

mean that we cannot do things that get us excited but it means that we must keep our eyes focused on Christ in heaven. This life is not the "end all be all". This life is less than 5 minutes of time when compared to the eternity in store for us. If you were asked to sit in a chair for a minute while your multi-millionaire uncle wrote out a cheque for \$10,000, to spend how you wished, would you do it? Of course you would. Shouldn't you also be willing to sacrifice your life here on earth for an eternity of everlasting joy?

One last issue I would like to touch upon is that there will be times when we find ourselves in the mire. It is not for nothing that the Bible says "sins of youth remember not" (Psalm 25:7). It is especially at these times when we need to take the example from David and pray to the Lord. As our faithful Father the Lord is willing and able to pull us up out of the mud and set us upon the rock, which is Christ. No, this does not mean that the consequences of sin are taken away, but it does mean that God will help us to bear these consequences.

So, while we may enjoy our sports and feel the adrenaline rushing through our veins we must still remember who we are and who we serve. Danger may seem appealing and it may seem like fun to squish the mire between our toes, however we fool ourselves if we think we can stand in the mire and not sink.

- John Witten

Aim:  
Romans 12:2 teaches all of God's people:  
"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."  
This magazine will encourage its readers to earnestly contend for the faith, and to think and act biblically, in the good traditions of the Church of all ages. Its basis is God's word, as the Church confesses in the Three Forms of Unity. It is intended for the younger members of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, and is produced in co-operation with the Una Sancta. Subscription to the Contender is automatic with subscription to the Una Sancta.  
It is not meant to be exclusively for unmarried members who still attend the Youth Bible Study Clubs, but for all those who fit within the loose parameters of 16 to 30 years of age.

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*"contending earnestly for the faith ..."* Jude :3

## Editorial

As winter once again besets its worst weather on us and around us, some of us may begin to feel a little depressed or cold 'around the edges'. As we are forced mainly indoors, and the indoor wood-fires or gas heaters pour out their heat to keep us warm, we are reminded of a profound but simple home-truth: "those who sit closest the fire, warm themselves the best". This analogy can also be drawn to the sphere of health, where usually those who are the warmest remain the healthiest throughout their lives. When old, we do not develop arthritis or other ailments if we keep ourselves warm!

Thus it is with God, and our faith. In a world of cold misery caused by Sin, we too must keep close to the 'heat' of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promises for us. Straying too far away, relying on our own 'body heat', we soon realise that we struggle and fall. If we do rely on our own source of heat, the cold soon turns to a blizzard. We undoubtedly are affected by the wind-chill, and will either develop frost-bite or gangrene. Our body will freeze, and we slowly die. We might survive one day without fire or warmth in a blizzard, but slowly, we will die without help! However, if we remain by the warmth of a fire, we do not rely on our own devices, but we rely on the warmth of the fire to keep us warm, and indeed alive!

In the same way, if remain close to God's way and follow the way he has outlined in his Word, than we rely on the Lord's strength and might - "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man" (Psalms 118:8). Here the term 'man' refers to the strength and ability of human kind. Although at times, it may seem that the might of mankind is indomitable and awesome, however it is the nature of our faith which makes us yearn for the coming of the truly Awesome and Indomitable one - the Lord Jesus Christ. The essence of faith allows us to believe in what we do not yet see. It is also faith which allows us to see the pitfalls of mankind, and that in reality we are capable of nothing lasting or of eternal value.

And so, next time you sit by a fire, and hear the crackling of wood and see the glimmer and sparkle of flames leaping over wood, be reminded that in ourselves, we are incapable of remaining without the Lord by our side. Be reminded that it is He who gives the spark of life and He who takes life - "...For out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19). It is therefore, only He who can truly sustain life. Let us therefore look only to Jesus for guidance and protection, especially during the winters of our spiritual lives!

- Bruce Huizinga

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# Money, Money, Money

It's a Rich Man's World

Imagine that on a certain day at work a complete stranger approaches you knowing that you are a devoted Christian. As he approaches, you cannot help noticing from his attire that the man is well off. But looking at the man's face, you see sombreness, stress and sadness. After introducing himself to you as a Christian, he straight away tells you his life story. He underwent many difficulties and believes very strongly in obeying God's law. He tells you he has done everything to try to gain the peace of God of which the Bible so clearly speaks. He asks you for advice: "What can I do to gain the peace, the security of knowing that I'm saved?" What would you answer this man? Would you commend him for his eager desire to gain God's peace? Would you tell him that he cannot earn his salvation and he need only believe?

Jesus experienced a very similar situation. A rich young man once approached Him and asked Him how he was to be saved. He had done everything required of him by the law and yet felt uncertain of his salvation. What did Jesus reply? "Go, sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in Heaven" (Mt 19:21). What an unexpected reply! Why did Jesus talk of money here? Why does Jesus emphasize the role of money so extensively in his teachings? Jesus gives the answer Himself: "It is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mt 19:23).

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**"The love of money is another sinful temptation we must fight against."**

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Although we cannot read a man's heart like Jesus can, many people today are still led astray by their money. We live in a very affluent society. We have been blessed with much, but wealth also brings along temptations and responsibilities.

#### The Temptations of Wealth:

We live in a rich man's world. Eighty percent of the world's income is in the hands of a quarter of its population. We live in a world where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. A world where money becomes a real challenge! It brings along great temptations. Do you see and fight materialism in your life as part of your spiritual warfare?

The Bible constantly warns us to be careful with our riches. Psalm 62:10 warns us not to set our heart on riches. Ecclesiastes 5:10 proclaims that he who loves money, never

has enough money and cannot be satisfied. Luke 12:15 teaches us not to be greedy, because life is not just about money. And 1Timothy 6: 9-10 tells us that money is the root of all evil and we should not desire to be rich. God also warned the Israelites in Deuteronomy 8: 10-14 that the accumulation of wealth can lead to forgetting God. Is that not true today? Has the wealth in this world not made men forget their creator? Let us look at specific temptations and wrong attitudes towards money.

One wrong tendency of people today is a selfish attitude towards money and wealth. Such people tend to cheat others for personal gain. Let us look at examples from the working environment. A Boss can try to get cheap employees so that he will be able to make greater profit. The Bible is clear about such employers:

"Weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded...Indeed the wages of the labourers,...which you kept back by fraud, cry out...You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury." (James 5:1-5).

But employees can also act selfishly. They can, for example, be very lazy and stop working when their boss is not looking, and thus cheat their bosses into thinking they're working hard for their wage.

A second wrong attitude towards wealth is a greedy attitude. Such a person simply longs to have more and more money and is never satisfied. How easily we can covet! "If only I could have that car or that house". Jesus warns against being greedy in Luke 12:15, where He says: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not exist in the abundance of his possessions."

The love of money is another sinful temptation we must fight against. People who love money do not ever want to part with it. They worry continually about their financial affairs and about losing money. "What if my money gets stolen? What if the dollar drops in value?" The Bible, however, tells us not to worry about things like that, because: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (Mt 6:27).

Another sinful attitude is one of keeping up and competing with friends and neighbours in the acquisition of goods. If your friend buys a block in Byford, you also want to buy a block there. If your neighbour buys a new car, you also want a new car. Such people are usually jealous of their neighbours. Such people can even go into debt in order to achieve their aim. Oh the dangers of the credit card! It's not a wonder that Randy Alcorn says that if you misuse your credit card once, you should snap it in half!

# Addicted to Danger

It appears as though extreme sports have gained popularity over the last couple of years. While someone may argue extreme sports have been around for many years, I think it is fair to say that in recent times they have become increasingly popular especially with younger people. What are extreme sports? Examples of extreme sports are abseiling, hang-gliding, sky diving, extreme rock-climbing, extreme surfing, bungee jumping, motor car racing etc. In short, extreme sports are sports that really get your adrenaline pumping, give an exhilarating rush, involve fear and danger and test your abilities.

It is not the point of this article to discuss whether these types of sports are appropriate for Christians to engage in. It is also not the purpose of this article to discuss why it is the youth that seem to be especially attracted to extreme sports - although that is somewhat self-explanatory. What I hope to discuss is an observation of an addiction to danger. Danger is what gets our adrenaline flowing, what gives us that exhilarating rush and what attracts us to extreme sports. However, I fear that too often our addiction to danger does not stay with sport only. How often do we not see young people living on the fringes or outskirts of the church - life on the edge!

A saying I have heard more than once is "I'll get more involved in church when I get older" or "I'll straighten out when I'm older". Young people are vibrant and full of energy. They want to try everything, test everything, and go everywhere, they are invincible, they test the limits and they can leave all that serious stuff till later - or can they?

While reading psalm 69 I was intrigued by what David wrote in verse 1 and 2, "Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me." (See also psalm 40:2). Mire, according to my dictionary, is sinking mud. It is like quick sand and has three interesting characteristics:

- 1) Once you begin sinking in quick sand you cannot get yourself out but need someone else to help you get out. If you are on your own, the more you struggle and move, the faster you sink.
- 2) If you step into and out of the mud very quickly you will not sink (e.g. stepping into the mud off of a rock and quickly jumping back on to the rock). However, when you stand in the mire (or mud or quick sand) for an extended period of time, you will sink.
- 3) Mire can be deceiving; you do not know how stuck you really are until you try getting yourself out.

How David ended up in the mire in psalm 69 we do not know. What we do know is that the characteristics of the mire are very similar to the characteristics of sin. We are conceived and born and engulfed in sin so that we cannot get ourselves out. The more we struggle the worse it seems to get. We need God to pull us out of the mud. We need to cry like David does in psalm 69 verse 14, "With thy faithful help rescue me from sinking in the mire".

We also need to realise that falling into sin occasionally is not what makes us sink but when we live in sin, then we can expect nothing else than to sink in the mire. This does not excuse us falling into sin but it means that if "we sometimes through weakness fall into sin we must not continue in sin nor despair of God's mercy" (form for the Lord's Supper).

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**"We cannot 'sow our wild oats while we are young' and expect everything to be okay when we are older."**

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Finally, how true it is, when as young people we find ourselves giving into worldly attractions, we do not realise the extent of our actions until we try to amend our lives. It is like a social smoker saying, "I will never get addicted" or it is like a regular drinker saying, "I will not become an alcoholic". We tend to be over-confident and do not realise our mistake until too late.

What is the point of the example of the mire? Our actions have consequences. The Bible tells us that we reap what we sow. To be sure, when we turn to the Lord Jesus and ask for forgiveness of our sins in sincere repentance, He will forgive our sins, help us out of the mire and help us to deal with the consequences of our sins. However, that does not mean there will not be any consequences from our sins. We cannot "sow our wild oats while we are young" and expect everything to be okay when we are older.

How do we keep ourselves from sinking away in the mire?

As young, vibrant, full of energy, children of the Lord, we need to keep our lives in perspective and remember who we are. What does this mean? In all we do we need to remember that we are the children of God. This does not

# My Special Body

I'm told I'm a bit overweight. My scalp is getting more exposed each year, and my fitness levels have dropped. One of my knees likes to pretend it's an indicator. Every time I stand up it clicks frantically.

As anyone who knows me can testify, I'm no model.

And yet, my body is special. Why?

It's not because it's the only one I own. That makes it special for me perhaps. But there's more. Much more.

It's special because it belongs to my faithful Saviour. Both in life and death. Make that both in death and life!! That means now. Today.

Think about it. If something belongs to another, we tend to take good care of it. If it belongs to someone for whom we have great respect or love, we take greater care of it. But, in addition to taking care of it, we also respect the owner's wishes as far as what we do with it.

If my dad goes overseas and allows me to use his car, I don't take it into the scrub. I know he doesn't do that, and I know he wouldn't appreciate me doing that. And if he found out I had knowingly used his car in a way of which he disapproves, I doubt if he'd lend it to me again. And fair enough too.

Back to my body. My special body. The one that belongs to Another, to One for Whom I have the greatest respect and love.

I need to use it the way HE wants it to be used. My behaviour must reflect my acknowledgement that I belong to Him in life already. So, I need to think about these questions: How do I use my mouth in speech? How do I use my body to aid my neighbour? How do I use my intellectual ability to further His kingdom? How do I use my fingers and computer to do His work? How am I ensuring that I remain chaste during my courtship?

I need to ensure that when I present that body in public (at the beach, in the shop, at church), it is presented in a way that will be pleasing to Him. Not to me or others walking around me in the first place. To HIM. Questions: How does my clothing reflect my attitude to others? How little do I wear, what am I revealing and why do I reveal it? Clothing makes a statement. What statement am I making? In short, can others see by what I wear that I belong to Another? And can they see Who that "Other" is (or isn't)?

If I decorate it, it must be decorated in a way which is pleasing to HIM. Again, am I showing by my "gold and spice and all things nice" that I am Christ's? Or do I present myself as belonging to another? And to whom then, do I show that I belong?

So, here's the point. My body (amongst other things) belongs to Jesus, my Saviour. He cares how I use it. I must show that I am His. Always. Consciously!! I can't go through life an ignoramus - lack of knowledge is no excuse when the answer is easy to be found. I can't be an emu with my head in the sand. I need to use discernment. I need to KNOW.

So I've got to be awake. I have to check that I am doing what is right. I shouldn't ask, "Is there anything wrong with it?" That's negative. Ask the positive instead. "Am I trying to glorify God by doing/wearing this?"

A thought-provoking quote with which to finish off. This comes from a book called "What's So Amazing About Grace?" by Philip Yancey. He says:

"A veterinarian can learn a lot about a dog owner he has never met just by observing the dog. What does the world learn about God by watching us His followers on earth?"

Think about it.

- Eric Dekker

# On the Other Hand

How did people know what was right and wrong (sinful or acceptable) before the 10 commandments were given?

What do you think? SHORT responses (max 150 words) to be emailed to [rose.vermeulen@frsa.asn.au](mailto:rose.vermeulen@frsa.asn.au)

Ecclesiastes also talks of envying one's neighbour and that this is a waste of time: 'I saw that all labour and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbour. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.' (Ecclesiastes 4:4).

Some other people view money solely as a toy to play with. Such people play games by investing their money in all sorts of shares or by trying to get quick gains of money. Such an attitude towards money can easily lead to unethical or questionably ethical behaviour and the acquisition of wealth may dominate such a person's life. For example, such a person may try to win the lottery or throws practically all his money into risky shares which promise to do well. Proverbs 13:11 warns against dishonest gain and suggests how we should be earning our money: "dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow."

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**“Thank God for the privileges we have received by being allowed to live in such a prosperous society.”**

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Another wrong attitude towards welfare is one of feeding the self-esteem and showing off the wealth which you acquire. Such people may donate large sums of money to a good cause, but not for the right purpose. These people want their names published so that others may think highly of them for donating such an amount. This sort of donation is not Christian at all, but selfish and boastful. We should avoid publishing names of people who donate money for the simple reason which Jesus gave in the Sermon on the Mount:

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in Heaven...When you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly." (Mt 6:1-4).

It is clear from this that we should not be haughty when giving a donation and showing everyone how good we are by dropping \$20 into the collection bag.

Another wrong attitude towards the acquisition of money is saving money for security and protection. We all believe we must prepare ourselves for tomorrow, also with regard to our finances. But we can also go overboard in this. Such people save for a rainy day and end up trying to secure their future. They often argue: "We never know what might happen in the future, what if all Christians lost their work?" Thinking in such a way shows a lack of dependence

on our Heavenly Father who will provide all good things for those who love Him.

Although there are many other wrong attitudes, the above shows that riches and the accumulation thereof can bring great temptations and dangers. We must be very careful in how we handle our money. The devil prowls around seeking to devour us by temptations and leading us to sin. Let us fight materialism as part of the good fight of faith.

The Privileges of Wealth:

Riches hold many dangers. But does this mean that riches are a curse? Our wealth today greatly exceeds that of our forefathers and that of the majority of the Israelites of old. Most of the migrants that came to Australia in the 1950's experienced times of great poverty. They still knew what it was to be poor, whereas today we have little idea. Australia doesn't know poverty. In fact the level of prosperity today virtually surpasses the prosperity of any period in church history. Must we pray to be relieved from our riches so that the temptations can be removed?

Riches are not a curse, but rather a blessing. It is a privilege that God gives us wealth! God promised His people prosperity and success if they obeyed His commands and were faithful to Him (Deuteronomy 29:9; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3). We may think of men like Abraham who was made rich 'in livestock in silver and in gold' (Gen 13:2). Job was also blessed with riches in abundance and received twice as much after his trials than he had before them (Job 42:10). We may also think of Solomon and the land-owners in the early Jerusalem congregation (Acts 4:34). All these men were blessed with riches.

Riches are not only given by God, but are also owned by God. Psalm 24:1 clearly expresses this: 'The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness.' Everything you own is thus not really yours but belongs to God. You have the privilege of looking after God's possessions as His stewards.

Wealth is also a privilege because of the great opportunities it creates. We are able to support our own churches, schools, mission fields and many other projects. We have the opportunity to go overseas and to study. We have the privilege of being able to get virtually any career we wish and the opportunity to pursue knowledge about anything we want. We must never take these blessings for granted. Thank God for the privileges we have received by being allowed to live in such a prosperous society.

The Responsibilities of Wealth:

Wealth is a blessing indeed! However, wealth also begs for great responsibility! We must take good care of our possessions because they are given by God. We must also remember that all our wealth is only temporary and will pass away. Jesus also speaks of our riches in Luke 16: 11-12 as follows:

"Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous Mammon [money and wealth], who will commit to your

trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?"

From this text it is clear that if we do not take good care of that which God has entrusted to us, He will not give us that which is promised to us, namely: eternal life. Thus the use of our wealth has eternal consequences and must be taken seriously!

In the first place, as stewards of God, we must earn our money in a fair way and spend it responsibly. We must avoid the temptations already discussed, and we must ask ourselves some pertinent questions. Do you distinguish on your shopping list between needs and wants? Do you spend more money on entertainment and leisure than on the necessities in life? Are you diligent in keeping a record of what you earn and spend?

As stewards of God we must not only earn and spend in a fair way, but must also give freely. Indeed, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 21: 35). Jesus saw giving freely as a fruit of faith. When Zacchaeus restored more than all the money he had gained unjustly, Jesus commended him by saying that he had received salvation that day (Luke 19: 8-10).

## "We live in a rich man's world."

The question often arises as to the amount we should give. Must we give a tenth of what we have as the Old Testament Church did? Scripture teaches us two principles which we must apply. The first is that we must give freely, cheerfully and from the heart that which we purpose to give (2 Corinthians 9: 7). We must not give grudgingly and with complaint. How easily do we not complain of how expensive it is to run our own schools and how much it costs to be reformed? The second principle is that each one should give according to his ability to give (1Corinthians 16: 2). A rich man can give a lot more than someone who earns a lot less. The tithe or a tenth, prescribed in the Old Testament, can thus only serve as a guideline. As Christians we should have the desire to give freely and according to our ability without moaning and groaning!

God has given us much. Are we truly thankful? Do we not often wish for more? It is important to be content with what we have. We must be content in all circumstances as the apostle Paul also writes to Timothy:

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition." (1Timothy 6: 6-9)

We so easily desire to have more and more. We want a better car. We want to go travelling overseas. We must be content with what we receive!

God has also commanded in His Word that we must be each other's keepers. We have a responsibility to see that each one of us uses his money wisely and in service to our Great King. Today we tend to see money and how we spend it, as a highly private and personal affair. We tend to do as we see fit to do with our money. Is it not my own responsibility what I do with my money? Yet God commands us to be our brother's keepers. How can we do that if we make money such a personal affair? Should we not help each other and guide each other as to how we should spend our money? Should we not advise each other as to what is the best way to spend our money? This does not mean we should publicly pronounce exactly what we do with our money. But it can be beneficial to discuss and ask for advice on our financial affairs with close friends, family and with our elders.

Let us spend our money wisely! Let us give freely! Let us be content! Let us be each other's keepers! Can we do this out of ourselves and does any of this earn our salvation? We all know the answer. Certainly not! All these things must be seen as part of our life of thankfulness and cannot earn our salvation. All these things are rather simply an expression of our faith. Furthermore, we are fully dependant on God to work in us by His Spirit to be able to tackle the responsible task He has laid on us. Prayer is therefore a very central matter also in our discussion on finances. We must trust in God to supply us with that which we require. We must seek His Kingdom (Mt 6: 33) and seek to do His Will, also as we do business and make money (James 4: 13-15).

We live in a rich man's world. We have been blessed with wealth. Although wealth brings many dangers and temptations it is a privilege to have so much. Let us therefore thank God for that which He has given us! Let us be responsible stewards of that which God has entrusted to us! Let us earn fairly, spend wisely, give freely, be content and be each other's keepers! May the God of all grace help us in this, to Him be the glory from now on and forever!

- Cornelis Kleyn

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# Apples of Gold

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Prov 25:11).

The tongue, as we are reminded in James 3, is the body's most powerful organ. As a rudder steers a huge ship, and as a bit controls a horse, so also our tongue controls our body. If such a small part of our body has such a large role in how we act, then isn't it well worth it taking the time to see how we should use our tongues to the honour and glory of the Creator?

Gossip is a common sin amongst us - a very easy one to fall into. We all know how hard it is not to pass on that juicy news about so-and-so, or fill our conversations with not-so up-building talk about our neighbours. But, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, listen to what our Father has to say to us about this:

"If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless." (James 1:26)

"Whoever spreads slander is a fool" (Prov 10:28b).

The message is clear, isn't it? God will not tolerate a slanderous tongue. Gossip and Christianity do not mix. James speaks directly to us when he says: "Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so" (ch 3:10).

So how can we control our speech? James states, "no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (ch 3:8). True - if it were up to us, we could not resist the sinfulness of our own flesh or of Satan's attacks on us. But let us not forget Him who helps us overcome sin. Let us make it a daily habit to pray for the working of the Holy Spirit within us, so that we might control our tongues, and use them only to promote God's glory and our neighbour's good.

Whenever we hear gossip, let's not shrug our shoulders. Understand that this is a scheme of the devil. Satan understands the power of our tongues, and he uses this as a tool to his advantage. Control your tongue and encourage others to do the same - don't give in; constantly fight for control. Only then can we expect God to bless the rest of our lives, for the tongue directs the whole body.

## "Gossip and Christianity do not mix"

Let us consider the consequences of our words before we speak, being "swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19). Think before opening your mouth, being

aware that God hears every word you speak. Remember also, that whatever comes out of our mouth mirrors what lies in our heart - our godly talk will reflect a godly life!

Many times in scripture we read of the positive use of the tongue:

"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life..." (Prov 15:4)

"A soft answer turns away wrath..." (Prov 15: 1)

"The truthful lip shall be established forever..." (Prov 12:19)

"Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." (Phil 2:11)

"The tongue of the righteous is choice silver..." (Prov 10:20)

...The list goes on!

Let us make a conscious effort to keep our tongues pure, using the gift of speech to honour our Father in heaven. May our words be like apples of gold!

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!"

- Vivian Bax

# On the Other Hand

## a response

Re: On the other hand - how are we different? What do you say to colleagues on the job site regarding your membership to the church?

Dear Editor,

Instead of restricting your discussion to cars, why not use cars as an example to illustrate your point? A popular advertising slogan is "all car dealers are not the same." Swap "car" with "salvation" and you've got it! Many different sects (religious bodies) claim to offer salvation, but The Church is the only Bride of Christ. The car dealer example may help to illustrate that there are real differences between various 'religions', but getting stuck into the 'nitty gritty' will require much prayer and wisdom. It's easy to understand an unbeliever's scepticism about these bickering 'churches'. Only the Holy Spirit can work acceptance of the doctrine of 'salvation through faith'. Furthermore, we must reinforce our discussions with corresponding actions, so that "by our Godly walk of life we may win our neighbours for Christ." (Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 86)

- Laurence VanDerPlas