

Upcoming Events...

1 Corinthians Class: Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: Today, October 15

Barnabas Group Meeting: October 31

I'm Looking Forward to It

By Aaron Veyon

Paul said, *"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14). Friends, all the greatness we may achieve in this life (the wealth, the accomplishments, the accolades) cannot begin to compare to the glory of an eternity with our Lord (cf. Matthew 6:19-21). Don't focus too much on the toys of life or we'll miss out on the joys of heaven. Heaven is my goal and I'm looking FORWARD to it.

October Birthdays

3 Betty Heitmeyer

28 Allan Brown

October Anniversaries

21 Garroll & Olivia White

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:

Mike McKnight

Church of Christ

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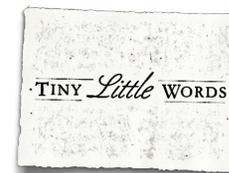
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The Importance of Little Words

By Dan Jenkins

There are no words in the Bible that are there by accident. When the Bible speaks of inspiration, it is not in vague terms as though God gave His thoughts to His prophets and they did their best to put heavenly thoughts into human words.



Every word of scripture, big and little, is by inspiration of God. Think of how "inspired" the words were on the tablets of stone Moses received from God. Every word was specifically given by God. Paul shows the same is true of the New Testament. The American Standard expresses it best. After affirming that it had not entered the heart of any man as to what God's plan was for the redemption of man, Paul said, *"But unto us God revealed them...which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth...combining spiritual things with spiritual words"* (1 Cor. 2:10-13). God gave the truth by giving those truths in the very words selected by the Holy Spirit.

The importance of the word **"to."** There are those who believe that when Jesus returns from heaven in the clouds he will at that moment establish the kingdom for the next thousand years. They think this is what Daniel said in Daniel chapter seven. *"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom."* At first glance it might seem as though when Daniel saw Jesus coming in the clouds at the end

of time, that God would then establish the kingdom. However, read it again carefully. This is not a picture of Jesus coming from heaven. Look at one word in the text. He was not descending from heaven, but He was ascending into heaven! He came not from God but Daniel saw a vision of Jesus ascending to God. One small word chosen by God! Daniel's vision was of Jesus' ascension and the establishment of that kingdom on Pentecost. One word makes the difference.

The importance of the word "and." Here is a three letter word chosen by God which so powerfully expresses eternal truth. It is a coordinating conjunction. By definition, "coordinating conjunctions are used to join two parts of a sentence that are grammatically equal." Both parts are equal in importance. Look at two passages. "*He who believes and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mark 16:16). In reference to salvation, by definition, baptism is equal in importance to faith. Look also at Acts 2:38. "*Repent and be baptized every one of you...for the remission of sins.*" In reference to the remission of sins, baptism is equal in importance to repentance.

Just remember to look at every word when we study!

Throwing Stones

By A.C. Quinn

Speaking unkindly of the mistakes and failures (sins) of others without considering our own sins is a practice all too common among the public in general and Christians in particular. While such as it occurs in the world is unacceptable, it should be totally unspeakable among Christians.

Someone has rightly said, "People who live in glass houses should not throw stones." This adage speaks volumes to the hypocrisy of those who forget that they, too, are human, and that God does not categorize sin on a continuum from large to small. Sin is the transgression of God's law (John 3:4).

The Pharisees, intent upon tempting the Lord, brought a woman before him whom they accused of being taken in the act of adultery. "*Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should*

be stoned: but what sayest thou?" (John 8:5). It is true that Moses so commanded (Deuteronomy 17:7); however, they forgot a major element in that command: the witnesses who brought the sinner forth were to be the first to stone him. Jesus, knowing the hearts of these deceitful Pharisees, added a most significant requirement before which they could not stand: "*...He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone*" (John 8:7). These self-righteous Pharisees were convicted of their own consciences and so departed "*...beginning at the eldest, even unto the last...*" (v.9). Jesus did not condone the sins of the adulterous woman, nor did he justify the self-righteousness of the Pharisees who departed convicted of their own consciences, and no doubt, ashamed.

The Lord taught another potent lesson similar to that of "casting stones." It is another regarding the self-righteous magnifying the sins of others while they refuse to reflect upon their own sin. This is the case of the mote and the beam. "*...And why beholdest the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye*" (Matthew 7:3-5).

Brother Burton Coffman makes this observation in his commentary on Matthew: "One who judges others is compared to a person presuming to cast a splinter out of his brother's eye while a plank is in his own eye! This is a vivid picture of a person who ignores his own grievous sins while trying to correct the relatively minor shortcomings of another. The mote and the beam represent the disparity between that which is tiny, insignificant, almost invisible, and that which is obvious, flagrant, and obtrusive. The mote hunter is the nitpicker, the specialist in fine, disputed points, who focuses on the most minute deviations while ignoring far more basic and important considerations."

Christians should forgive the trespasses of brothers (Matthew 6:14-15). We should help bear the burdens of our brothers (Galatians 6:2). They should love one another with pure hearts (I Peter 1:22). By doing these things, they will not be engaged in "throwing stones."