

SERVING IN WORSHIP

March 12, 2023

Sunday Morning:

Call to Worship:

James 3:2-5

Barry Cary

Song Leader:

Larry Miller

First Prayer:

Dennis Blanton

Presentation/Lord's Table

Barry Cary

Servers:

Walter Culbreth **Austin Miller

Speaker:

Johnny Felker

Prayer & Announcements:

Ralph Brown

Usher:

Dwight Mullett

Sunday Evening:

Call to Worship:

Luke 9: 37-42

Austin Miller

Song Leader:

Ralph Brown

First Prayer:

Larry Miller

Speaker:

Johnny Felker

Lord's Table:

Walter Culbreth

Prayer and Announcements:

Barry Cary

Usher:

Dwight Mullett

Prayer List and Announcements

Jeanette Aldridge is doing well this week, feeling a bit tired but overall feeling OK.

Janett King has not been doing well this week, dealing with a lot of medical issues. The family continues to stay with sister King in this difficult time.

Deborah Grigsby has been dealing with a bit of depression this week and asks for our prayers on her behalf. Mike is losing weight again and she is worried about his mental state.

Fred Duggin is about the same. He will be having some more tests soon. Elaine is a little bit better this week. She has been eating some.

Betty Travis seems to be declining again this week, refusing to eat and sleeping all the time. Please remember the family in the challenging time.

Esther Carrera, Dwight Mullett's co-worker, has completed her cancer treatments and wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and concern.

Keith Barclay, a brother we have been remembering in prayer for some time, received a liver transplant last week, and at this time he appears to be adjusting well. We need to keep him in our prayers as he moves forward in his recovery.

Tiffany Henry, Neal Smith's daughter, died this past Wednesday. Her obituary noted that no service is planned at this time.

****Let us continue to Remember in Prayer****

Janett King, Chelsea Gilliam (friend of Betty Copley), Paige Toxey, Susie Martell & Allison Barton, Neal Smith, and Dalton Gregory.

Birthdays:

12th: Cheryl Culbreth

ELDERS: Johnny Felker & Doug Driver

DEACONS: Ralph Brown & Mark Claypool

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

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*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24*

March 12, 2023

"The Right Words"

Harold V. Comer

What are the right words with which to criticize a king that is in a position to kill you for what you say? The prophet Nathan found the right words to help David the king, to clearly see himself. His words reversed David's spiritual decline. Nathan's word picture of a rich man taking a poor man's pet lamb was powerful and touching indeed. They were the right words at the right time.

How do you immediately get a Bible study with a powerful foreign official? Philip chose words with punch and yet enough courtesy to propel him from the desert roadside into the treasurer's chariot and a powerful, life-changing study of the words of Isaiah 53. The right words open doors. The wrong words close doors.

When an angry, powerful man is coming to kill your husband, what do you do? Do you run and hide, stay and cry, or ponder your words for just the right statement to sway him to reason and insight? Abigail chose the right words and her speech cooled David's anger while it warmed his admiration for her. It is valuable indeed to choose the right words for the occasion at hand.

When Jonathan's best friend David was threatened with death or at least exile, the young prince's speeches were an example to all friends in lending support and encouragement with choice words!

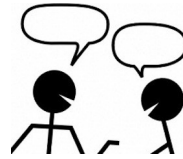
God said to "Consider": The right words are often needed in Christianity today. We are commanded to give consideration to our efforts of provoking or stimulating our brethren to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). That means we are to ponder the needs and personalities of our weak brethren and are to work at choosing the right words with which to strengthen them. We are to exhort - but the real command of that passage is the simple verb "consider" to provoke one another to love and good works. God commands the thinking, searching, and agonizing necessary to find the right words.

Finding The Right Words: - We can find what will help if we try. Nathan, Abigail, Nathan, Jonathan, and Philip did. We must keep building our ability to say the things that minister grace to those who need us (Ephesians 4:29). Here are some things we can do to find the right words that will help others:

**"Your lovingkindness, Oh Lord, extends to the heavens,
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies." Psalm 36: 5**

Preacher's Pen points

Wisdom from Proverbs The Power of Our Words



Solomon's proverbs about our speech will help us to be a blessing to others and to avoid unnecessary offense.

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We must appreciate the power of our words.

The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver, the heart of the wicked is worth little. (10:20; see also 20:15)

Our words can impart life to others by giving them the knowledge of the Lord.

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. (10:11; see also 15:7; 10:32; 10:31; 10:21; 12:14)

Our words can save souls and correct the erring.

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls. (11:30; see also 13:14; 25:12; 27:5; 28:23)

Our words can correct, help, and reach others.

Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances. (25:11; see also 12:25; 15:4; 15:30)

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (12:18; see also 13:17)

Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he reaches the soul of his masters. (25:13; see also 25:25)

Our words can also do harm! (16:27)

...creating destructive actions and sins.

The north wind brings forth rain, and a bountiful tongue, an angry countenance. (25:23; see also 26:21; 26:20).

...destroying relationships and families.

With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered. (11:9; see also 16:28; 20:19; 17:9; 26:23).

Stay aware of the power of your words; and heed Solomon's advice about how to talk to others. It will bless the lives of others as well as your own!

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We can decide we are obligated to improve our ability to say what's best on any given occasion. Too many say, "I don't know what to say" and try to shed the responsibility to find the right thing to say. Others speak but their tongue becomes a butcher knife cast into the heart of those they are trying to "help." In addition to Hebrews 10:24, Colossians 4:5-6 and Ephesians 5:15 command us to develop wisdom in helping others. Second Timothy 2:24 commands us to improve our teaching skills.

We can study the Bible to find things that work! When Jesus picked just the right words to stimulate the Samaritan woman to spiritual curiosity and self-honesty, He taught us a lot about one group of choice words which arouse another's interest. It is possible to find things that work by perceptibly looking at Biblical role models.

We find the right words with empathy! Too often, well meaning spiritual people bull their way into another's life. They tell them exactly what they should do without any awareness of the other's emotional condition or mood. They not only fail in their effort to help, they come through as insensitive, pushy bores and they close doors for later help. God commanded a spirit of empathy in Romans 12:15 and 1 Corinthians 12:26. Wise men don't sing songs to the heavy-hearted (Proverbs 25:20). Identify their mood. Be sympathetic. Then speak gentle words to help find receptive ears.

Tone is important to the right words! - Often the right words can end up sounding different from what is literally expressed. The words are good but the tone is altered by anger at something else, excessive tension, or just plain exhaustion. Proverbs 15:1 teaches that tone is important for really changing the angry man. A portion of people who need help respond more to a tone than they do the specific words that are used. Watch your words and watch your tone!

Visual words work faster! - Nathan used a concrete, visual situation with David. There was a quick response. Christ often taught by painting a visual picture. When Abigail cooled the angry David, she painted a vivid picture of him as king. Paint a picture with words. Hunt for a visual or concrete word. The meaning will be clearer than a long speech loaded with abstractions.

Words of support are valuable! - When David was threatened by the jealousy and javelins of Saul, Jonathan was there to offer words of endorsement and support. Words of support are needed by Bible class teachers, elders, deacons, parents and weak, troubled Christians today. They are not a waste of time. Rather, they are great and valuable motivators.

God expects you to care about the end result. Words, forced into sounds are just particles of bouncing air until they move the brain of another in a valuable and powerful way. Hunt for better words. ~via Needmore Bulletin; Haleyville, Alabama.

(Market Street Messenger, April 19, 2009)