

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

Speaker, Robert Emerson

Study Sunday 10:00 AM

Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM

Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM

Singing every 2nd Sunday evening

Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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“We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.”

—John 9:4



Servants during January:

Songleader: Stanley (31), Larry (2/7), David (14), Peter (21), Stanley (28)

Reading: Mike Beckman; Robert (Feb)

Announcements: Larry; Stanley (Feb)

Table: Stanley, Marty, Robert, David; Larry, Mike Beckman, Mike Mitchell, Peter (Feb)

Wednesday Lesson:

Larry (27), Stanley (2/3), Kris (10), Larry (17), Stanley (24)



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The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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WHEN TO BE SILENT

By Ken Green

Solomon advises us that there is “a time to keep silence; and a time to speak,” Eccl 3:7.

The words we speak are of tremendous importance. They shall have momentous consequences in time and eternity. Our Lord tells us that they reflect the health of our souls. It is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks, Mt 12:34. Men shall give account for every idle word, v35. This does not condemn innocent humor or small talk. The idle words are portrayed in the context. The Pharisees who said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons,” v24, were guilty of such idle talk.

“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned,” v37, concluded the Lord.

How very crucial then are the words we speak!

James speaks of the tongue as a fire: “See how great a forest a little fire kindles!” Jas 5:5,6. “Where there is smoke, there is fire,” we are told. But sometimes the fire is on the end of someone’s long tongue!

James continues to describe the tongue as a beast that cannot be completely tamed. Oh, don’t turn that wild thing loose on me! What havoc this poisonous viper

does render!

Is it any wonder that David vowed to restrain his mouth with a muzzle while the wicked were before him, Psa 39:1?

There is a time to be silent. “Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive,” Prov 17:18. Even when silence is not perceived as wisdom, it has been said that it is better to be silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.

My Dad used to tell me to not argue with fools, for bystanders would not be able to tell who the fool was. I’ve violated that principle too many times.

A man met a friend whom he had not seen for a long while. “How is your wife?” he inquired.

“I thought you knew. She went to heaven,” came the reply.

“Oh,” he countered. “I’m sorry.”

That didn’t sound right, so after an awkward silence he said, “I mean I’m glad.”

That was certainly no improvement and in desperation he tried again: “What I guess I really mean,” he blurted, “is that I’m surprised!”

Often it’s better to be silent.

Let's consider some of the times we should keep silence.

We should be silent when angry. "He who is quick-tempered acts foolishly," Prov 14:17. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God," Jas 1:19, 20.

Some pride themselves on having a short fuse. They boast about "straightening so and so out"; "giving him a piece of their mind"; or "telling her off." If they were wise, they would be silent until they cooled off. Then if something must be said, they would speak prudently as a Christian ought to.

We should be silent when we do not know all the facts. "He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him," Prov 18:13. "The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him," Prov 18:17.

Our judicial system is supposedly based on the concept of hearing all the evidence before a verdict is rendered. It often doesn't work that way because of loopholes and technicalities, but such is as it should be.

One prospective juror was asked if he believed in capital punishment.

"Generally, no," he replied. "But in this case, yes."

At the bottom of most gossip, whispering, and backbiting, is someone who does not have all the facts. One lady is reported to have said, "I didn't know if it was true or not, I just repeated it to be on the safe side."

We should be silent when it is none of our business. "The heart knows its own bitterness, and a stranger does not share its joy," Prov 14:10.

How often would the Lord say to us as He did to Peter, "What is that to you?" Jn 21:22.

It may be that a matter is our business.

Perhaps it is a problem within the church of which one is a part. If so, let him speak. But let him speak in the right way and to those who may help correct the situation.

The disciples in Jerusalem who were murmuring over the neglect of their widows, Acts 6:1, did not accomplish anything. I wonder how long the murmuring and grumbling went on before someone approached the apostles with the issue and it was corrected.

If someone is living in sin, such should be your business. But go and talk with him in the proper spirit, Gal 6:1. If one is not willing to do this, he should be silent about it.

We should be silent when our words would destroy a friendship. "A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends," Prov 16:18.

One can easily think of exceptions when one ought to speak even if a friendship is at stake. But this passage is referring to words that ought never to be spoken.

Most everybody says things, even about friends, that they would not want to get back to those friends. A good rule to follow: don't say such things. They will usually get back.

Another good rule is this: If you are advised of something that someone has said about you, don't take it too seriously. "Also do not take to heart everything people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. For many times, also, your own heart has known that even you have cursed others," Eccl 7:21,22.

Doesn't it make you feel good when someone has said something good about you and you are told about it? The "Golden Rule" would suggest then that we should so speak of others that if anything "gets back," it will be something good.

We should be silent when our words would destroy a reputation. "An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a

burning fire," Prov 16:27.

Again, there are obvious times that we would be obligated to speak even if we ruined someone's reputation. But most of the time we should be silent.

Even if we know a matter to be true, this does not mean we should repeat it. We should ask: Is it kind? And then, is it necessary? And perhaps will it help?

We should be silent when we have said it many times before. "...the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping," Prov 19:13.

A constant drip, drip, drip, is impossible to get used to. You will grow accustomed to living next to a railroad track, but a leaky roof, or faucet, is a constant irritation.

So it is with someone who nags. We can understand why Solomon would speak of a nagging wife. But many husbands are equally guilty of nagging. And many parents nag their children constantly.

Perhaps it is time to stop and ask: Is this getting the job done? Is it productive or counterproductive?

Nagging just makes the situation worse. It's better to be silent.

We should be silent when it is time to listen. "A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke," Prov 13:1.

We are to be swift to hear and slow to speak, Jas 1:19. It has never occurred to some folks that God may have had a reason in giving us two ears and just one mouth. Furthermore, He gave a mouth that closes

and ears that don't.

We can never be good counselors if we are not willing to be silent and listen. We cannot teach the gospel if we are unwilling to listen. Sometimes we may feel we have answered a religious argument when, in fact, we have not understood the argument because we failed to listen.

In meetings all over the country, I see young folks in the audience generally on the back row, who don't know that when it is a time to listen, it is a time to be silent. Surely we are doing our children a disservice if we do not teach them this from a very early age.

We should be silent when it is time to work. "In all labor there is profit, but idle chatter leads only to poverty," Prov 14:23. There are many who talk a good game. They talk the Bible and religion. They talk up the need for good classes and more personal work.

But don't count on them when it comes to getting the job done. They are all talk and no work.

Jesus said, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work," Jn 9:4.

There is a time when we need to quit talking and start working.

Indeed, there are many times when we need to keep silent. Next time we shall consider some times when we ought to speak.

—via *Searching the Scriptures*, July 1988 

Remember in Prayer

Elaine Conn passed away this past week. Joyce is struggling with her cancer. David and Chessie Harwell are both unwell. Let us remember these, as well as

those that cannot meet with us: Lois Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice. 