ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

For all who are striving to enter into the blessings of Heaven, the Lord has some important instruction: "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are" (Lk. 13:23-25). Some things we must do and be in life are:

Be wise (I Cor. 3:18)
Be holy (I Pet. 1:16)
Be glad (I Pet. 4:13)
Be gentle (II Tim. 2:24)
Be sober (I Pet. 1:13)
Be ready (I Pet. 3:15)
Be converted (Acts 3:19)
Be content (Heb. 13:15)
Be obedient (Eph. 6:5)
Be thankful (Col. 3:15)
Be comforted (Col. 2:2)
Be steadfast (I Cor. 15:58)
The inspired writer James says, “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” (Jas. 3:5). One match can set an entire forest on fire. The wild fires of California were started by a small match! So the tongue though a small member can cause wars between nations, division in families, and heart aches in the church. We sometimes joke about a man who asked if a lady was tongue-tied, and the reply was, “yes, tied in the middle and loose at both ends!” One has said that the tongue is in a slippery place but is guarded by “bars” called the teeth. We can be guilty of sin by a misuse of the tongue. We are to keep our heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Prov. 4:23); “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7); For out of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matt. 12:34). The tongue can be used for good or evil, to confess the name of Christ or to curse Him, to help another or to hurt. The tongue can be used in worship or be used to blaspheme (Col. 3:8). Though the Bible condemns the action, the tongue can speak with pride and be used to flatter to get what one wants (Psa. 12:3). We can speak so as to deceive another (Rom. 3:13). We can begin a gossip campaign against another that will ruin their character, and the words cannot be recalled (Rom. 1:29). Criticizing and backbiting will cause good friends and brethren in Christ to devour one another (Matt. 5:22; Rom. 1:30). Paul wrote, “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another” (Gal. 5: 15). Though Christians should never lie, the tongue is capable of lying, and many even who are Christians are warned against lying (Col. 3:9; Rev. 21:8). The tongue can speak idle words that will cause one to be judged in the Day of Judgment (Matt. 12:36). Some tongues are used to speak filthy language, though we are commanded not to do so in the “perfect law of liberty” (Col. 3:8; Jas. 1:25). Paul said we are not to misuse the tongue, “Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks” (Eph. 5:4). What a blessing the tongue can be for lifting up our fellowmen, praising our Heavenly Father in worship, and training our children in the nurture and admonition of the Truth (Eph. 6:4). We can use it in carrying the Gospel to the world as our Lord commanded (Mk. 16:15-16). We can tell lost men of a loving Saviour, about His church in which all may be saved, and the simple plan of salvation taught in the Scriptures, of faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. Let us take heed to the proper use of our tongues.
# July 2018

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