

SUNDAY MARCH 20, 2016

the

# Reminder

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, Texas

## “Gossip – A Heart Disease”

What is gossip? It is negative, unflattering words that when spread hurt the reputation of others. Sometimes gossip is made up out of thin air. Other times the bear facts related, might be true, but many significant factors are left out, thus leaving the wrong impression. Some gossip can be true but can serve no good purpose to pass it on to others. How does the Bible describe gossip? God’s Word often uses words like whispers, backbiters, and evil speaking. (**Rom.1:29-32, 2 Cor.12:20, & I Pet.1:1**) But how serious is this behavior in God’s sight. Briefly, let us look at some truths about gossip and its spiritual dangers.

Why is whispering so detrimental? What are its fruits? First, whispering often causes strong friendships to dissolve (**Prov.16:28**). Can you imagine how this would interrupt spiritual unity and progress in a congregation if the conflicting friends were brethren? We must carefully measure everything we say for the consequences can be powerfully negative. Also, backbiting can feel like the “*piercing of a sword.*” (**Prov.12:18**). Has unfair, critical talk about you gotten back to you? It hurts so deeply! This is not what Jesus has taught us to do. He commands us to treat others in the way we would like to be treated. (**Matt.7:12**). Loose speech not only damages the reputation of others, but it diminishes the usefulness of the gossiper. The only one who wins in this scenario is Satan.

Since God’s Word offers such serious warnings against whispering, why do people do it? There are many reasons people participate in loose talk. Let’s just look at a few of them. Some pass on negative information either because they are unaware of the truth or unconcerned about its veracity.

Paul said that he was slandered when people reported he taught it was alright to do wrong as long as good was accomplished (**Rom.3:8**). That concept is not true. He did not teach it. And it, no doubt, hurt his influence with some. Envy is another reason people will gossip. Some at Corinth were jealous of Paul’s authority and influence over the brethren there. Therefore, they strongly criticized his right and ability to lead God’s people (**2 Cor.10:10-11**). Paul warned those backbiters that he would deal with them when he came back to Corinth. Finally, some just like meddling in other people’s affairs. It’s exciting to them. Peter strongly cautions disciples not to be busybodies (**I Pet.4:15**). He puts this sin in the same category as being a thief, an evil doer, or a murderer. God disapproves of careless speech.

How can I refrain from gossiping? The simplest answer is to love God. We show our love for Him best by “*keeping His commandments*” (**I Jn. 5:3**). And when we love Him we love each other. Jesus once said, “*By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*” (**Jn.13:35**) That love will not just refrain from evil speech but it will uplift and encourage others. (**Eph.4:29**) Are we the faithful, wise Christians that can listen to sensitive things and give sound advice while keeping quiet about the whole matter? Or are we a verbal sieve through which everything we are told flows. God has shown us what is good. Let’s not forget it!

- David Hartsell



### About Us

#### Bellaire

church of Christ  
8001 South Rice Ave  
P.O. Box 1029  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

[bellairechurchofchrist.org](http://bellairechurchofchrist.org)

#### Who Are We?

A group of God’s children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament.

#### Schedule of Services

**Sunday:**  
9:30 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Bible Study

**Wednesday:**  
7:30 PM Bible Study

**MORNING LESSON**  
 “That Hopeless Feeling”  
**Jack Smith**

**SERVICE**

Welcome – H. Banks  
 Hymn Director - W. Hodge  
 Opening Prayer – J. Knapp  
 Morning Lesson – J. Smith  
 Lord’s Supper Lesson- J. Knapp  
 Announcements – B. Haley  
 Closing Prayer - R. Renz

**EVANGELIST**

Jack Smith  
 Steve Garrett

**ELDERS**

Brian Haley  
 Mark Mann  
 Matt Miles  
 Mike Pharris  
 Jack Smith

**DEACONS**

Scott Clanton  
 David Davila  
 Dan Kimbrough  
 Jesse Knapp  
 Alex Morolez  
 Gregory Williams

**BIBLE CLASSES**

Messianic Prophecies – Robert McDonald  
**Auditorium**  
 I and II Samuel – Jack Smith  
**Room 102**  
 Graded classes for children

**Directory Updates**

email: clanton4@gmail.com

“Daily Family Bible Study”

The Psalmist said, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psa. 119:105). When we recognize the many benefits and blessings that come to us through God’s word, we should be grateful that He has chosen to give us His truth. And even when the truth pricks our conscience and shows us where we ought to be doing better, it is still true that *we ought to be thankful for and obey everything in God’s word*. Far from being a burden, God’s word is a great blessing that we are privileged to enjoy.

Monday: 1 Samuel 3:1-18  
 Key Idea: We should always be ready to listen attentively to God’s word.  
 Wisdom for the Day: **Proverbs 1:1-6**.

Tuesday: Psalm 119:97-104  
 Key Idea: Without God’s word, we can’t grow in understanding and obedience.  
 Wisdom for the Day: **Proverbs 1:7**.

Wednesday: 2 Kings 22:8-20  
 Key Idea: Even when God’s word shows that we have sinned, we still ought to listen.  
 Wisdom for the Day: **Proverbs 1:8,9**.

Thursday: Jeremiah 36:1-3,20-26  
 Key Idea: It is wrong to disregard and disobey what God says.  
 Wisdom for the Day: **Proverbs 1:10-19**.

Friday: Psalm 119:9-16  
 Key Idea: Even when we are young, we ought to love God’s word.  
 Wisdom for the Day: **Proverbs 1:20-33**.

Gary Henry – WordPoints.com (edited)



**NEWS AND NOTES**

Continue praying for those of our number who have on-going health issues. Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn and Don Hurd.

We have had several out lately with a stomach bug. It seems to pass quickly, but is very uncomfortable. Hope all are back with us today. We did hear from Brooke Acree about her mom. The surgery went well and the doctor thinks he got all the affected area. No chemo or radiation planned at this time. They send greetings and thanks for prayers.

There are several out of town. Brian and Deb are in Hawaii for several more days. Steve and Muffy are in Louisville. This is Ashland's spring break and they're having a family trip. Since spring break is over, may be can settle down to "normal" life for a while.

This being the third Sunday, it will be busy for most of us. The Women's Bible Study will be just after morning services at Sarah Acton's house. The youth devo is just after morning services at the Smith's house. Should be a great and busy day for us.