



Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

Welcome to our Worship Service!

December 10, 2017

Devotional:----- Michael Yoder

Offering:----- General

Children's Class

○ □ ○ □ CHILDREN'S CORNER ○ □ ○ □

The Problem Tongue (James 3:5-10)

Miles looked up as his little sister limped into the kitchen. "What's wrong?" he asked. "I need new shoes!" Presley said. She lifted her right foot. "This one hurts me!"

Miles smirked. "Because you don't know how to put shoes on right. You probably have them on the wrong feet." He laughed. "You're such a baby!"

Presley crossed her arms. "I'm six years old. I know which shoe goes on which foot!" "Let me see," said Dad, and Presley lifted her foot for him to check. "It's the tongue of the shoe, honey," he said, untying it. "It's twisted and all bunched up. We'll just straighten it out." Dad pulled hard on the tongue and retied the shoe. "How does it feel now?"

Presley ran around the room and jumped. "That's better! It's all fixed!"

"Well, you may have gotten your shoe on the right foot, but you didn't put it on correctly," said Miles. "Like I said, you're such a baby."

"Stop it, Miles!" said Presley, close to tears.

"Miles, that's enough," said Dad. "It was the tongue in Presley's shoe that was causing a problem—but there's another one causing a much bigger problem."

Miles looked down at his feet. "My shoes are fine, Dad."

"You may not have a problem with the tongue in your shoe, but you definitely have a problem with the one in your mouth," said Dad.

Miles sighed. "I guess you mean I need to be nicer to Presley."

Dad nodded. "The Bible says the tongue is small but can do a great deal of damage—just like the tongue in Presley's shoe."

"Yeah," said Presley. "It didn't seem like such a little thing could hurt my foot so much."

"Words can hurt people a lot more than shoes can hurt feet," said Dad. "That's why we need to be careful to use our tongues the way we're supposed to. Jesus wants us to use our words to show others His love. If we're using them to hurt others instead, we have a big problem—one only Jesus can fix by straightening out our hearts."

Miles nodded. "I'm sorry, Presley," he said. "Here, let me show you how I put my shoes on so you'll always know how to do it right." – Mary F. Watkins

How About You? Are you using your tongue the way you're supposed to use it as a Christian? Or are you using it to hurt others and make them upset? Tongues are small things that can cause a lot of damage and pain. If you're using words to make someone feel bad, ask Jesus to help you love that person the way He does. Then use your words to help that person instead of hurt them.

Today's Key Verse: Psalm 39:1 I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue. (NKJV)

Today's Key: Watch your words! <https://www.keysforkids.org/>

Announcements:

- This Evening: Free Evening
- Youth are invited to LaWaynes for lunch. Singing at Morningside this afternoon at 2:00.
- Wednesday Evening: Prayer Meeting & Reorganization at 7:00.
- School devotions this week by: Sheldon Yoder
- Out of state correspondence this week by Everett & Elmina

~BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES~

(today!) Dec. 10, Happy Birthday! Hannah Yutzy, 1977

Dec. 15, Happy Birthday! Iva Martin, 1997

Dec. 15, Happy Anniversary! Victor & Heavenly, 2015

Serving Money

Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24)

What does it mean to serve money?

I'm sure you've discovered, perhaps the hard way, that "no payments until June of next year" is a seductive way of getting you to purchase what you know you cannot afford. The frequency in which we get bombarded with offers for free credit cards is another indication of the seriousness of this situation. One thing you can be sure of is that no one is going to offer you a free credit card in hopes that you will pay them off on time every month. They want you to charge them up and then make interest payments each and every month.

I recently read that American shoppers are currently carrying a whopping \$784 billion in credit card debt – with the average of households carrying this type of debt of \$16,883. WOW! If someone is continually running the rat race of keeping up with payments on debt, aren't they really serving money? It may take years, along with some sound financial counseling, to get the financial affairs of many people in order and under control. Only then will they be free to serve God again.

The Bible says, "The borrower is slave to

the lender" (Proverbs 22:7). It is impossible to function at your very best when you are a slave to someone else.

Debt and credit card problems seem to escalate every year around Christmas time. Why? Most people do not understand the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is NOT about buying gifts. Christmas is NOT about trees, blinking lights and decorations. Christmas is NOT about Santa Claus. Christmas is NOT about family get-togethers and turkey dinners. What is Christmas really about?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Christmas is about God's gift to us.

Very few, if any, of the things we do to celebrate Christmas are spiritual or biblical in nature. In fact, most of the things we do actually have pagan origins. If you are going to get caught up in the Christmas celebration, be sure you are doing it for the right reason – and be sure you are serving God, instead of money. You CANNOT serve two masters!

Don't just GO to church; BE the Church
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