbands as the church is to ____ (Eph. 5:24)
8. He who loves his wife loves ____ (Eph. 5:28).
9. The husband is head of the wife as Christ is head of the ____ (Eph. 5:23).

DOWN

1. Fathers, do not ____ your children to anger. (Eph. 6:4)
2. The wife must see that she ____ her husband. (Eph. 5:33)
4. Fathers are to bring children up in discipline and ____ of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)
5. Wives are subject to their husbands as to the ____ (Eph. 5:22).
8. ____ are to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25).