

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson, Karen Berry (*sick*), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church, Mildred Church (*shut in*), Linda James (*shut in*), Kirk Marschall, Ahrea & Neil Miller, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Suzette Stevens, Arlena Turner (*medical issues*), Larry Wisdom (*sick*).

Family and friends: Laurence Cutts (*recovering from stroke*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Chuck Goodall (*Charles and Vernita's son*), Brian James (*cancer*), Sarah Himmel (*infection*), Lisa Ross (*Robyn Day & Nick Ross' mother*), Wayne Ryland (*medical*), and Ardis Tucker.

Out of Town: Audrey Davis, Joe & Donna Brown, Charles & Vernita Goodall, Larry & Cindy Hicks (*back sometime today*), Paula Sullivan (*back on 8/2*).

Group Meeting: Group 1 will meet next week after the evening worship service.

Kids' Review: Next class will be *August 13th* in classroom number 5, shortly after the evening worship service.

Fourth Sunday: Today is the 4th Sunday of the month, and Bucky Day is scheduled to present the lesson during the PM worship service.

Work Day: We will have a work day at the building this upcoming Saturday (7/29). All able are encouraged to participate.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 7/26/17

Song Leader: Eric Stevens
 Opening Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Invitation: Keith Marschall
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Sherman Johnson
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Mike Sadler

Sunday Evening: 7/30/17

Song Leader: Bob Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Larry Hicks
 Lord's Table: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 7/30/17

Lord's Table: Mike Sadler (B)
 Clay Sadler (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 Jim Abram
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELDERS

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SERVICES

Sunday
 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
 Morning Services 9:50 A.M.
 Evening Services 6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday
 Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

Do We Talk Too Much?

*In the multitude of words sin is not lacking,
 But he who restrains his lips is wise." Prov. 10:19*

*"He who has knowledge spares his words,
 And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.
 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace;
 When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive." Prov. 17:27-28*

Having read these little tidbits of wisdom, it would probably be a worthwhile endeavor for all of us if we stopped to consider our speech habits and how much we talk. Do we talk too much? Do we dominate every conversation? Do we feel the need to add something to the conversation, no matter the subject? Do we always seem to have the last word? It's not God is encouraging us to be introverts who never have anything to say, for this book, along with a number of New Testament passages, teaches us the value of "a word fitly spoken" (Prov. 25:11). And it's okay that some are more talkative by nature and others quieter, but just as the reticent need to learn when to speak, the gregarious may need to learn when to be quiet.

That the Lord counsels against the multitude of words should be enough to teach us restraint, but consider some things that may be behind the admonitions to spare our words. And in a nod to our modern world and its social media, we might want to include in our self-evaluation the questions of whether we write or post too much.

Talking too much may be a symptom of a greater problem—pride. Over and over again, both the Old and New Testaments warn about the dangers of pride (1 Pet. 5:5-6) and if we are the ones dominating every conversation and always needing the last word, it may be a red flag signaling the presence of too much pride. We need to be honest with ourselves about how often we try to top the story someone else has told. Some people talk out of nervousness, while others simply seem to loathe silence, but it is clear that some talk because they consider their opinions, insights, and tales more important, more compelling, or more interesting than those of anyone else. Could our speech be trying to tell us we are failing to “esteem others better than [ourselves]?” Phil. 2:3

We are clearly instructed not to lie (Col. 3:9), but if we are constantly talking, we may end up embellishing a story or repeating something we haven’t verified. We may not set out to lie, but everyone has a limited supply of verified facts to share or interesting stories to tell, so our multitude of words ends up leading to the sin of dishonesty.

“A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends” (Prov. 16:28). “He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates

friends” (Prov. 17:9). Because Rom. 1:29 lists whisperers and backbiters (gossips and slanderers—ESV) among those committing sins worthy of death, we must not dismiss this lightly. Gossip is wrong at all times, but it is an undeniable truth that when we talk constantly we usually end up talking about people. As with lying, we may not intend to be a whisperer or the one who repeats things which need to be kept to ourselves, but when we ramble on we find ourselves needing new material and too often that material ends up being a story that hurts someone or some relationship.

There are some other things we could point out, but in closing let’s not fail to realize that even when are not bragging, being dishonest, or gossiping, talking too much can be a source of real irritation to others. Instead of being a light of the world (Matt. 5:14-16) and one whose life wins others to Christ (1 Cor. 9:19-23), we can become the kind of person people seek to avoid. Our influence and reputation are too important to be destroyed or at least severely damaged by the inability to spare our words.

Do we talk too much? “*In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise*” (Prov. 10:19). “*He who has knowledge spares his words, And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive*” (Prov. 17:27-28).

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- John R. Gibson

“Early Risers”

Need some motivation to start your day earlier, perhaps to be more productive? Look no further than the Scriptures...

- ◇ Genesis 21:14, So Abraham **rose early in the morning**, and took bread and a skin of water; and putting it on her shoulder, he gave it and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she departed and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba.
- ◇ Genesis 22:3, So Abraham **rose early** in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.
- ◇ Genesis 28:18, Then Jacob **rose early in the morning**, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.
- ◇ Exodus 24:4, And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he **rose early in the morning**, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.
- ◇ Exodus 34:4, So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses **rose early** in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.
- ◇ Joshua 3:1, Then Joshua **rose early in the morning**; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over.
- ◇ Joshua 6:12, And Joshua **rose early** in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

- ◇ Joshua 7:16, So Joshua **rose early in the morning** and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken.
- ◇ Judges 6:38, And it was so. When he (*Gideon*) **rose early** the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.
- ◇ 1 Samuel 15:12, So when Samuel **rose early in the morning** to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.”
- ◇ 1 Samuel 17:20, So David **rose early in the morning**, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.
- ◇ 2 Chronicles 29:20, Then King Hezekiah **rose early**, gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD.
- ◇ Mark 1:35, Now **in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight**, He (*Jesus*) went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Perhaps one feels they are simply not a “morning person”. That may be the case... that said, the pattern concerning Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Hezekiah, and Jesus cannot be denied. There is *something* to be said for one being an “early riser”.

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- Ian Rice