

# THE MESSENGER



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Evangelist and Editor:

Dempsey Collins

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## Some Sins of the Tongue

“I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue. I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me” (Psalm 39:1).

The tongue is said to be in a cage but untamed. The improper use of the tongue is often a neglected Bible subject. One can sin in different ways with the tongue.

### 1. Lie

Thayer defines lying as “a lie, conscious and intentional falsehood” (page 676). God is not the author of lying for God “cannot lie” (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). A lie has Satan for its father (John 8:44). “False witness” is one of the things that proceed out of the heart and defile a man (Matt. 15:17-20). “Deceit” is a form of lying and defiles a man (Mark 7:21-22). Lying is one of the things that is an abomination unto God and that he hates (Prov. 6:16-19). There are many different ways one may lie. (1) Abraham lied in telling part of the truth about Sarah being his wife (Gen. 20:1-16). (2) Jacob’s deception was a lie (Gen. 27:1-29). (3) The sons of Jacob lied to Jacob by their actions concerning Joseph’s coat (Gen. 37:29-35). (4) Potiphar’s wife lied about Joseph in telling that which was not so (Gen. 39:7-20). (5) A prophet lies when he credits God with a message God did not authorize (Jer. 23:25-26). Jeremiah said to Israel for God “I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? Yea, they are prophets of deceit of their own heart.” Most people do not consider that the preacher or teacher who is not teaching the truth is a liar. All false teachers are liars! Among brethren, how many preachers are liars in the pulpit on Sunday morning?

We live in a day when people have a false concept about a lie. Dan Rather said to Bill O’Reilly on May 15, 2001, “I think you can be an honest person and lie about any number of things” (Human Events, Sept. 27, 2004, page 7).

When two people say different things about the same situation, one can know that one of them is lying. If they do not repent of such, it will not be good for them in the day of judgment. They may cover their lie for the here and now before men, but they will not do so before God.

Did you know that it has been told that members of the church of Christ do not believe in salvation by faith? Or that they do not believe in being saved by the blood of Christ? Have you heard that those people in the church of Christ believe in water salvation? Did you hear that they believe that he who lives closest to the creek lives closest to heaven? Did you hear that members of the church of Christ believe that you can earn your salvation by works like baptism?

Have you heard that members of the Lord’s church do not believe in radio preaching? Or they do not believe in helping widows and orphans? That they believe in taking \$25 out of the church treasury to feed the grass on the church lawn, but would not give 25 cents to an orphan? Have you heard it said that those called “antis” do not believe in church cooperation?

Have you heard some brethren charged with wanting to be the watchdogs of the brotherhood? Have you heard that brethren will not oppose the sins or errors of those that are perceived to be in their circle of friends but will jump on someone they do not consider to be among their friends?

All such charges as the above are nothing but lies. Those that make them will be lost in hell, unless they repent. A cause is very weak if it resorts to telling lies about their opposition.

## 2. Corrupt, Filthy Communication

Paul said, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth” (Eph. 4:29; see also Col. 3:8). “Foolish talking” is not to once be among saints (Eph. 5:3-4). Of **corrupt**, Thayer says, “rotten, putrid . . . corrupted by age and no longer fit for use, worthless” (page 568). He says “**foolish talking**” is “that ‘talk of fools’ which is foolishness and sin together” (page 114). Concerning **jesting** he says “scurrility, ribaldry, low jesting (in which there is some acuteness)” (page 263). Of **ribald**, Webster defines it as “Low, coarse, or scurrilous; esp., coarsely offensive in language; as a ribald jest” (**New Collegiate Dictionary**, page 728). Of **scurrilous**, Webster says “using, or given to using, the language of low buffoonery. Containing low indecency or abuse; coarsely, opprobrious; obscenely jocular” (page 761).

With some there is no line beyond which they will not go in their language. Their language is coarse, crude, vulgar and some seem not to be able to communicate in any kind of language except this kind. The Christian not only does not use such language, but such is one of the way of sinning with the tongue.

## 3. Clamour

Clamour is to “be put away from you” (Eph. 4:31). Clamour is defined by Thayer as “a crying, outcry, clamour” (page 359). In Acts 23:9 we have an example of such. Paul says, “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer” (I Cor. 10:10). Jude said some were “murmurs, complainer, walking after their own lust; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men’s person in admiration because of advantage” (Jude 16). Paul said, “Do all things without murmuring and disputing; that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:14-15). Murmur or clamour stirs strife, sows discord and destroys the people of God.

## 4. Evil Speaking

“Evil speakings” is one of the sins of the tongue that is to be put away (Eph. 4:28). “Sound doctrine” is to be spoken (Titus 2:1). “Evil speakings” was to be put away in order that one can desire the sincere milk of the word in order to grow (I Pet. 2:1-2).

Paul uses **blasphemia** which is translated in other passages blaspheme which means speech to injure (**Vine**, vol. 1, page 131).

Peter uses **katalalla** which means to speak against and elsewhere translated backbiting or biting behind your back.

Have you ever noticed that a vicious dog will not approach you directly to bite you? He will circle around you and try to come up from the back to bite you. In the same way, those who are evil speakers will not come up and face you in public with their evil speaking, but will do their devil work behind your back.

## 5. Whispers and Backbiters

Paul said, “For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not; lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults” (II Cor. 12:20). Backbiters were among those sins of the Gentile world Paul condemned in Romans 1:29-31.

Whisper comes from a word that carries with it the meaning to “speak into one’s ear.” **Thayer** defines it “(to whisper, speak into one’s ear) a whispering, i.e. secret slandering” (page 676). It “denotes one guilty of open calumny. . .one who does it clandestinely” (**Vine**, vol. 4, page 212).

**Thayer** says of “backbiters” “A defamer, evil speakers” (page 332). Such sins will cause Christians to be consumed (Gal. 5:15). Jesus taught that when we have differences we should go to one another privately and with humble earnestness seek to work things out. Others may get involved only after all private efforts have been exhausted but failed (Matt. 18:15-17).

Let us heed with humility the inspired wisdoms of the Psalmist: “I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue. I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me” (Psalm 39:1).

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## NOTES & NEWS:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16*