

*From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.*

**James 3:10**

## Store In My Heart

### Deuteronomy 1:1

These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel across the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazereth and Dizahab.

The fifth book is a summary of the story of Israel becoming a nation. As they camp just east of Jordan and the Promised land, Moses delivers his final address to the people of God. The failure to enter, the travels of the nation, the giving of the Law and the punishments of God are included in this message. Also included are reminders of God's promise of blessing if they obey and a curse if they turn aside from His Will.

Along with this refreshing of their minds was a reminder to always keep God's Word in their hearts and on their lips. They were instructed to never forget what God had said.



# Proper Reporting

## Dee Bowman

Reporting is hard business. It takes a disciplined mind. It is hard to be objective. A good reporter must divorce himself from all his pre-suppositions, prejudices, pre-conceived notions. He has the responsibility to his readers or viewers to report facts as best as he can determine them. He has no business reporting hearsay, opinion, or other part-truths unless he identifies them as such. It takes concentration and a high regard for truth to be a good reporter.

Distributing any truth requires the same integrity as that which is necessary for the good journalist. It, too, calls for intense concentration, an unbiased mind, a desire not only to know the truth, but to use it for good whenever and wherever possible. No person has the right to distribute untruth, hearsay, or gossip.

The scriptures assign an attitude for those who would dare speak of things to others publicly. For instance, *"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God"* (**1Peter 4:11**) addresses the tendencies to report opinions and is God's warning against such. *"There is a time to keep silence and a time to speak"* (**Ecclesiastes 3:7**) speaks to the tendency to want to speak more than the occasion calls for, a constant problem for us all at times. *"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine"* (**Titus 2:1**) calls to mind the necessity to adorn the doctrine of Christ with a disposition toward correctness, making sure that you do not speak opinion or promote your own surmisings.

The scriptures also warn about speaking things to others privately. *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt"* (**Titus 2:8**) reminds us to make sure our speech has the right flavor, that we do our best to say palatable things in every situation possible. *"A fool is full of words,"* said the wise man (**Ecclesiastes 10:14**), indicating that people become suspicious when you say too much. *"A soft answer*

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Ruben Keisler is doing well with recovery from his shoulder surgery.

John Jackson is still in physical therapy from knee surgery.

Paula Laubach is scheduled for knee surgery March 22.

Joyce Venable has not been feeling well.

## Spring Forward in time March 14!

Tonight we start in Ruth 4:7 at 5 pm.

Wednesday night we will start with 2Corinthians 5:16.

**Pray for safety, courage & healing.**

*turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger” (Proverbs 15:1)* tells us about how to handle controversial matters; it is a verse we would all do well to commit to memory.

Then there are those private reporters, those who speak in hushed tones and report in secret, those who seemingly take great delight in spreading rumors and other hurtful information. A gossip is a news monger, one who carries about information that is mostly undocumented in nature and unproductive in effect. It is speech that is seldom intended to edify and will usually include such things as idle talk, tattling, and rumors. Sadly, most everyone has participated in it at one time or the other. And even more sadly, many have done so with full knowledge of what they were doing.

*“Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” James 3:5* says. It takes only a small amount of kindling to start a huge conflagration and the skilled gossip knows just how to do it. He may just lift an eyebrow or crook his mouth. He may write something without having confirmed the source or examined all the facts—and just because the rumor he is reporting fits what he wants to report. How sad.

Gossip is ugly. Gossip is sinful. But gossip is effective, sadly. *“Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send for a stinking savor; so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor” (Ecclesiastes 10:1)*. A man's good reputation, which may have taken years to build, can be destroyed by one little, well-placed rumor, just as the ointment, which may have taken months to prepare, can be putrefied when one little stink-fly lands in the potion. It is a serious thing to report information which is not true, or pass along what has never been proven. But people do it. And get away with it.

Two things would help.

Don't repeat anything you don't know for sure. The world of gossip operates on a chain reaction. When the chain is broken, the gossip stops.

Remember, you are responsible for what you tell—all of it. No matter where you got it, it's still your responsibility. Just don't re-tell and you won't have to worry about it. Make sure it needs to be told before you tell it.

(As children of God we are expected to hold ourselves to a high standard. That standard, God's Word, requires us to give careful consideration to everything we communicate to others, whether written, spoken, or in action. In this age of quick bites and fast news cycles we need to be extra careful of what we may pass along to others. Too many messages, post, memes, are lacking in factual support. Too many people are lumped into groups rather than being considered as individuals. We must do better if we are to live up to God's Standard. Our souls depend on it. DLH)

**We seek only to serve God according to His Will!**

