

**PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT**

Those who are sick or need our prayers — Pat Espy, Linda Reagan, Bud Mixon, Richard Branum, Margaret Blake, Phillip Stevens, Joe Turner

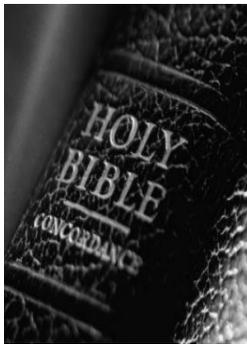
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Billie Sue Atkins, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes, and Marjorie Barringer.*

Please pray for those who have forsaken the Lord that they may be reconciled to God.

**READING THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS IN ONE YEAR**

*Monday - Jer 27, 28, 29, 24; James 4*  
*Tuesday - Jer 37, 21, 34; Psalm 79; James 5*  
*Wednesday - Jer 30-33; 1 Peter 1*  
*Thursday - Jer 38, 39, 52; 1 Pet 2*  
*Friday - 2 Kgs 24-25; 2 Chr 36; Ps 126; 1 Pet 3*

*Week #41*  
*Oct. 8 – Oct. 12*



**VISITORS** - We would like to get to know you better, and ask that you stay a while after services. We encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.parkhillchurchofchrist.com> where you will find sermons, articles, and daily bible studies to encourage you in your daily walk with God.

**QUESTIONS?** *We Welcome the opportunity to study God's word with you any time.*

*All sermons are recorded on CD & DVD -  
If you would like a copy, please ask one of the men.*

**ELDERS**

Carl Dolan.....479.414.1972 ~ Ron Roberts .....479.452.0347 ~ Joe Turner....479.459.6023.

**DEACONS**

Wayne Carson...479.648.1087 ~ Luke Dolan.....479.357.9547 ~ Joe Dugas .....479.629.4046 ~ David Meek.....479.459.0820

**PREACHER**

Bryan Loughmiller.....479.434.3939

**October 7, 2018**

**THINK ON THESE THINGS**

*Welcome to the Park Hill Church of Christ*

**3536 GRINNELL AVENUE FORT SMITH, AR 72908 479.782.2415**

*It is our desire to worship God in spirit and in truth, and to glorify Him in all we do.*

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

SUNDAY MORNING  
Bible Study.....9:30 am  
Worship.....10:15 am

SUNDAY EVENING  
Worship..... 5:00pm

WEDNESDAY EVENING  
Bible Study.....7:00pm

***Compassion, Forgiveness & Grace***



In a recent interview with CBN News, Dr James Dobson issued this warning, “May we be careful with the way we speak and think and talk against those who are opposed to everything we believe. You have to maintain a spirit of charity and love, and God will bless us if we do.”

Dobson’s words ring particularly true this morning as I read from James 3 this sobering admonition. “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.”

Typically we take this chapter and preach lessons about the power, potential and possible poison that the tongue possesses. We warn against malicious gossip. Vulgarity. Cursing. Swearing. Lying. Telling dirty jokes. And every other kind of sin associated with ungodly speech. While this chapter certainly has an application to all Christians in this regard, it is well to remember that James directed it toward teachers.

Perhaps many people in the assembly wanted to occupy a place of spiritual leadership and be a teacher. Maybe they were enamored with the prestige and power of such a

position. Pride may have motivated some to aspire to teach publicly. Regardless, James reminds them and us of this tremendous responsibility and the personal accountability a teacher has. Because as teachers we influence others, we will receive stricter judgment.

James uses 6 figures of speech to describe the tongue's impact— A rudder, fire, a poisonous animal, a fountain, and a fig tree. All of these reminds us that our words have consequences. They have great power. They have the ability to impact the lives of others for good or evil.

The bit and the rudder analogy reminds us that the tongue has the power to direct others. To guide. To steer. To move in a specific direction.

The tongue, like fire, can also destroy. Like a little spark can begin a great fire that destroys a forest, so can a harmful, ill-timed word harm and hurt another person.

Of course, the tongue can bring wonderful delight to its hearers. Just like the fountain can offer a cool refreshing drink or the fig tree can produce tasty fruit, so can the words we speak lift, encourage, and inspire others to greater faithfulness and more fruitful service.

We need teachers. Good teachers. Godly teachers. Faithful teachers. Fearless teachers. Teachers who will speak the truth. But also teachers who speak the truth in the spirit of love.

Teachers who write or speak in rude and crude terms are not living up to the Biblical standard. Hateful speech. Insulting speech. And unkind speech is neither helpful nor godly. It will not point the lost to Christ. Nor will it edify the saints.

Whether we teach publicly or privately the responsibility is the same. Also with social media opportunities, and the accessibility of blogs, more and more people are stepping into the role of sharing their insights, knowledge and wisdom. In such cases, let us follow the advice of James Dobson and the inspired directive of James the brother of Jesus.

The words of Paul are also appropriate to consider anytime we have an opportunity to teach others. "Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person" (Col 4:5-7).

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

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## *Brief Thoughts*

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***Acts 20:32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."***

Three things stand out to me in this verse:

1. ***"I commend you to God"*** - To the elders of Ephesus, Paul upon his departure comforts them with the thought that they had been entrusted to God. They were given to God for their protection and safe keeping. Paul could not leave them in more capable protection than the hands of the Almighty God. No other guardian could protect them from the ravages of the world. Though saddened by Paul's departure they can find comfort and strength in his words.

2. ***"...and to the word of His grace which is able to build you up"*** - The gospel, the good news, that all powerful message which proclaims salvation and the message that sustains you throughout your life. This message of grace provides salvation, strength and builds you up. It is the nourishment of the soul that provides the necessary strength for your daily walk with God. It strengthens your relationship with God. It builds stronger fellowship with your brethren. It fortifies family relationships. It provides all things that pertain to life and godliness.

3. ***"...and give you and inheritance among all those who are sanctified"*** - Jesus Christ is the one who sanctifies and the saved are the sanctified. Purified and cleansed from sin they have been set apart to God. Eternal life is your inheritance, received when you are sanctified by the blood of Jesus and you become a joint heir with Him.

Comforting words! Reassurance that God and His word of grace can and will keep you secure in your salvation. - BL

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## *Gospel Meeting*

***Guest Evangelist: Mike Pittman***

***October 14th - 17th***

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