

“When Words Are Many: Blessing or Cursing?” (Part 2)
Proverbs 10:18-21

“The first service one owes to others in a community involves listening to them. Just as our love for God begins with listening to God’s Word, the beginning of love for others is learning to listen to them. God’s love for us is shown by the fact that God not only gives God’s Word, but also lends us God’s ear. We forget that listening can be a greater service....Christians who can no longer listen to one another will soon no longer be listening to God either.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” (Ephesians 4:25). “When each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:16b). “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’” (1 Corinthians 12:21)

*It is unarguable that it is our pride that keeps people out of our sin and out of our suffering.
Fighting sin and dealing with suffering alone is the goal of the enemy.
We are most vulnerable to despair and discouragement alone.*

- Five ways that **“the lips of the righteous feed many”** (Proverbs 10:21).
 - Pray for (and with) one another: “You also **must help us by prayer**, so that **many will give thanks** on our behalf for **the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.**” (2 Corinthians 1:11; cf. Ephesians 6:18)
 - We comfort one another in our suffering: “(God) comforts us in all our affliction, **so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction**, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Corinthians 1:4)
 - We stir up one another to love and good works: “And let us consider how to stir up **one another to love and good works**, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, **but encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 - We confess sin to, and address sin in, one another: “Therefore, **confess your sins to one another** and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” (James 5:16). “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. **If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.**” (Matthew 18:15)
 - Teaching and Preaching the Word to one another: “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing **you will save both yourself and your hearers.**” (1 Timothy 4:16). “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to **give instruction in sound doctrine** and also to **rebuke those who contradict it.**” (Titus 1:9). “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; **reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.**” (2 Timothy 4:2)

Announcements:

★**COMMUNION:** We will be partaking of and celebrating Communion together as a Church Body THIS Sunday, March 1st.

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer is THIS Sunday, March 1st, from 5:30-7pm. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body. Please consider joining us for a portion of this time or for the full time of prayer. There should be an index card in the pocket of the chair in front of you, unless you are sitting in the front row. We ask that you please take the time to write down some prayer requests on the index card and place it in the basket on the front table before you leave tonight!