

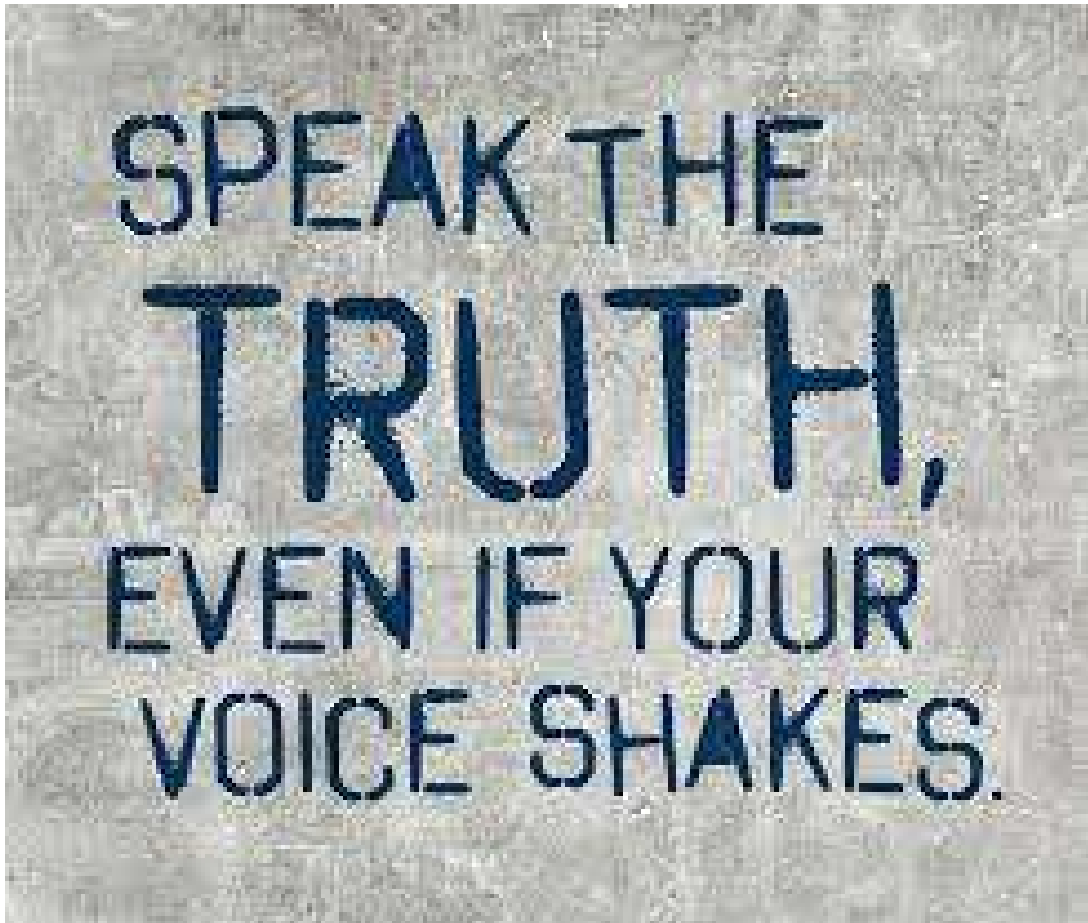


Today's Sermons

Morning: The Gospel I Declared Unto You
Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	31
Sunday AM Worship	39
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Wed. Bible Study	19
Offering	\$1477



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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKK
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

MEN WITH LESS HOPE THAN A FOOL *Wade Webster*

It is a terrible thing to be classified as a fool by God. Through His word, God warns that the fool will perish (Psalms 49:10), fall (Prov. 10:8, 10), be put to shame (Prov. 3:35), receive stripes (Prov. 19:29), be afflicted (Psalms 107:17), and die (Prov. 10:21). All of these punishments make clear that God has *"no pleasure in fools"* (Ecclesiastes 5:4). To be a fool is to be without hope. Yet, Solomon points out two men who have even less hope than a fool.

The Man Who Is Wise in His Own Eyes
Solomon wrote, *"Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him"* (Proverbs 26:12). Throughout the Bible, God warns man not to trust his own wisdom. Earlier in Proverbs, Solomon wrote, *"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil"* (Proverbs 3:7). Isaiah declared, *"Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"* (Isaiah 5:21). In like manner, Paul penned, *"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits"* (Romans 12:16). One only has to remember the examples of Nadab and Abihu and the children of Israel to see the devastating effects of choosing one's own way (Leviticus 10:1-3; Judges 17:6). We must realize as Jeremiah did *"that the way of man is not in himself"* and that *"it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps"* (Jeremiah 10:23). We must learn to cease from our own

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wisdom (Proverbs 23:4). Likewise, we must learn not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think (Romans 12:3). Unless we follow God's wisdom and not our own, there is more hope for a fool than us.

The Man Who is Hasty in Words

Solomon wrote, "*Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him*" (Proverbs 29:20). The man that is hasty in his words is going to say many things that he ought not to say. In the Book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon wrote, "*Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few*" (Ecclesiastes 5:2). Likewise, James wrote, "*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath*" (James 1:19). The "*heart of the righteous studieth to answer*" that he might not sin with his mouth (Proverbs 15:28). He realizes that the tongue has the power of "*life and death*" within it (Proverbs 18:21). Although he realizes that the tongue can be controlled, he knows that he must never become overconfident in his ability to control it (James 3:8). He is careful not to be hasty with his tongue because he realizes that the man "*that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life*" (Proverbs 13:3). He remembers that "*every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment*" (Matthew 12:36). He knows that if he is hasty to speak, he will sin with his mouth, and that there will be more hope for a fool than for him.

How sad it is that many people in our world today have less hope of enjoying eternal life than a fool does. As we have noticed, those who are trying to find their own way to heaven and those who are hasty with their mouths are worse off than a fool. May men learn to forsake their own way, choose the Lord's way, and to keep their mouths and their lives from evil.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jan 29 – Song Service
- Feb 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Feb 12 – Preach-n-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

When Shall These Things Be?

Tim Canup

There are many who are concerned about the coming of the end of all things. They often speak of the "signs of the times" and the events that are to follow. One reason for many of the fears about the end of time is due to an improper understanding of God's Word.

There are many who believe that there will be "signs" that will indicate the coming of the end of this world. This is based on a misinterpretation of Matthew 24 (also Mark 13 and Luke 21). In this passage, Jesus and His disciples depart from the temple in Jerusalem and His disciples show Him "the buildings of the temple," or in other words, how beautiful it was. Jesus responded to this by saying, "See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matthew 24:2). In the minds of these disciples, they connected such destruction of their holy temple with the end of the world, so they asked two questions, "...when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (verse 3). Although in the minds of these disciples these events were connected, there are two separate questions; Jesus makes this distinction in His answer.

The first question concerned the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, which He answered in verses 4-35. To interpret and apply the things said in these verses as signs of the coming end of the world is to improperly interpret God's Word. The things said in these verses deal with events that were fulfilled in A.D. 70 when the Roman army came against Jerusalem and destroyed it and the temple. Notice what Jesus said in verse 34, "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." Jesus was not speaking to the generation now living or that will yet live sometime in the future; rather, Jesus is speaking about the generation that was living at the time He spoke these words, nearly 2000 years ago.

In verse 36, Jesus makes a subject change and answers their 2nd question concerning the end of the world when He said, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." You see, Jesus said that concerning the end of the world, there will be no signs. Peter compared it to "a thief in the night" (II Peter 3:10).

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"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power"
(I Corinthians 15:24).