

"BAD MOUTHIN'" OTHERS

Michael Pickford

We might hear someone say, "So-and-so has been bad mouthin' you." For many people, the temptation to speak negatively about someone's character seems to be especially strong.

What we call "Bad mouthin'," the Bible calls backbiting, whispering (Romans 1:29), and evil speaking (Ephesians 4:31); and all are condemned.

Speaking evil of someone often stems from jealousy, hatred, selfish ambitions, or envy; all works of the flesh which bar one from the kingdom of heaven (Galatians 5:19-21).

James explained that while the tongue is but a small member in the body, it

can do significant, often irreparable damage to someone's character (James 3:4-5). About the tongue, he said "*With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so*" (James 3:9-10).

Here are some practical ways to refrain ourselves from "Bad mouthin'" others. First, learn to love them. If we truly love someone, we will not speak evil of them (1 Corinthians 13:4-6). Second, pray for them specifically by name. It's very difficult to speak evil about someone you've just prayed for. 

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

EVERYONE WELCOME!

- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD

Michael Pickford

When trapped between the Red Sea and the pursuing Egyptians, the Israelites were afraid and began to complain against Moses. Moses told them to "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord" (Exodus 14:13).

Sadly some today fail to see some things in relation to the Lord's salvation. Regarding the Lord's salvation, some fail to see ...

His Promise. Israel had failed to remember the Promise of the Lord that He would deliver them (Exodus 3:7-8). God has promised us salvation today. The first promise was in Genesis 3:15 when He promised the Seed of woman would bruise Satan's head. Through Abraham, He promised that all nations would be blessed (Galatians 3:8-9, 14, meaning that salvation would be made available to everyone.

God has fulfilled this promise by allowing His Son to hang on the cross at Calvary...

His Plan. Many are blinded from the Lord's simple plan of salvation by the false plans of men. Faith only is popular but erroneous (James 2:24). God has outlined His plan plainly and simply in the Gospel. One must first hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17), then believe Jesus to be God's Son (John

8:24), then repent of his sins (Acts 2:38), then confess his faith (Romans 10:9-10), then be baptized to have his sins washed away (Acts 22:16) that he might be saved (1 Peter 3:21).

After this, one must faithfully serve the Lord till death in order to receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). Don't fail to see God's plan of salvation....

His Power. Some feel they have been too sinful for God to save them. They proclaim that "If I go to church the roof will fall in on my head." They fail to realize the power of the blood of Christ.

There is no sin so horrible that the blood of Christ is powerless against it. Those in Acts chapter two were guilty of murdering God's Son (Acts 2:36). Even for this horrible sin God offered remission (Acts 2:38).

Those at Corinth had been guilty of a host of horrible sins...Fornication, Idolatry, Adultery, Homosexuality, Sodomy, thievery, drunkenness, etc. Yet Paul told them "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified..." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

No one has been so sinful that God will not forgive if they come to Him on His terms. Don't fail to see the salvation of the Lord. 

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“CHURCH” OR “CONGREGATION?”

Michael Pickford

Is it proper to refer to the local church as a “Church,” or should we call it a “Congregation?” Consider all of the references in the New Testament to local “Churches.” There is the “*church of God*” at Corinth (1 Cor 1:2; 2 Cor 1:1), The “*Church of the Thessalonians*” (1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:1), the “*Churches of Galatia*” (Gal 1:2); the “*Churches of Judea*” (Gal 1:22), the seven churches of Asia (Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; Rev 3:1, 7, 14), etc. There are 35 references in the New Testament to “Churches” in the plural, speaking of several different local “Churches.” Even Romans 16:16 mentions “*churches of Christ.*” Note the plural here: “*churches.*”

The word “Congregation,” being derived from Latin, has the same meaning as “Church,” which is derived from the Greek. Both words mean “An assembly.” So when you say we are a “Congregation of the Lord’s church,” you might as well say we are a “Congregation of the Lord’s congregation,” or a “Church of the Lord’s church,” or a “church of the Lord’s Congregation.” It all means the same thing.

It is neither improper nor unscriptural to refer to a local church as a “Church;” the Bible refers to it in just this way. What we must understand, however, is the two senses in which the Lord’s church exists. There is only one true church in the universal sense, but there are many churches in the local sense. All of God’s people make up the church in the universal sense, while members of a local church make up that particular local church. It is not

necessarily an easy concept to understand intellectually, but it is the concept taught in the Bible about the church.

This does not suggest nor justify the idea of denominationalism; in fact, it refutes it as we study and see that all of the churches in the New Testament used the same creed: God’s word; they all were to walk by the same rule, and believe and practice the same things. Paul taught the same thing in every church and all churches were to be united in doctrine (Compare 1 Cor 1:10, Phil 3:16 with 1 Cor 7:17). Denominationalism, on the other hand, teaches the concept of “Unity in diversity.” This is the idea that we can all believe and practice different things doctrinally, and still be united as God’s people. This concept is specifically condemned in scripture (1 Corinthians 1:10ff).

The sign outside our building correctly says “church of Christ.” The sign is to indicate to people that a local church of Christ meets in this place. If it is true that it is not truly a “church,” then “Church of Christ” must be removed from the sign and replaced with something like “Christians meet here,” as some brethren have mistakenly done. If we replaced it with “Congregation of Christ,” this would mean the same thing as “Church of Christ.” However, just as with the church of Christ at Corinth, another at Ephesus, another at Smyrna, there is the church of Christ at Southside, etc.

A local church is a “church” both scripturally and conceptually; but it is not a denomination. ☞

SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Have You Forgotten?

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Kenny Johnson
Reading: Psalm 119:57-61
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Green
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Ben Reagh
- Closing Prayer.....Tony Jenkins

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Invitation.....Ben Green

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*

GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

