

# The King's Highway

## An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 40

Mrs. Geo. Tedlie, Feb. 40

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### THE CLINIC ON THE TONGUE

By Rev. C. E. Zike

"The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire of hell."—James 3:6.

"The tongue itself reveals the world of iniquity that is in us. Thus the tongue is set in our members as the defiler of the body; and, setting on fire the course of nature, because itself is set on fire by hell within." Jesus said: "Out of the abundance of the heart of the mouth speaketh."

Oswald Chambers in Biblical Psychology says: "If you want to know the disposition of your heart, listen to your tongue five minutes when it is unguarded."

A CLINIC on the tongue might well be held under three heads, as follows: 1. Backbiting. 2. Talebearing, and 3. Whispering.

1. BACKBITING. In Psalm 15 where the citizen of Zion is described, it says, "He backbiteth NOT with his tongue." This word BACKBITE is a peculiar word and means "To use the feet as a talebearer." "He backbiteth not with his tongue," means: "He foots it not upon his tongue." That is: His feet do not run to bear the tale his ears have heard. Dr. Adam Clarke says: "The tongue, because of its slanderous conversation is presented here in the nervous original, as kicking about the character of an absent person; a very common vice, and as destructive as it is common. But the man who expects to see God, abhors it, and backbites not with his tongue. He says nothing that might injure his neighbor in his character, person or property; he is the author of no slander, he insinuates nothing by which his neighbor may be injured." He then goes on to say that the word BACKBITE was "intended to convey the treble sense of knavishness, cowardice, and brutality. He is a knave, who would rob you of your good name; he is a coward, that would speak of you in your absence what he dared not to do in your presence; and only an ill-conditioned dog would fly at you and bite your back when your face was turned. All these three ideas are included in the term backbite. Hence the backbiter's tongue is the tongue of a knave, a coward, and a dog. Such a person, of course, has no right to the privileges of the church militant, and none of his disposition can ever see God."

Backbiters are classed in Romans 1 with an awful crowd. Listen to this: They are classed with those who do not like to retain God in their knowledge. Those who are filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, deceit, malignity, whisperers, BACKBITERS, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implac-

able, unmerciful." In 2 Cor. 12:20 BACKBITING is included with contention, jealousy, anger, party-spirit, whispering and arrogance.

2. TALEBEARING. The talebearer is a slanderer, a busybody; one who takes up a reproach against his neighbor and spreads it abroad. There is a "SHALT NOT" with respect to this matter, and is just as binding on us from the Divine point of view as: "Thou shalt do no murder." Lev. 19:16. "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people." In the name of God and Holy Religion let every one who reads these lines covenant with God, and with one another, that we will forever quit such business. Well, you say: "But it is the truth and the truth hurts no one." That may be true, but the repeating of it is EVIL SPEAKING and God condemns EVIL SPEAKING. The wisest of men, Solomon, said: "A talebearer revealeth secrets. He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that revealeth a matter separateth very friends. . . The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. . . He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets; therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips. . . Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out; so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth."

This TALEBEARER is a walking busybody, a trader in scandal, a newsmonger, hawker or travelling chapman or peddler. He is a deceiver, fair-spoken, deeply malicious man. No society is too precious or sacred for him to pass by. He will sow discord among the brethren and soon the forsaken meeting house tells of the wreck and ruin that followed his malicious work. If we do not love God, His church and His people enough to refrain from talebearing, then our love is insufficient for our salvation.

3. WHISPRING. The whisperer is the one who comes to you in a confidential manner, with expressions of hope that it may not be so bad as represented. He is one of those hypocritical friends who comes to you in that confidential way, but as soon as he has your words, he slips out and whispers it to others as ill-bred as himself. This fellow is difficult to discover because of his confidential way, but soon the tale springs up over here, then over there, and yonder and yonder. Ah, the whisperer has been at work, silently slipping around under cover of darkness, or, when he is sure he will not be seen and confidentially whispers his tale. It is an embarrassing situation to drop in on them when you are the subject of conversation. The Wise man again speaks and says: "A whisper separateth chief friends." One of the hard things of life to bear is for this whisperer to turn your friends against you. Suddenly you discover a coldness and indifference in one that had been a very dear friend, one you had loved. Ah, the whisperer because of his seeming confidence and

whispering way had caused my friend to believe his tale and separate us. Of course this was the very purpose of the whisperer.

This whisperer also has a classification that is by no means complementary. He is classed with the unrighteous, the fornicator, the wicked, covetous, malicious, those full of envy, murder, debate, malignity. And is also classed with backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.

I believe of the three, the BACKBITER, the TALEBEARER, and the WHISPERER, that this last is the most treacherous and dangerous. He will ruin you if he gets the least chance.

In summing up this CLINIC ON THE TONGUE let me say that no excuse can be given to justify this deeply malicious work. Then, its condemnation is greatly increased when it is done under the pretense of religious zeal, and its influence the more damnable when done under the pretense of a superior sanctity. You will find that this man has an ax to grind and is after you to help him grind it. Drive him from your door, refuse his confidence and do not listen to his tale. If you give him a word, or, join in with him, sooner or later the whole affair will be tacked on to you.

Remember: "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out." So, when this BACKBITER, this TALEBEARER, this WHISPERER comes your way, tell him that you are out of wood.

### TO INSURE HAPPINESS

Today will be a happy day,  
If, first, you find some time to pray;  
If, first, alone, you go apart  
From worldly things, and in your heart,  
You make resolve to do your best,  
And then to God you leave the rest.  
For God will take the hate and fear  
Of yesterday and yesteryear,  
And in their place, He'll make you feel  
The light and love He would reveal;  
Yes, this will be a happy day,  
If, friend, right now, you'll stop and pray.

—Author Unknown.

### CRIME AND EDUCATION

The total annual cost of crime in the United States is \$13,000,000,000; of education, \$2,500,000,000—five times as much for fighting crime as for fighting ignorance. The per capita cost of every inmate in penal institutions is \$375.00; for every child in public schools, \$86.00. These figures cannot be changed in a day, but the church should be committed consistently to the expansion of society's investment in the mental and spiritual welfare of youth.—Robert Henry Miller.