



Lifeline

CHURCH of CHRIST
at Galena



“JUST SPEAKING MY MIND”

Our lives are made up of words. Through words we communicate, educate, build relationships, sustain them and destroy them. We can enhance our lives or bring them to ruin by the words that we speak. It is difficult many times to communicate effectively. This is complicated by poor methods of interpersonal communication which are either encouraged or allowed to continue without reproof. Poor communication methods are numerous, but one is particularly harmful to both the speaker and hearer. I'm referring to the type of communication in which one boldly states, "I just speak my mind" or "I just call it the way I see it." Even among children of God this type of indiscretion in speech is allowed to flourish, being extolled as a virtue. Let us look at what God's word has to say of the matter.

“HE WHO RESTRAINS HIS LIPS IS WISE” (PROVERBS 10:19)

The Bible uses several terms to describe how we should be in control of what we say. We are told to, “guard,” “bridle,” “restrain,” “tame,” etc. our tongues. It takes a wise man who is in control of his heart (i.e. seat of emotions) to restrain the tongue. We are admonished, “keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23). The individual who is ruled by emotions and/or sinful attitudes such as pride, envy, jealousy, hatred, etc. has the most difficulty in restraining his tongue. In order to control our tongue we must bring “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5), and not set it free till it has been approved by the Master. We must bite our tongues (Prov. 17:27, 28). One of the keys to wisdom is, to just not say what we are tempted to say many times. “Whoever guards his

mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles” (Prov. 21:23). How many times have you been pressed sore by troubles because of something you said? Wise men understand the painful consequences of unchecked words and learn from such experiences. Listen to the wise man again, “He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction” (Prov. 13:3). Avoid destruction. Stop talking and start listening!

THE FOOLISH ANSWER QUICKLY

“He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him” (Prov. 18:13). How many people enjoy a conversation with someone who will not allow the one speaking to finish a statement or thought without interjecting their two cents? Whether they are in agreement with what is being said or not, it becomes very difficult to speak and neigh to impossible for the other to listen. This type of person reminds me of the “one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword” (Prov. 12:18a). They feel like they must “thrust” their words into a conversation in order to be heard. The Bible admonishes, “Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger” (James 1:19). Usually in our communication we reverse that order. We are quick to speak and slow to listen. We want to say what we want to say and we are not ready to patiently and openly listen to another point of view. When this habitual attitude is coupled with anger, very little communication takes place. If we will listen patiently to what someone is saying then we can formulate an answer, knowing all the facts and feelings of a person before we speak. Remember, God created us with two ears and one mouth. Maybe the hint is that we should listen twice as much as we speak.

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VIRTUE OR VICE?

Is “just speaking my mind” a practice which should be encouraged as a virtue? “Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him” (Prov. 29:20). “But,” someone objects, “I just say what I feel.” Listen and be wise, “A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back” (Prov. 29:11). The world is promoting the false idea that we should ventilate our feelings whenever and however (including throwing objects, etc.) we think best and let the chips fall where they may. After all, they are just words, aren’t they? Jesus said, “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (Lk. 6:45). Words make our invisible thoughts and feelings apparent to all. A rash, hateful tongue is a symptom of a much deeper disease of the heart. And contrary to the childhood retort about “sticks and stones,” words can hurt the most, being “like thrusts of a sword” which pierce the hearer’s soul.

“SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE”

Our words can evoke a reaction from people. Yet, even more provocative possibly is our gestures and tone of voice while speaking. “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Prov. 15:1). We may be 100% right and the other person may be 100% wrong. But, rather than accepting it, they become enraged if there was no love shown in the revelation of the wrong. It matters how we answer others (Col. 4:6; Eph. 4:29). To illustrate, consider the words of the woman who said to her husband in the midst of a heated discussion, “You’re speaking so loudly that I can’t hear a word that you’re saying.” Let us be “soft” or gentle when answering one another. “The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly,

but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness” (Prov. 15:2). The truth should be spoken at the right time and place, in the right manner and with the right attitude. Tact is a good word to describe the discretion of the wise in giving an answer. Certainly most of us could use a bit more of that when trying to speak the truth to those who need to hear it. “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the wicked pours forth evil” (Prov. 15:28).

WORDS OF JUDGMENT

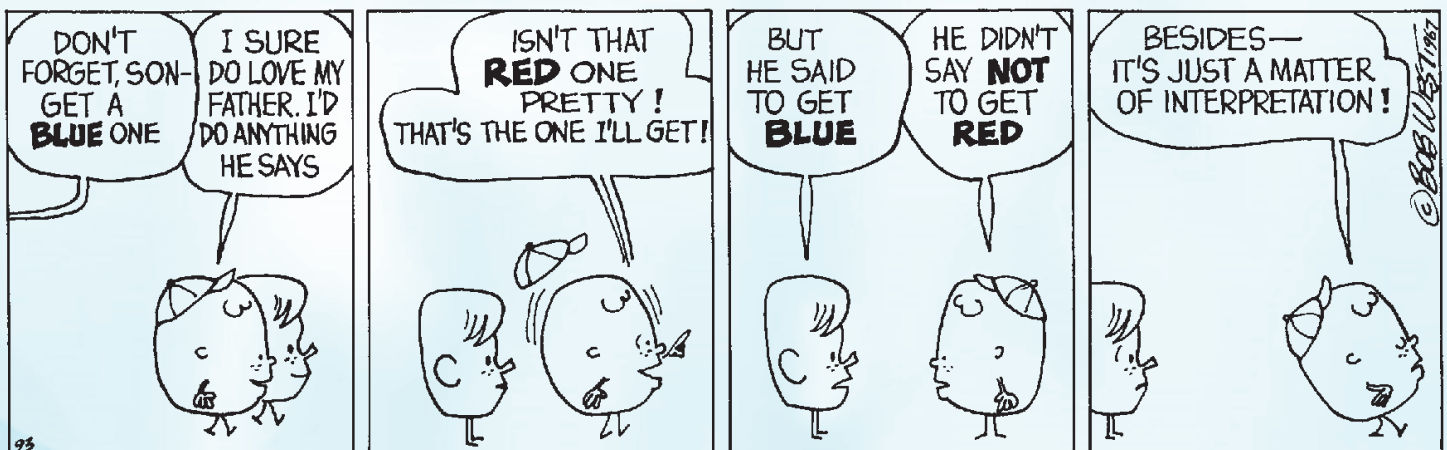
Do you ever wonder what the Judgment Day will be like? What will be said on that day? Stop and listen and you can hear what will be said. The idle, spiteful, rash and harshly spoken words which you utter today will be echoing back to you in the judgment. Jesus assures, “that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Mt. 12:36, 37). Brethren, we must not seek to justify any hateful attitudes and comments toward each other lest our “religion is useless” (Js. 1:26). The idea that because we are brethren we can say whatever we will is as false as denominationalism. Because we are brethren is all the more reason to choose our words carefully. Love among brethren must be expressed through “soft” and “sweet” words which will not be hard to swallow in judgment and eternity.

I close with the realization and admission of my own weakness in this area and this short verse . . .

“If you read the words I wrote,
And seek in me to find a mote;
A beam somewhere I’m sure you’ll find,
But please remember ‘I just spoke my mind.’”

Shannon

THEOPHILUS





How to
Read & Understand
God's Word

How to Read & Understand (4)

(Ephesians 3:1-7)

I. Observation: What Does a Passage Say?

A) The Rule of Context—Context Rules!

1. Identify the context - that which goes _____ the text.
2. Observe the _____ - people, places, events, repeated phrases
3. Be _____ with the text - let the text speak for itself. God's word is truth (absolutes) on which you can stand
4. Ask the important questions:

a) _____?	d) _____?
b) _____?	e) _____?
c) _____?	f) _____?

B) Getting the Big Picture

1. Begin on your knees (James 1:5)
2. Read & _____ the book
3. Identify the _____ of literature
4. Let the text _____
5. Use the 5 W's and an H
6. Discover facts
7. _____ key words
8. Discern the main theme of the book (John 20:30-31)

C) Focus on the details

1. Remember to pray
2. Keep the context in mind
3. Does this section answer any of the 5 W's or an H?
4. Look for and mark key words and phrases
5. List what you learned about each word (2 Timothy 1)
6. Look for contrasts, comparisons, terms of conclusion, etc.

II. Interpretation: What Does the Passage Mean?

- A) Remember that _____ rules.
- B) Always seek the full counsel (cross ref.) (Jn 15:7; 1 John 5:14; James 4:3).
- C) Remember that scripture will _____ contradict scripture (2 Peter 1:3).
- D) Do not base your doctrine on an obscure passage (1 Corinthians 15:29).
- E) Interpret scripture _____ (take it at face value).
- F) Look for the _____ author's _____ ntended _____ eaning.

III. Application: How Does the Meaning of the Passage Apply to Me?

- A) This is more than an _____ exercise.
- B) Application flows out of _____ observation & _____ interpretation.
- C) Application begins with _____, which then results in _____.
- D) James 1:22-25; 2 Timothy 3:16-1

IV. Transformation: How Has the Spirit Change Me Through the Word of God?

- A) Renewing of your _____ (Romans 12:1-2).
- B) Put _____ old man / Put _____ the new man (Ephesians 4:20-ff)
- C) Disciples are to become teachers.
 1. Commision of the apostles (Matthew 28:19-20).
 2. Conviction of the the early church (Acts 8:4; 1 Thess. 1:8).
 3. Comfort of the disciple (1 Peter 3:13-16).
 4. Commanded to the comfortable (Hebrews 5:12-14).
- D) Will you profit from hearing the good news (Hebrews 3:1-2)?

LORD'S SUPPER MEDITATION



**Why Did Jesus
Come to Die?
...To Show His Own
Love for Us**

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."
(Ephesians 5:1-2)

Congregational Singing

"I Will Praise You"

(Psalm 22:22)

Announcements:

Opening Prayer: Daryn Barker

Shannon Shaffer

1 – The Lord's My Shepherd

Lord's Supper:

Jeff Farmer

298 – Love Lifted Me

573 – How Long Has It Been?

Scott Mitchell

6 – The Lord Is My Light

Dylan Culver

451 – And Can It Be

129 – I Stand in Awe

Dale Woolbright

29 – The Rock of My Heart

445 – His Grace Reaches Me

Seth Shaffer

218 – Hosanna

442 – The Joy of the Lord is My Strength

Don Sieg

50 – All Things Praise Thee

86 – For the Beauty of the Earth

Jonathan Maudlin

2 – As the Deer

579 – Sanctuary

Ryan Woolbright

505 – Trust & Obey

602 – O to Be like Thee

Invitation:

810 – Almost Persuaded

781 – Lord Send Me

Closing Prayer: Shanon Miller



"I will tell of
Your name
to my
brethren;
In the
midst of
the
assembly
I will praise
You."
-Psalm 22:22

WE'RE PRAYING FOR...

Jim Hudson's mother. He is gone to check on her.
Wilma Hudson (Amber Manor)
801 E Illinois Street
Petersburg, IN 47567

Laura Barkers mom, Kay Gegenheimer, is home.
3456 Meadow Creek Court
Vincennes, IN 47591

Jerry Brooks, Vanessa Scott's uncle.
5630 S. Benham Rd.
Versailles, IN 47042

Doris Woolbright almost done with chemotherapy.

Shut In Members & Friends:

Marjorie Dodge
Grace Singleton

Preachers We Help Support:

Leonido Balballoza
Vicente Cay

Edwin de Pedro
David N. Varona

OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO...

Christina Farmer & family with the passing of her aunt **Phyllis Jones.**

GOSPEL MEETING...

February 12-17 - Oldham Woods with Mark McCrary

HOME BIBLE STUDY...

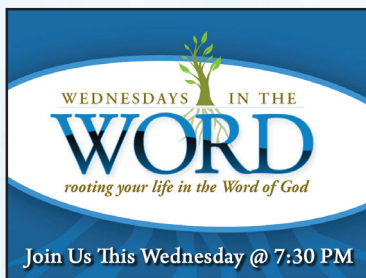
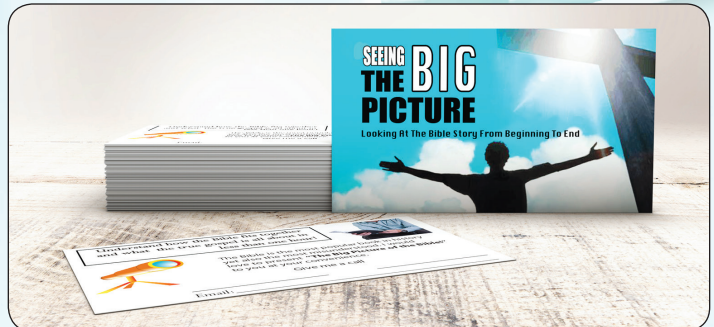
Last Saturday of the Month at the home of JD & Esther Souder in Salem, IN.

OUT OF TOWN...

Shannon, Dana & Seth Shaffer will be out of town February 4-10 to attend the lectures in Florida.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY...

...will be moved back 1 week to February 18th.



THIS WEEK

Barker January 15 th	Dowling January 22 nd	Loughmiller January 29 th	Mitchell February 5 th	Scott January 1 st	Stout January 8 th
Farmer Keehn Loughmiller, B. Woolbright, Randol	Barker, Ashlyn Keehn Michell Sieg, Don	Dooley Schoenbaechler Shaffer Woolbright, Ryan	Buchanan Hudson Sieg-Swank	Bailey Miller Sieg, Donny	Loughmiller, N. Maudlin McKinney Woolbright, D.

FOR THE RECORD

Week of	01/15	01/22
AM Worship	74	54
Bible Classes	72	54
PM Worship	68	46
CONTRIBUTION	\$1,843	\$1,887
WEEKLY GOAL	\$2,200	
Wednesday	69	62

FEBRUARY SERVANTS

Building Cleaning & Communion:
Buchanan & M. Loughmiller

Benevolence Organizers:
S. Dooley & D. Buchanan

FEBRUARY

2 - Alyssa Scott B'day
13 - Sarah Shaffer B'day
24 - Dana Shaffer B'day

BIRTHDAYS
ANNIVERSARIES

CHURCH of CHRIST
at Galena

SERVING IN WORSHIP

THIS WEEK

Sunday Morning (01/29)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Randol Woolbright

Song Leader: Dale Woolbright

Lord's Table: Don Sieg (Lead)

J. Hudson, M. Stout, J. Farmer

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Keith Keehn

Sunday PM (01/29)

Announcements: Bill Buchanan

1st Prayer: Daryn Barker

Song Leader: Shannon Shaffer

Lord's Table: Don Sieg (Lead)

J. Hudson

Sermon: Shannon Shaffer

Closing Prayer: Shanon Miller

Wednesday (02/01)

Announcements: Luke Dooley

1st Prayer: Scott Mitchell

Song Leader: Jonathan Maudlin

Invitation: Ryan Woolbright

Closing Prayer: Gus Schoenbaechler

NEXT WEEK

Sunday Morning (02/05)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Mike Loughmiller

Song Leader: Donny Sieg

Lord's Table: Randy Scott (Lead)

K. Dowling, D. Barker, T. Maudlin

Sermon: Scott Mitchell

Closing Prayer: Jonathan Maudlin

Sunday PM (02/05)

Announcements: Dale Woolbright

1st Prayer: Gus Schoenbaechler

Song Leader: Don Sieg

Lord's Table: Randy Scott (Lead)

D. Barker

Sermon: Kyle Dowling

Closing Prayer: Bill Buchanan

Wednesday (02/08)

Announcements: Benny Loughmiller

1st Prayer: Jim Hudson

Song Leader: Ryan Woolbright

Invitation: Dale Woolbright

Closing Prayer: Michael Stout

Shepherds:

Bill Buchanan

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Deacons:

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Kyle Dowling

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Mike Loughmiller

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loughmiller6@aol.com

Scott Mitchell

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stblessedwith4@gmail.com

Randy Scott

Cell: (812) 620-3747

countingourmanyblessings@gmail.com

Michael Stout

Cell: (502) 939-9525

cnotes@otherside.com

Evangelist:

Shannon Shaffer

Cell: (615) 289-1721

shafferlifeline@gmail.com

CHURCH of CHRIST
at Galena

Lifeline

Meeting at

5466 Featheringill Road

Greenville, IN 47124

Sunday

Worship: 9:00 AM

Bible Classes: 10:00 AM

Worship: 3:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes: 7:30 PM

Website

<http://churchofChrist>

inGalena.com