

## Pearls from Proverbs

By Michael Pickford

### Hateful

*"Hatred stirs up strife."*  
-Proverbs 10:12a

We may grow to hate someone because of their status, possessions, or abilities. This often leads us to say hateful things to or about them; and to commit hateful acts towards them. This puts us at odds with them and strife is usually the outcome. This strife can often lead to emotional harm and sometimes physical altercations that are always hurtful. The Lord commands that we love even those who would be our enemies (Matthew 5:43-44).

### Helpful

*"But love covers all sins."*  
-Proverbs 10:12b

We might also hate someone because they have wronged us. This verse doesn't condone overlooking their sin; but rather, among other things, it's encouraging a forgiving disposition. It would be unloving to overlook another's sin inasmuch as their soul is in jeopardy and our confronting them might lead them to repentance (Luke 17:3). But it is loving and helpful to forgive a penitent one in spite of the hurt their sin might have caused us.

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!**



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry  
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

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

Volume 10, Number 08

February 23, 2014

### SPEECH THERAPY

Michael Pickford

For various reasons some children often need speech therapy. There is no shame in this. However, the way some of God's children speak is shameful. Sometimes we find ourselves in need of spiritual speech therapy. Based on Proverbs 15:1-4, we need to work to develop...

**AN ELEGANT TONGUE.** That is, a delicate and graceful tongue. *"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger"* (Proverbs 15:1). Think of this in terms of both preventing and solving problems. If one is angry, responding with angry words will often make matters worse. But anger can often be avoided at the outset with the use of "Soft" words. Some people are contentious; they're just looking for a fight. Paul condemns this (Galatians 5:20). Brethren should avoid harsh and hurtful words towards each other (Ephesians 4:31). No elder should be guilty of being contentious. Preachers, in studying with others, should strive to temper their words (2 Timothy 4:24-26). Paul does not condemn boldness here; one can be bold and elegant at the same time.

**AN ENLIGHTENING TONGUE.** That is, a helpful, thoughtful, and educating tongue. *"The tongue of the*

*wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishly"* (Proverbs 15:2). A wise man speaks because he feels that he has something to say. A foolish man speaks because he feels that he just has to say something. In application to the spreading of the Gospel, Christians must indeed work harder on having an enlightening tongue; not only in sharing the Gospel, but in the way he shares it. Paul was always ready to preach the Gospel (Romans 1:14-16). He encourages saints to speak in a graceful and enlightening way to those on the outside (Colossians 4:5-6). The most enlightening words we can speak to the lost are the truths of the Gospel.

**AN ENCOURAGING TONGUE.** That is, an uplifting and comforting tongue rather than words that tear down and degrade (Proverbs 15:4). Christians are to *"Comfort the fainthearted"* (1 Thessalonians 5:14). Paul exhorts us to *"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love"* (Romans 12:10). Some of the cruelest words ever spoken have been done so by a saint to another saint. Such speech grieves the Spirit of God. Instead, *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another..."* (Ephesians 4:31-32).

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

## SIMPLICITY IN CHRIST

Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

*"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the SIMPLICITY that is in Christ."* (2 Corinthians 11:3 KJV).

Often this passage is used to teach that the way or gospel of Christ is simple, as in being easy to understand and do. However that may be, that is not what this passage is talking about. The word "*simplicity*" is translated from HAPLOTES meaning "singleness." As to the English word, simplicity (singleness of mind, or purpose), is the opposite of duplicity (double minded or purpose). Sometimes simplicity suggests sincerity as opposed duplicitous, meaning hypocritical or double dealing.

In context, Paul says that "*I have betrothed you to ONE husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ*" (verse 2). Thus, their loyalty and devotion was to be to that ONE husband, Christ. Chastity would demand this. Then he expresses fear concerning their departing from that singleness of loyalty. Their loyalty, devotion, and

spiritual intimacy was only to be to that one husband, Christ. Then, in the next verse, he uses some mild satire: "*For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!*" Thus a reinforcement of his point of not having a double loyalty and devotion. He is basically saying they would, with their mind-set, as the bride of Christ take up with another Jesus, a different spirit, or a different gospel – thus leaving the singleness or oneness of Christ. The picture is that of not being a "two-timing" bride. Our spiritual devotion, loyalty and intimacy can only be to Christ – no other Jesus, spirit, or gospel. We are not to "two-time" Christ, as Eve had "two-timed" God with Satan in the garden.

As Christians, Christ is to have our undivided loyalty, devotion and spiritual intimacy. We must not depart from that simplicity. In another figure Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters..." -

*"He who wins souls  
"He who wins souls  
is wise"*

Proverbs 11:30

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### Faithful Preaching

Introduction:

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Glenn Isbell  
Reading: Jeremiah 26:1-6
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

*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!**