

The Messenger



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

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

Helpers and Honkers

by Ernest A. Finley

A certain woman driver was having difficulty getting her automobile started after it had stalled in heavy traffic. The gentleman (?) in the auto immediately behind her insisted on expressing his impatience with her by blowing his horn every few seconds. Finally, the lady, worn out by his thoughtlessness, stepped out of her automobile, walked back to the honker's automobile and said, "I'm having some difficulty in getting my car started. If you'll go and see if you can start it, I'll honk your horn for you."

MORAL: A lot of folk do more honking than helping. Maybe they have never taught a Bible lesson or preached a sermon, but they know exactly how it ought to be done. They do a lot of "honking" when a sermon or lesson fails to satisfy their expectations. They never have tried to restore an erring brother in grave danger of losing his soul, but they are ready with criticism of the efforts of those who work to restore the fallen. They fail to realize that it is a lot easier to "honk" at other's feeble efforts than it is to put forth some efforts themselves toward the accomplishment of the work.

Anybody who drives an automobile is going to be honked at from time to time. Try to keep cool when it happens. Maybe you need waking up. Anybody who tries to accomplish something for the Lord is going to find a good many ready-honkers, but too few ready-workers. Try to profit by the criticism. But the Lord will be pleased if you do not allow the "honkers" to discourage you. It serves no good purpose for you to quit just because others criticize.



Gossip

Someone said, "Gossip is like a blotter – it absorbs a lot of dirt and gets it all backwards." Webster defines gossip to mean: "A person who chatters or repeats idle talk and rumors about others."

1. Gossip wounds. "The words of a talebearer are as wounds and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly" (Prov. 18:8). It can be often seen that the wounds of talebearing never heal. Sometimes the damage is so great that it can never be undone.

2. Gossip separates friends. “He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth chief friends (Prov. 16:28). A lot of friendships have been ruined by gossip.
3. Gossip sows strife and digs up evil. “An ungodly man diggeth up evil; and in his lips there is a burning fire” (Prov. 16:27). One who is eager to talk, he who must whisper will find something to talk about – even if he has to dig it up! His lips burn with a message of gossip. Strife is the result.
4. Gossip ensnares the soul of the gossiper. “A fool’s mouth is his destruction and his lips are the snare of his soul” (Prov. 18:7). The person who gossips is digging his own grave with his mouth.
5. Gossip is classed with the worst of evil. It is mentioned with such sins as fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, murder, deceit, malignity, haters of God, etc. (Rom. 1:29-30).
6. Gossip is dangerous. “He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: Therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips” (Prov. 20:19).

It Doesn’t Belong to You

James C. Bays tells of the time when he was eight, and playing by an open window while Mrs. Brown confided to his mother that her son had a serious problem. When Mrs. Brown left, his mother realized he had been listening and said, “If Mrs. Brown had left her purse here today, would we give it to someone else?” James replied, “Of course not.” The mother continued, “Mrs. Brown left something far more precious to her than her pocketbook today. She left a story that could make many people unhappy. That story is not ours to give to anyone. It is still hers, even though she left it. So, we shall not give it to anyone. Do you understand?”

The boy did understand for years to come that careless gossip which a friend leaves at your house is HIS – not ours to give to others. This would stop many many church and family problems. Some things must be discussed with those who have a right to know to help solve the problems. But never to just spread. Don’t steal from another’s purse.

by Loyd Barker

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