GOSPEL NEWS COURIER
P. O. BOX 97
LA HABRA, CALIF. 90631
Entered Periodical Publication

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
La Habra, Calif.
Permit No. 72

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1615 S. 27 Ave
Yakima Wash

GOSPEL NEWS COURIER

June 1965

LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA 90631

The Tongue

J. H. Lackey

James gives us as good a description of the tongue as we need, so be careful to hold it under control. Jas. 3:2-18 "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold we put bits in the horses mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven about by fierce winds, yet are turned about by a very small helm, wither-soever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things, behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: So is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tames, and hath been tamed of manking. But the tongue can no man tame, it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God even the Father and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can a fig tree, my brethren bear olive berries? either a vine figs? So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. Who is a wise man among you, and endued with knowledge? Let him shew out of a good conversation, his works with meekness

of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good works, without partiality and without hypocracy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Proberbs also has a few things to say about the tongue. Prov. 6:6-19 "These six things doth the Lord hate: hea, seven are abomination unto him. A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wiched imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." Mt. 15:1-20 "The scribes and Pharisees criticised Jesus and the disciples for eating with unwashed hands. Jesus answered them, 'Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth the man. But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things that defile the man.'" Mt. 12:34-37 "O generation of vipers, how can ye being evil speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasures of the heart bringeth forth good things; an evil man out of evil treasures bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy word thou shalt be justified, and by thy word thou shalt be condemned."

Judging by these references, we should be very careful to keep our tongue under control. I Peter 3:10 "For he that will love life and see good days let his refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." James 1:26 "If any man among you seemeth to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, this mans religion is vain." Proverbs 21:23 "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles." Psa. 34:13 "Keep thy tongue from evil and thy lips from speaking guile." Eph. 4:29 "Let no corrupt communications proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearer." Col. 4:6 "Let your speech be alsays with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs

singing with grace in your hearts unto the Lord." I Pet. 1:15 "But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation."

Heb. 13:5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness." Tit. 2:7 "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil to say of you." I Pet. 2:12 "Having your conversation honest among the gentiles: that, whereas they speak evil of you, they may by your works which they behold glorify God in the day of visitation." Phil. 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel." Heb. 13:15 "By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name." I Pet. 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people: that ye should shew forth the praise of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." Col. 1:12-14 "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son; in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins."---Let us watch our tongue, for the scripture teaches us that from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. (Matt. 20:34)

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F. H. LOGAN - Modesto, Calif.--I will make a report concerning the congregation here at Modesto, Calif. I have been in ill health for a long time, and have neglected sending in any church reports for some time, but will try to do better in the future.

The congregation here is getting along fine. On Easter Sunday, Brother and Sister Ray Oalden and family attended church here with us. She is Brother and Sister Weakly's daughter. Also Mr. and Mrs. James Paioni of Modesto attended church. She is also Brother and Sister Weakly's daughter. Others were in attendance on that day. Brother Velmo Brown, Brother and Sister Ira Brown's son confessed his faults and returned to the fold, and is now working with us in the Vineyard of the Lord. We all truly rejoiced to see him return. We had one other Sister return back to the church, confessing her faults. It was Sister June Paioni. Brother Frank Morse also confessed his faults and came back to the fold of God. We all rejoiced to see them return.

We still have some sickness in our midst. Brother Ben F. Rollins is still in the rest home. Sister Stark passed away on May 10 after a long illness, and was laid to rest in the Lakewood Memorial Park. She was the wife of Brother Junie Stark, who passed away last year. They are

greatly missed by all the church here and all their relatives and friends.

Our morning services at 10:30 A. M. each Lord's day are well attended, and our evening services at 7:30 P. M. are gradually increasing, and we have good attendance at our Wednesday night Bible study at 7:30 P. M. Tonights lesson will be the 15th chapter of Romans. We are having the younger brethren to take the lead in this service, and it is working up a greater interest among our young brethren. We older ones study with them and sometimes do some commenting on the lesson. It is working up a good interest among our young brethren. We feel that in hankling it this way we can train more young brethren to be teachers.

Let us not forget our Meeting which starts Sunday, July 11th, and runs until July 18th. If any of the brethren and sisters anywhere can come and be with us through the meeting and help us out, we would be glad to have them come and be with us. Brother Howard McKay of Yakima, Washington, will do the preaching. He is an excellent gospel preacher. Come and hear him.

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J. H. LACKLEY - Springfield, Colorado--Our meeting with Bob Hunt was attended by a few outsiders. The seed was sown which we hope brings forth fruit as we are sure it fell into good and honest hearts--most of it at least. He gave us some fine lessons. Hope to have him again sometime.

Brother Claude Perigen is to be with us a few days after his meeting at Furnish Canyon. We expect him to begin a weeks' preaching for us the 11th of July. Hope all can be with us. We need the encouragement from all members.

We got a nice rain Sunday night which is very encouraging to the farmers and stock men.

We expect to attend the meeting at Furnish Canyon June 20th through the 27th. Part of the time at least.

Let us keep up the good fight of faith!

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LAURA E. WILLIS - Carlsbad, N. Mexico--I hope you and your family, and all the church members there are well. We are all well here as far as I know.

I am happy to say our meeting was the best one we have ever had in Carlsbad. I'll leave the report of it for Brother Couchman and Brother Auslam.

We are all very glad to have made the acquaintance of Brother and Sister Auslam and children. I think they are fine people. I really enjoyed his preaching more than words can express--also their association.

ELMER H. HUNT - Garden Grove, Calif.--Reporting on the two weeks preaching at Springfield, Colorado, I must say that I enjoyed all of it, and we hope and pray for lasting results. The meeting totaled 21 sermons which were attended by different ones. None came regularly, but some often. However, Brother and Sister J. H. Lackey were always there, and I especially appreciated their fullest hospitality given me in their home. We visited many others together.

I became acquainted with some dear souls--very good hearted people, deeply concerned with the purity of God's Word without man made innovations. May they study and pray more, and get in the work with Brother Lackey in the truth. There are some who have attended churches of Christ regularly and have not so much as heard about vain worship--doctrines and commandments of men. The salvation of souls of many is involved, and many souls are in jeopardy. Matt. 7:21-23.

Brother and Sister Noyes and others of their family come 115 miles. Their re ular faith and practice every Lord's Day, for worship.

I appreciated also meeting Brother Francis and his family, and their families, from Furnish Canyon. Bro. & Sis. J. S. L. Morse from Hammon, Oklahoma, were with us two nights. There were visitors from Sandy Soil, too. Also other names I can recall are: George Lackey (not related, but a neighbor of Horace Lackey for many years.), the Browns of Walsh, Roland Wallace, Fern Kirby, the Merritt family. Sorry I can't recall all the names. Fine folks.

Herewith please mail the Courier to this list of names I am giving you with this report.

I came home by Delta and Grand Junction, Colorado. The Delta congregation were as yet undecided for a meeting--but I enjoyed visiting a day with the Baldwin family, Bro. & Sis. Wilkerson of Cedar Edge, and the Brother Hill family of Grand Junction. Sister Hill is a sister of Sister Lakey. Brother Hill was some better with his teeth work.

I was away from home three weeks, and was glad to find my wife and her mother doing well at home.

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Calendar of Meetings

(July 11 to 18) SPRINGFIELD, COLORADO--Bor. Claude Peregen of Bellflower, Calif., Evang. and MODESTO, CALIFORNIA--Bro. Howard McCay of Yakima, Wash., Evang.

(Aug. 8 to 15) DELTA, COLORADO--Camp meeting. Make every effort to attend and bring your young folks. Come and enjoy a week of fine Christian fellowship. Arrangements have been made for sleeping quarters and mess hall. All you need to bring is your bedding. There will be a nominal charge for room and board. Hope to see you there!

(Aug. 15 to 21) BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA--Bro. Harry Dye of Yuma, Arizona

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We bereave the passing of Sister Junie Stark of Modesto, California, May 10, and Brother Albert Harrison of Hindsville, Ark., May 21st. Also the sickness of Brother Nunnley of Ontario, Calif.

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I am sorry and apologize for not being able to publish an issue for April. Many things hindered. Roy

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Enemies or Handmaids

In Philippians 3:18-19, "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly" (their carnal nature) "whose glory is their shame, who mind earthly things." This scripture applies to women as well as to men. Is the God whom we serve, the God of Heaven? or is our god our carnal nature?

I maintain that the world at large, women have forgotten how to be women: consequently most are unhappy, carnal, and a lot of them mentally ill. Of course, women of the church know these things. But as Peter says "I think it wise to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:" so I would like to remind my sisters of these things. Remind them that these are some of the things we are to be teaching verbally as well as by influence, of daily lives. And a woman's influence is large. Sometimes larger than we think. I think it would be good to consider some of the women of the Bible as object lessons.

First of all, in the first chapters of Genesis, we learn that man was created in the image of God. God then said it was not good for man to be alone; so He made him a help meet (suitable helper). Then together He commanded them to be fruitful and multiply; also to have dominion over all the world, and all that is in it. Woman shared in all of this, but as a help meet (suitable helper). and there is the true fulfillment of womanhood. There is the way to true happiness for her. Her Maker surely knows best. As helper of man, who is made in God's image; but a helper, not a rival or a boss. A follower not a dictator.

Speaking of womanly influence: Eve used hers the wrong way. Therefore, because she was so easy to deceive, IITimothy 2:9-15, Man is our ruler, even today. We must keep silence in the assemblies of the church; we have pain in child-bearing; and our job is to be keepers at home. And happiness is ours only if we submit to this law of God for us. If we rebel, it is our carnal nature taking over, making us enemies of the cross

of Christ.

If Bath-sheba had been properly modest, taking her bath privately; she would not have caused, by immodesty, the fall of a king and the death of her own husband. Many women today, could improve their ways by thinking well and long on this sin of Bath-sheba's in exposing her body sufficiently to cause lust on the part of a usually good man. When choosing your clothing this summer, are you remembering your responsibility as a Christian woman? Or are you following the world, letting your carnal nature take over, and thus becomming an enemy of the cross of Christ?

King Ahab was a sinful man to begin with, we learn in the first book of Kings. But he added this above all other sins and married Jezebel. There is a long list of Jezebel;s sins maneuvering Ahab. All through the Bible she is virtually a synonym for evil in womankind. She was very ambitious. Let us watch our ambitions, and keep them within the Gospel. Else we can become enemies of the cross through carnal ambitions.

In the firth chapter of Acts, we have the story of Ananias with Sapphira his wife, who conspired together to lie against the Holy Ghost. The result was death for both. Sapphira might have chosen to refuse a part in this plot (under the New Testament Law, a woman is responsible for her own obedience) if indeed it was not at her suggestion that her husband did this. We do not know. But we do have the lesson: It is carnal to lie. Even a so-called white lie or social lie. Who ever heard of such things in the Word of God? So if we carnally lie to better ourselves, or for any other reason, we then become the enemies of the cross of Christ.

Women are still easily deceived. Acts 13:50, tells us of devout and honorable women, who were stirred up by the Jews to persecute Paul. Any time the Devil wants to really put something over, he tries to get the devout and honorable women on his side. Sad to say, even in the church, devout and honorable women will sometimes lend a listening ear to gossip, and be led into error. It is so hard not to think on gossip once we have heard it. To dwell on it, look for proof of it, maybe embroider it a little and worse of all repeat it. Let us remember our weakness here, and not lend our influence for evil. Else in doing this, we become enemies to the cross of Christ. For this definately is carnal conduct.

On the other side of the ledger, we have the influences of good women. In Genesis we read of Sarai or Sarah, as she later came to be called. She was a bit impatient at first. She tried to help the Lord give Abraham a son, one way or another. She gave him her handmaid to be his wife, because she was barren and old. I have read this was an accepted custom among the women of Sarah's day.

It is said they promised in the wedding ceremony to give their husband an heir. Failing to accomplish this personaly, they were responsible to provide him with another wife. I don't know how true this is; it might have been. We do know Leah and Rachel also did this. But at any rate this was not Sarah's virtue. In this she was running ahead of the Lord, trying to help him in here puny womanly way. But her virtue, we are told, and one we are instructed by the apostle Peter to imitate, was absolute subjection to her husband. I Peter 3:1-6. This is the right way, the Bible way of marriage. The way God ordained for women to be happy and safe. This is a good influence for other women to see in us, and we hope to copy.

In Ruth 4:11, Rachel and Leah are recognized as having built the house of Jacob. They were both very human women; and they walked a very thorny path. But they earned recognition as builders of the house of Jacob, in a time when women were rarely recognized in this way. We cannot walk too close to the Lord. We cannot take the gospel of Christ too much to heart. Our eternal reward depends upon this. And we do not always know who we are influencing. We might even be pleasantly surprised in the Judgement, to find we had influenced someone for good without our knowledge; just by being true Christian women.

Ruth 3:11 tells us that Ruth was known as a virtuous woman. What did Ruth do? She was a loving, loyal daughter to her mother-in-law. Also a loyal convert from paganism to the true God. She was allowed to be the great grandmother of David the King, of whose line was born Christ, the Savior.

Have you noticed that you never read of Aquila in the Bible but Priscilla is also mentioned?

Evidently Priscilla was a strong woman, but not one who lorded it over her husband. They were banished from Rome, because they were Jews, If Priscilla complained, we are not told of it. She went to work, shoulder to shoulder with Aquila making tents. Keeping the apostle Paul in her home at the same time. We find her still working with her husband, when they on hearing a mis-informed young preacher, "They took him to themselves and taught him the truth." Acts 18:2& 26. In Romans 13:3, Paul says, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ." In I Corinthians 16:19, he says, "Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church which is in their house." When he was a prisoner in Rome he wrote to Timothy to salute Priscilla and Aquila. II Timothy 4:19 Priscilla was a zealous and hospitable woman. There are many others, but I feel this is sufficient to "stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance."

Lurana Mc Cluskey