

# THE OLD PATHS

Volume 24, Issue 7

April 16, 2017

## “There Are Times To Keep Your Mouth Shut!”

Jarrod Jacobs

In the long ago, Solomon said, “*Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles*” (Prov. 21:23). This is certainly a true statement! Many times, our mouths get us in trouble, don’t they? James said that the tongue can “*defile the whole body*” (Jas. 3:6). Proverbs 10:19 states: “*In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.*” Geoffrey Chaucer wisely said, “God in his great discretion walled a tongue with teeth.” Friend, let us be mindful of what the Bible says about the sins associated with speech and remember that there are times to keep your mouth shut!

When ought you be quiet? Solomon gave some good advice when it comes to controlling speech. You need to be quiet when ...

- You are tempted to talk instead of work: “*In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to poverty*” (Prov. 14:23).
- You are tempted to lie: “*A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies*” (Prov. 14:5).
- You are tempted to joke about sin: “*Fools make a mock at sin ...*” (Prov. 14:9).
- You are tempted to “shoot off at the lip”: “*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*” (Ecc. 5:2).
- You are tempted to curse, or slander men: “*Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be*” (Jas. 3:9-10).

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).

Remember, *“Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding”* (Prov. 17:27-28)!

We can also read James chapter three and see the warnings concerning the tongue. It is *“an unruly evil, full of deadly poison”* (Jas. 3:8). Can we not see that there are definite times when a person needs to be quiet?

Lest we get the wrong impression, there are also times when a person needs to speak out (Isa. 58:1; II Tim. 4:2; etc.). Jesus told His disciples, *“What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops”* (Matt. 10:27). Let us never be ashamed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16). Let us speak up and speak out when it comes to telling the truth to people and bringing the lost to Christ! However, there are also times when silence is the best answer for the situation. Let us not get those times confused!

## The Difference Between Singing And Playing

Joel Raulerson

**M**uch of the religious world wishes to say that we have the authority to use musical instruments in worship. If God commanded us to sing as part of our worship as passages like Colossians 3:16 says, then why is there a divide among much of the religious world over whether or not to use musical instruments in worship services? Colossians 3:16 says, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”* Does it even matter what position I take on whether or not musical instruments in worship should be used? Many do not see the difference between singing and playing.

One major argument we will hear voiced in favor of instrumental music is, “playing an instrument is still music.” While it is true that playing instruments is music, nowhere in the New Testament are we commanded to merely play music as part of worship. Every passage in the New Testament that speaks about music in worship specifically mentions singing (Eph. 5:19; Acts 16:25; Matt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor.

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).

14:15; Heb. 2:12; 13:15; Jas. 5:13). If any of these passages had only commanded that we make music in worship to our Lord, then we would have the freedom to use musical instruments, singing, or a mixture of both. However, singing is a specific kind of music. Singing requires the use of our voice. If we were to add instruments, that would add to the worship.

Another way we can know that God distinguished between singing and playing would be to look at the original Greek language in passages like Ephesians 5:19. Ephesians 5:19 says, “*addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody to the Lord with your heart,*” The Greek word for “singing” in Ephesians 5:19 is, “*psallos.*” Thayer defines “*psallos*” as: to pluck, twang, or twitch. The application of Ephesians 5:19 would be to pluck or play on your heart. It is impossible for a musical instrument to make melody in their heart. They cannot exhort emotion of their own will. They cannot teach, they cannot give praise to God, and they cannot address their fellow brethren. The failure to do all of these things disqualifies the use of musical instruments in any form of worship.

For many people, knowing whether or not to use musical instruments in worship can be a confusing topic. However, God never intended for it to be complicated. Mankind is the one that twists the scriptures and makes them complicated. God commanded in very plain language how to use musical instruments in worship in the Old Testament (Ps. 150; 1 Chron. 9:33; 15:16). God commanded what kind of musical instruments were to be played, which members of the families of Levi were to play the instruments, and when they were to be played. God explained it in a manner that was easily understood. He also revealed how He wants to be worshipped in the New Testament. The Old Law has passed away and God no longer wants to have musical instruments included in our worship to Him (Heb. 9:15-17). If God wanted musical instruments to be used in worship, He could have said it in plain language just as He did in the Old Testament. The only kind of music that God has given authority for in worship to Him is singing. There is indeed a difference between using musical instruments and singing in the worship of our Lord and Savior. It is not a matter of opinion or something where we simply “agree to disagree”. To worship in a way that God has not commanded is committing a sin and our worship will not be accepted (Matt. 15:8-9).

---

**Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).**



## Spotlight On A Bible Verse: Ephesians 4:4-6

*“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* When writing to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul reminded the Christians to *“keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace”* (Eph. 4:3). In this letter, he did not merely tell them to be united, but by inspiration (I Cor. 14:37), he showed them (and us) the true “platform for unity” in the Lord’s church. If we are to be united, we need to respect the seven “one’s” (body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, and God) that needs to be among God’s people. These simple words are packed with meaning and truth that deserve more attention than we can devote in this short article. Just understand that when we remember the basis, or foundation of religious unity, we will be able to withstand anything that Satan will throw at us! Satan tries to “divide and conquer” in order to get us away from Christ and devour us (I Pet. 5:8). Yet, in Christ, we have unity (Gal. 3:28) and victory (I Cor. 15:57)! Let us be active and fulfill Ephesians 4:3 by living Ephesians 4:4-6!

– Jarrod Jacobs



**“I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!”**

**Please visit with the Caneyville church of Christ....**

**Location:** 103 N. Main St. Caneyville, KY

**Website:** <http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>

**Times Of Services...**

**Sunday:** 10:00 am (Bible classes), 10:45 am & 5:00 pm (Worship)

**Wednesday:** 7:00 pm (Bible classes)

**Other opportunities for Bible study:**

***“The Ancient Landmark”*** Radio Program airs Mon-Fri on 99.9 FM, WXMZ (10:30-11:00 AM) & 101.5 FM, WLBQ (5:30-6:00 AM)

***“The Ancient Landmark”*** television program airs on:

[www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994](http://www.youtube.com/theoldpaths1994)

**Preacher/Editor:** Jarrod Jacobs

**Phone:** (270) 589-4167

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way ...” (Jer. 6:16).