



Today's Sermons

Morning: "And the Word Became Flesh"

Evening: TBA

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	45
Sunday AM Worship	56
Sunday PM Worship	37
Wed. Bible Study	35
Offering	\$1826



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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 WSKS

93.5 FM

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

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH BITTERNESS?

Roger D. Campbell

When you think about something tasting bitter, what comes to mind? An unpleasant taste? No doubt. A cutting feeling on the tongue? Most likely. A bitter-tasting object can cause a person's tongue, mouth, face, and even entire body to twist, shake, and recoil in response to it. It is sometimes comical to watch such a reaction when unsuspecting souls bite into some food item from which they did not anticipate a bitter taste. Small kids can be a riot to watch do so.

There is nothing comical, however, about a scene in which children of God demonstrate a bitter spirit towards God or their fellow man. Bitter food is one thing; but a bitter spirit that eats at the soul and spews forth cutting, hateful words is another matter entirely. Since Jesus said, "*Ye shall know them by their fruits*" (Matthew 7:16), we would do well to consider some of the consequences or fallouts that come about due to bitterness. They are not pretty. Hopefully the ugliness of them will catch our attention and cause us to be determined to work diligently to keep bitterness from taking root in our hearts. What does bitterness do?

Bitterness troubles. That is what Hebrews 12:14 teaches. "*Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.*" Bitterness stirs up trouble. If Satan cannot get us to fall for false teaching or give in to the pull of immoral conduct, he will take a crack at bringing us down with a bitter spirit. Marriages, friendships, and elderships have crashed due to bitterness robbing people of their joy, rational

Continued Inside

The Simplicity of the Bible

THERE ARE MORE THAN 200,000 WORDS IN THE ENTIRE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- Shakespeare uses from 15,000 to 20,000 of them.
- Milton uses about 13,000 of them.



CONCERNING THE BIBLE . . .

- In the New Testament, there are some 4,800 Greek words used.
- In the entire English Bible there are only 6,000 different words used.
- The average length of the 6,000 words used is a little over four letters.
- About 82% of the words used by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount are one syllable.
- Of the 319 words found in the Ten Commandments:
 - 259 are monosyllables (one syllable)
 - Only 60 have two or more syllables.
- The 23rd Psalm contains 119 words.
 - 95 words are monosyllables
 - Only 3 have as many as three syllables, and none more than that.



thinking, and peaceful demeanor. Let's face it: some people have "bitter breath." I do not mean that they have a foul odor, but rather the words that spring forth from their mouth are full of bitterness. James asked, "*Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*" (James 3:11). The answer is obvious. Just before that, James had made these two declarations: "*Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be*" (3:10). The point? Christians need to remove bitter speech from their vocabulary. That means, of course, that we must first remove any bitter spirit from our hearts. Make no mistake about it: a heart filled with bitterness causes big trouble, some of which is undoable.

Bitterness defiles. We see that truth in the latter part of Hebrews 12:15: ". . . lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." Many would be quick to point out how horrific murder, adultery, and idolatry are. Yet, a bitter disposition is sometimes passed off as, "That's just the way he/she is." If "the way he/she is" means that he/she is a bitter grump, then he/she needs to have a serious change of heart and repent! The same Lord that tells us to avoid murder, adultery, and idolatry also charges us, "*Let all bitterness . . . be put away from you . . .*" (Ephesians 4:32). God knows what you and I need to understand and admit: bitterness defiles the soul.

Bitterness divides. A bitter spirit gets in the way of obeying the Lord's instruction to "*Follow peace with all men*" (Hebrews 12:14). There surely was a good reason for God saying, "*Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them*" (Colossians 3:19), don't you think? Bitterness can turn the best of friends into permanent enemies, drive happily-married couples to divorce court, and spark a civil war within what was once a stable, solid, and contented congregation. Satan must watch with glee as bitterness leads to turmoil within families and God's church.

Bitterness damns. Quite simply, if God tells me to put away bitterness, and yet I do not do it (Ephesians 4:32), then my sin of bitterness will keep me separated from Him and thereby keep me in a lost state. Back again to Hebrews 12:15, we see that the bitterness which troubles and defiles a person causes him/her to fail or fall short of the grace of God. No wonder the Holy Spirit exhorts Christians to look diligently lest bitterness spring up in our hearts! (Hebrews 12:15).

A bitter disposition and bitter tongue do not jive with being a child of the living God. As we have seen, bitterness *troubles, defiles, divides, and damns*. Those truths get my attention. Do they get yours? Because "*The heart knoweth his own bitterness*" (Proverbs 14:10), let each one of us look into his/her own heart, do the self-analyzing, and if bitterness be found, get rid of it.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN BECAUSE OF YOU?

Charles Box

In God's kingdom (the church), good things can happen because of you, or bad things can happen because of you. An example of the good is that of a husband being won to the Lord by his godly wife (1 Peter 3:1-6). Diotrephes is an example of what can happen because of an evil person (3 John 9-11). What can happen because of you?

Because of you, others may choose God: Naomi's influence was so strong that Ruth chose her God (Ruth 1:16-18). Your influence can cause others to choose God. Your influence can cause someone who believes in Jesus to be stronger in the Lord.

Because of you, the faith of some might be overthrown. "*But shun profane and idle babbling, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some*" (2 Timothy 2:16-18). It will be sad, indeed, for some to stand in judgment, having possessed saving faith themselves, and yet be guilty of overthrowing the faith of others.

Because of you, others might be discouraged: The spies, except Joshua and Caleb, discouraged the people from going into Canaan and conquering it. "*But the men who had gone up with him said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we. And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight*" (Numbers 13:31-33). Our words or our actions may be a discouragement to others.

Because of you, others can be refreshed: "*For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother*" (Philemon 7). In a world that beats people down, what a blessing it is to be refreshed by brethren who truly love and care.

As a Christian, you should recognize the good things that can happen in God's work because of you. The life of a Christian is a blessed life. The Christian life is also a blessing to others. What will happen because of you? Will it be good, or evil?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 30 – Song Service
- Oct 5-6 – "Emerging Church" Seminar w/ Kevin Rutherford
- Oct 7 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Oct 14 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell