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Harold D. Mangrum  
Leonard Watson

### **Ministers:**

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit  
Matthew Martin, Associate  
Douglas Alvarenga, Hispanic

### **VISIT US SOON!**

#### **Sunday:**

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

#### **Wednesday:**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

**HOME OF THE  
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### **Missions Supported:**

Far East/World Evangelism  
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In Search of the Lord's Way  
Kakinada, India  
Manila, Philippines  
Murmansk, Russia  
Truth for the World  
Words of the Master (Memphis  
Time Warner Cable ch17)

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## **THE POWER OF WORDS**

Carl B. Garner

An ordinary Saturday for me as a young boy included a double feature at the local "New Isis" Theater. Mowing lawns and other odd jobs provided the funds, and the movie screen became fascinating to this young boy. In the late '40s, movies and newsreels still included stories about the recent war. Though he was dead, the hypnotic power of Adolf Hitler was still compelling to me. I could not comprehend the words, but the message was clear. Even today, documentaries of his life reveal how he exercised power and control over an entire continent for more than a decade. That power and that hatred was expressed by words. Words—even those spoken decades ago—have power to anger, enlighten, motivate, frighten, control, and injure. **Words can be powerful!**

### **Words Can Soothe, Calm Us**

History records many speeches of world leaders. Abraham Lincoln, in the most devastating conflict to face our nation, was able to limit the damage that civil war brought to us. Churchill and Roosevelt, leading two powerful nations, skillfully used words to minimize the despair and the panic that threatened our efforts to defeat our common enemies.

### **Words Can Identify Us**

It was Solomon who wrote, "*A fool's voice is known by a multitude of words*" (Ecc. 5:2-3). It does not take long to discover the character of a person when we hear their speech. An axiom I've heard stated is, "Better to be silent and thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt." Whoever said it was probably repeating what is found in Proverbs 17:27-28: "*He that has knowledge spares his words. Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise.*"

### **Words Can Confuse, Divide Us**

When our mounted cavalry depended upon the bugler for instruction and direction, it was important that his signal be clear and easily understood. Otherwise, the troops would not know whether to surrender, charge, or retreat. Paul uses this metaphor in his words in 1 Corinthians 14:8: "*If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?*"

The words of some men may be intended to divide or confuse. False teachers do so by failing to "*handle aright the word of truth*" (2 Tim. 2:15). However, we are instructed to "*let no man deceive you with vain words*" (Eph. 5:6).

### **Words Can Be Harmful**

The churches of Galatia were in danger of harming themselves. Paul's warning was: "*If you bite and devour one another, take heed that you be not consumed one of another*" (Gal. 5:15).

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They were not literally biting one another, but by their words they were in danger of destroying every good thing they had accomplished. When God spoke of that which He hates, Proverbs 6:16-19 included: *“a lying tongue...a false witness that speaks lies, and he that sows discord among brethren”*

Rudyard Kipling realized the power of words, saying, “Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind.”

### Words Can Hurt or Help

We often experience conversation in which the words are not evil, not wicked, but are capable of hurting. It is true that sometimes words must hurt, and what we have called “tough love” is often necessary. Rebuke is seldom what a person wants, but is just as often what that person needs. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write words for the purpose of bringing Christians back from apostasy. Did they hurt? Yes, but hurt they must. Sin and evil must be spoken against.

But we must be very careful to use words in their best way. Leviticus 19:16 forbade gossip: *“You shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people.”* Even words of rebuke and correction must be spoken with pure motives and purpose. Ephesians 4:15 demands that truth be spoken *“in love.”* Words can either hurt or help, and we must be wise in our use of words *because* of their power.

### Words Can Bring Salvation

Early in the first century, the gospel went out to “all the world.” The means by which that salvation was proclaimed was by “words.” Peter accomplished this in the house of Cornelius when he spoke, *“words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved”* (Acts 11:14). Words of salvation should be on the tongue of all who have been saved by the wonderful gospel of Christ. That is God’s only means by which all men everywhere must be saved (Rom. 1:16-17).

### Words Can Inspire Us

First century man was moved by the words of great orators. We have already mentioned those who by their words encouraged a nation to persevere, to gain strength in their battle against tyranny. Some speakers are more capable than others, but when words are spoken by those who love us, we can gain courage and confidence. Jesus said in Matthew 12:37: *“by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.”*

Our speech is capable of either great **good** or horrendous **evil**. Let’s be careful with our words.

## A FEW SIMPLE POINTS ABOUT SPREADING THE WORD

Preston Silcox

If we’re concerned about lost souls and if we desire to build up the local church, there are a few necessary matters to which we must give careful attention. Consider the following:

**We must have a *perception of the need*.** This includes understanding that Christ obligates us to take the gospel to those around us (Mat. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16), as well as simply observing that the local church must be perpetuated.

**We must follow the *pattern of God’s Word*.** While reaching the lost is essential and building up the local church is vital, we must not go beyond the limits of God’s Word to accomplish the tasks. Pragmatism says if it works, it must be right; the Bible says if it is authorized, it is right (cf. Col. 3:17).

**We must apply the *principle of Acts 8:1,4*.** These two verses show the scattering of the saints and then the scattering of the seed. They indicate that every member was involved in the process of evangelism—not just those in leadership positions.

**We must recognize the *power of the Gospel*.** While some shy away from personal work believing that they are not assertive or eloquent enough, the Bible shows that the power to convert the sinner from the error of his way is in the message, not the messenger (cf. Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12).

**We must understand that *persistence is essential*.** Consider 1 Corinthians 15:58 in light of the subject at hand: *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

So are we really concerned about lost souls and do we really care about building up the local church? Then let’s get to work!

### “WORDS FROM THE MASTER”

Forest Hill Church of Christ  
Wednesdays: 5:00-5:30 P.M.  
Time Warner Cable - Channel 17

**A PERFECT FIT FOR SATAN (part 2)**  
**Matthew Martin**

Am I always looking for the wrong in a person. If I am, I may be a perfect fit for Satan. "Nobody's perfect." "We all make mistakes." "Accidents can happen." We've heard these phrases so many times it's beyond cliché. Since no one is immune to mistakes, we need to be considerate of others when they make one.

It's so easy to tell someone what they've done wrong because a 'wrong' is so identifiable. When something is 'right' that's all it can be, but when something is wrong, there are a thousand different ways it could be so.

It's true that Solomon said good friends tell each other when they've done wrong (Pro. 27:6). But what the wise man did not say, is that it is good to hyper-analyze your friends and point out all their little character flaws and rebuke their every misstep.

If our friend has done wrong and does not realize it (or does not care), then it is our duty to tell him. But just waiting for him to make a mistake so we can tell him, is not how a good friend, or a Christian for that matter should act. So let's ask ourselves: Do I have more in common with God, or with the Devil? How can you know? Well, are you always looking for the wrong in someone? If so, you're not acting like the Heavenly Father, but the devil himself (John 8:44).

**AM I RUDE TO PEOPLE  
FOR NO APPARENT REASON?**

What is your general disposition like? Sure, everyone has bad days. But how are you on a typical day? Do you smile when you pass by someone? When someone puts their hand out for you to shake it, do you let out a sigh like it is a nuisance just to be pleasant. I once knew of a person who would not make eye contact with you when he shook your hand. Never. In fact, he would sometimes shake hands with you and say "good morning" a half-dozen times before realizing he had already done so. That's rude.

There are some people who walk around like they are just putting up with everybody else. They walk around with their noses in the air, and with a general attitude that screams: "Leave me alone!" The fact of the matter is, they are not putting up with us, we are having to put up with them, and with their rude disposition.

To be continued...

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