

A False Witness and Sowing Strife

 sightedmoon.com/you-have-murdered-your-brother-because-you-did-nothing-to-help-him/

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24th day of the 8th month?5848 years after the creation of Adam
The 8th Month in the Third year of the third Sabbatical Cycle
The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle
The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences

November 10, 2012

Shabbat Shalom Brethren,

You Have Murdered Your Brother Because you did nothing to help Him.

Shalom Brethren,

I could have titled this; "A false witness that speaks lies, and He that sows discord among brethren". Or I could have said "You will know them by their fruit or the lack of it". Or "You and Satan the Accuser of your brethren!" I just could not decide because all of them apply.

I have been stewing on this now for three weeks. I am ticked at some of you. The things you are so free to say and share.

All of you who read this claim to love Yehovah. But do you not recall that Yehovah calls some of you liars. Read this verse. And if any man say, "I love Yehovah," and hates his brother, he's a liar; for he that loves not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love Yehovah whom he has not seen?

Yes you will and can plainly see those who love Yehovah and those claim to be His but are not; because they are liars..... You will know them by their fruits. Yet some of you sit beside rotten fruit each week or maybe you're the one rotting. But not all of you for some did write me very concerned about what was going on.

Psalms 101: 5 Whoso privately slanders his neighbor, him will I cut off; and he that has a high look and a proud heart, will I not suffer

This week I have been asked a number of times and warned also about being associated with Nehemiah Gordon. The story, which I have traced back to its source, says that Nehemiah is converting people to Judaism and people are now denying Yehshua because of Nehemiah.

The people promoting this lie then list three people who have now converted to or are about to convert to Judaism. And this is their proof.

I just so happen to know one of the people involved who converted to Judaism. I also happen to know that his family converted to Calvinism during the World War II to save their lives and he just found out and is now exploring his Jewish roots having just learned this truth.

As to the other two I do not know them or their back ground.

I have known Nehemiah for the past 5 years. I have had Passover at his parent's house and met his Dad before his passing. I have had a great relationship with Nehemiah Gordon during this entire time visiting in Jerusalem on a number of occasions. Never once has he tried to convert me to Judaism. In fact he tells us not to.

So why do these rumors persist?

This year again as in other years, I was given papers in Israel by one of those who is converting to Judaism. They are followers of one certain Rabbi who did try to convert me a few years back. It led to a huge feud, which still brews. This anti-Missionary Rabbi has succeeded in converting many Christians to the Jewish faith. Yet not one person has objected to his methods.

In fact I wrote last year or had someone write about the attempted conversion of those we were sending to Israel and this stopped that for now. Each year I learn of many who want to go back to the land of Israel and in order to do it they must convert to Judaism. So they stop believing in Yehshua as the Messiah and they begin the process of conversion. These same people hate Nehemiah and want nothing to do with the sighted moon or the barley to begin the year. Yet no one says anything about them or the Rabbis who assist them in converting to Judaism.

There are also those Christians who openly admit that they have to convert all the Jews to Christianity and people think nothing of this. Yet they consider it the worst of the worst sins, when a Jew no matter who it is converts someone to Judaism. It is a mortal sin they think.

But here in the Messianic Hebrew Roots groups this lie that Nehemiah Gordon is converting people to Judaism, which he is not; is receiving comments and spreading.

Why?

It is not about those who convert to Judaism!! No this recent rumor spreading that is coming back to me about my Friend Nehemiah Gordon is coming from the same people who have bad mouthed me and many other Leaders in the Messianic movement. They are the same ones who drove many of the Messianic leaders out from GLC last year.

The people promoting this lie are doing all they can to discredit Nehemiah Gordon and to get you to stop observing the sighted moon; To stop observing the barley to begin the year and most of all to stop pronouncing the name of God as Yehovah. If Nehemiah did not do any of these things these people would not care about him. But because Nehemiah has been promoting this and doing it successfully, he has now come under attack by those who want you to come under the authority of the rabbinic order they belong to. In other words they want

you to go from the Priest and Pastor that you used to listen to and did whatever they said to now come under their Self-Appointed Rabbinic authority. None of you are currently under any authority except Yehovah's. Not mine not Nehemiah, not any man but Yehovah only.

These men doing this want you to come under their authority and do what they say. Just obey them and do not bother to prove anything anymore.

I can well understand the frustration of Moses and of Yehovah with the people of Israel back then. It has not changed now.

Instead of any of you standing up against these lies, you have instead passed them around and even to me. Evil thrives when good people do nothing. And this is another perfect example of those who are supposed to be good not doing anything about the spreading of lies and stopping them dead in their tracks. But instead have passed them on and began another rumor mill.

I am going to once again have you read and hopefully let it sink in to the that thick skull of yours about what Torah says about Lashon Ha-Ra. Even Yehovah says you are a stiff necked and rebellious people many times in the scriptures. DO not think you are any better than those written about there. We have written about the evil tongue at least two or three times now. But many of you still do not get it. Stop pointing the finger at others and point it at yourself. Worry about you. You are the one in danger here; both for not defending your brother and for spreading lies about your brother.

I have felt I was teaching and helping mature brethren in the faith to grow in their understanding of Torah. But it seems the same people who follow everything that the wind blows at them are still not mature enough. The same ones who hide from the supposedly deadly chem trail lies, who are the same people who think the government is going to try and kill them and they are the same people who think this or that government is spying on them or some other ludicrous lie they have also believed. These people do not go back and check the source of the information given to them. Instead they just believe it and pass it on. True or not it gets forwarded. These same types of people are so quick to accuse their political leaders and to call each of the past and present and soon the future presidents Satan. Scriptures tell us not to do this and yet these people do not follow scriptures. To them the bible is a tool to control people., not to be obeyed. You can see them by the very fruits that come out of their mouths week after week. Why you keep following them baffles me, yet you do and then all these other problems come up. Proverbs tells you that fire without wood goes out. So will these people and their lies if you stop supporting them and listening to them.

The source of these rumors and lies I am talking about this week want to promote a book by a certain author. Go to their web sites and see what they say about others. You are told that you will know the true Brethren by their fruits. Just check these people out and know that the fruit they are producing is poisonous and once you have done this you will not want to have anything to do with them. But again you are welcome to poison your mind by reading their rat poison.

You are all big people now. You should be able to discern between those who are lying to you and those who have taught you the truth. I have no one following me. I know Nehemiah has no one following him. We both teach you to follow Yehovah and Him Alone. Yehshua said the same thing. Pray to the Father.

So go and follow your rabbi. Go and be under some man's authority. Go and adulterate yourself once again and walk away from the truth of Yehovah. You are free to do what you want. But those who are submitted to the rabbis also submit to the Talmud and all it says. They want you to obey it and them, but they do not obey it. Read now what it says about Lashon Ha-Ra.

As Nehemiah so eloquently showed you in his book the Greek Jesus or the Hebrew Yehshua; Yehshua said "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.' "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers.

It is no different now brethren with those who are spreading these lies. They want you to come into their fold. They want you to call them Rabbi. They want you to support them. They want you to follow them.

Again you have no need to follow any man, but if you want to follow these liars then go ahead. It is nothing to me. But know they are doing this for the publicity it brings them. I have not mentioned their names and I will not, nor the things they are promoting. But they are doing this and keep storing this up in order to promote their book and movie and the group they belong to.

With so much Lashon Ha Rah coming from these Leaders I would think that people would see the evil tongue at work and leave. But this is not the case. It is breeding more evil tongues and more lies and just like the telephone game it grows bigger. Do not be a part of it. Do not be a part of Murdering your brother. I say this again based on last week's News Letter about Murder and the meaning of Lashon Ha Ra. You must now decide if you are a part of this murder campaign, either by complicity or by doing nothing. In either case you are a murder according to both Torah and Talmudic teachings.

<http://www.jewfaq.org/speech.htm>

When non-observant people talk about how difficult it is to observe Jewish law, they usually mention the difficulty of observing Shabbat or keeping kosher or other similarly detailed rituals. Yet the laws that are most difficult to keep, that are most commonly violated even by

observant Jews, are the laws regarding improper speech. This is a very important area of Jewish law; entire books have been written on the subject.

The Power of Speech

Judaism is intensely aware of the power of speech and of the harm that can be done through speech. The rabbis note that the universe itself was created through speech. Of the 43 sins enumerated in the Al Cheit confession recited on Yom Kippur, 11 are sins committed through speech. The Talmud tells that the tongue is an instrument so dangerous that it must be kept hidden from view, behind two protective walls (the mouth and teeth) to prevent its misuse. The harm done by speech is even worse than the harm done by stealing or by cheating someone financially: money lost can be repaid, but the harm done by speech can never be repaired. For this reason, some sources indicate that there is no forgiveness for lashon ha-ra (disparaging speech). This is probably hyperbole, but it illustrates the seriousness of improper speech. A Chasidic tale vividly illustrates the danger of improper speech: A man went about the community telling malicious lies about the rabbi. Later, he realized the wrong he had done, and began to feel remorse. He went to the rabbi and begged his forgiveness, saying he would do anything he could to make amends. The rabbi told the man, "Take a feather pillow, cut it open, and scatter the feathers to the winds." The man thought this was a strange request, but it was a simple enough task, and he did it gladly. When he returned to tell the rabbi that he had done it, the rabbi said, "Now, go and gather the feathers. Because you can no more make amends for the damage your words have done than you can recollect the feathers." Speech has been compared to an arrow: once the words are released, like an arrow, they cannot be recalled, the harm they do cannot be stopped, and the harm they do cannot always be predicted, for words like arrows often go astray.

Tale-Bearing

There are two mitzvot in the Torah that specifically address improper speech: Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale-bearer among thy people (Lev. 19:16), and ye shall not wrong one another (Lev. 25:17, which according to tradition refers to wronging a person with speech). Tale-bearing is, essentially, any gossip. The Hebrew word for tale-bearer is "rakhil" (Reish-KafYod-Lamed), which is related to a word meaning trader or merchant. The idea is that a talebearer is like a merchant, but he deals in information instead of goods. In our modern "Information Age," the idea of information as a product has become more clear than ever before, yet it is present even here in the Torah.

It is a violation of this mitzvah to say anything about another person, even if it is true, even if it is not negative, even if it is not secret, even if it hurts no one, even if the person himself would tell the same thing if asked! It is said that the telling of gossip leads to bloodshed, which is why the next words in the Torah are "you shall not stand aside while your fellow's blood is shed." The story of Do'eig the Edomite (I Samuel Chs. 21-22) is often used to illustrate the harm that can be done by tale-bearing. Do'eig saw Achimelekh the Kohein give David bread and a sword, a completely innocent act intended to aid a leading member of Saul's court. Do'eig reported this to Saul. Do'eig's story was completely true, not negative, not secret, and

Achimelekh would have told Saul exactly the same thing if asked (in fact, he did so later). Yet Saul misinterpreted this tale as proof that Achimelekh was supporting David in a rebellion, and proceeded to slaughter all but one of the kohanim at Nob.

The person who listens to gossip is even worse than the person who tells it, because no harm could be done by gossip if no one listened to it. It has been said that lashon ha-ra (disparaging speech) kills three: the person who speaks it, the person who hears it, and the person about whom it is told. (Talmud Arachin 15b).

In Jewish law, all things are considered to be secret unless a person specifically says otherwise. For this reason, you will note that in the Torah, G-d constantly says to Moses, "Speak to the Children of Israel, saying:" or "Speak to the Children of Israel and tell them:" If G-d did not specifically say this to Moses, Moses would be forbidden to repeat his words! Nor is there any time-limit on secrets. The Talmud tells the story of a student who revealed a secret that he had heard 22 years earlier, and he was immediately banished from the house of study! (Talmud Sanhedrin 31a)

The gravest of these sins of tale-bearing is lashon ha-ra (literally, "the evil tongue"), which involves discrediting a person or saying negative things about a person, even if those negative things are true. Indeed, true statements are even more damaging than false ones, because you can't defend yourself by disproving the negative statement if it's true! Some sources indicate that lashon ha-ra is equal in seriousness to murder, idol worship, and incest/adultery (the only three sins that you may not violate even to save a life).

It is forbidden to even imply or suggest negative things about a person. It is forbidden to say negative things about a person, even in jest. It is likewise considered a "shade of lashon ha-ra" to say positive things about a person in the presence of his enemies, because this will encourage his enemies to say negative things to contradict you!

One who tells disparaging things that are false is referred to as a motzi sheim ra, that is, one who spreads a bad report. This is considered the lowest of the low.

It is generally not a sin to repeat things that have been told "in the presence of three persons." The idea is that if it is told in the presence of three persons, it is already public knowledge, and no harm can come of retelling it. However, even in this case, you should not repeat it if you know you will be spreading the gossip further.

When Tale-Bearing is Allowed

There are a few exceptional circumstances when tale-bearing is allowed, or even required. Most notably, tale-bearing is required in a Jewish court of law, because it is a mitzvah to give testimony and that mitzvah overrides the general prohibition against tale-bearing. Thus, a person is required to reveal information, even if it is something that was explicitly told in confidence, even if it will harm a person, in a Jewish court of law.

A person is also required to reveal information to protect a person from immediate, serious harm. For example, if a person hears that others are plotting to kill someone, he is required to reveal this information. That is another reason why the commandment not to go about as a tale-bearer is juxtaposed with “you shall not stand aside while your fellow’s blood is shed.” In limited circumstances, one is also permitted to reveal information if someone is entering into a relationship that he would not enter if he knew certain information. For example, it may be permissible to tell a person that his prospective business partner is untrustworthy, or that a prospective spouse has a disease. This exception is subject to significant and complex limitations; however, if those limitations are satisfied, the person with the information is required to reveal it.

In all of these exceptions, a person is not permitted to reveal information if the same objective could be fulfilled without revealing information. For example, if you could talk a person out of marrying for reasons other than the disease, you may not reveal the disease.

Wronging a Person through Speech

Leviticus 25:17 says, “You shall not wrong one another.” This has traditionally been interpreted as wronging a person with speech. It includes any statement that will embarrass, insult or deceive a person, or cause a person emotional pain or distress.

Here are some commonly-used examples of behavior that is forbidden by this mitzvah:

- You may not call a person by a derogatory nickname, or by any other embarrassing name, even if he is used to it.
- You may not ask an uneducated person for an opinion on a scholarly matter (that would draw attention to his lack of knowledge or education).
- You may not ask a merchant how much he would sell something for if you have no intention of buying.
- You may not refer someone to another person for assistance when you know the other person cannot help (in other words, it’s a violation of Jewish law to give someone the runaround!).
- You may not deceive a person, even if no harm is done by the deception; for example, you may not sell non-kosher meat to a non-Jew telling him that it is kosher, even though no harm is done to the non-Jew by this deception.
- You may not sell a person damaged goods without identifying the damage, even if the price you give is fair for the goods in their damaged condition.
- You may not offer a person a gift or invite a person to dinner if you know that the person will not accept.

You may not compliment a person if you do not mean it.

<http://www.ucg.org/sermon/he-sows-discord-among-brethren/>

He That Sows Discord Among Brethren

Presented By Ken Martin on December 9, 2006

Sowing discord among brethren often involves back-biting and gossip, all of which God hates. Are you doing the devils work for him?

This afternoon I'd like to address a topic that I hope you'll find helpful, especially as the biblical admonition is to all of us, that we must be extremely careful in the world in which we live, because we're living in dangerous times, to say the least. It's called the "End Times", and there's much commentary right now about the end times and the events that are happening on the world scene. Most of us in this working world of coming and going, day in and day out, we face a lot of different things, and I would like to address something today that we all face and have to do combat with in our spiritual warfare of overcoming, and it's something that really touches close to a nerve in God's makeup, and He wants us to understand how serious this is.

It has to do with a subject that we will encounter, whether we are in the work place, whether we're in school, in High School, Grade School – just in generally in dealing with people. And unfortunately sometimes it even invades the Church of God. History has shown it has done so, and we need to be alert to it. Hopefully that's not a problem for any of us at this time, but nevertheless, the Bible does address it and it's something we need to be mindful of so that we are not caught flat-footed when this ugly monster raises its head.

What we're going to talk about today is the subject of gossip and back-biting – gossip and back-biting. It actually ties in, and the actual title for the sermon that I have for you is entitled in the following area: "He That Sows Discord Among Brethren" – that's the title of the sermon – He That Sows Discord Among Brethren. Well, let's see a little bit about that as we get to the Scriptures that deal with this particular topic. But it's a very important one, because you and I are affected by it whether we realize it or not.

We live in a world where we're told in Revelation, twelfth chapter, that Satan is the accuser of the brethren, and he's accusing us day and night before God's throne. Because as human beings we're frail, we – (that our spirit is willing, but we all stumble) – we all falter from time to time, and there's not a one of us that may not have fallen prey to this problem of gossiping and what have you, and back-biting, either as a victim yourself, or maybe you experienced it as an observer, or maybe unfortunately you were a participant in this particular element, and hopefully that is not the case.

Well, this is a subject, that again, needs to be looked at from a biblical prospective and so I wanted to give you some biblical advise today on this subject, because we're told in Matthew 12 and Verse 34 that we are to be very, very much aware of what we say, because we are going to be evaluated, it says, by every idle word that is spoken. Now, actually that's where gossip and this thing of back-biting come in, and that's why we need to take a look at it, because you deal with it in this world – if you live in this world, you're going to face it. Either you have had people who have said things about you behind your back, or people who have gossiped and given lies and misrepresentation. But consider, if you will, the world that we live

in – half of the publications that you see in the various stores when you go to the shopping centers, you’ve got all these little “slurry journals”, I call them, and what are they designed to do? They’re designed to say, “Oh, so-and-so did such and such”, and then they end up getting sued because they didn’t really say that. You know, they’re just marketing evil to sell products. And it happens in this day and age more than we care to admit maybe sometimes, and you and I are told to come out of here my people and be aware of what’s going on around you, so that you don’t get caught up into it and just find yourself falling prey to it, because you can get involved in it if you’re not careful. And the Bible puts some strong, strong injunctions against those who get caught up in it.

So I thought it might be a good topic for us to review as members of the Church of God, because obviously, on the up-front side, none of us want to do this. But, we could be exposed to it, we could unfortunately be sucked into it, maybe as a participating participant, and that’s something we certainly don’t want to do. So we’re going to look at this subject a little bit more in depth.

The subject of gossip, for example. That word is not in the Bible – you can’t find gossip per se, but the principles of gossiping are there. Gossip is malicious or idle talk, you know. That’s where that thing “every idle word”, – because people get involved in it.

If you remember the old TV show years ago about — called “Hee Haw”? They used to have the old fence there, and so forth, and they’re going to gossip and talk and get the latest juicy little “tidbit”- well this is the type of thing people can get sucked into. We’ve all seen it, and we can laugh at it, and so forth, but it’s not a laughing matter when you’re on the receiving end, as you’re going to see from the scriptural point of view. It really cuts deep, and it has some very, very strong reprimands from God’s point of view.

But, it’s usually about the affairs of other people – that’s usually what gossip involves. And when we can’t find something better to do with our time, that’s when most people get caught up, saying things, talking about other people, and that’s when they get in trouble. It’s usually degrading and belittling, putting a person down, and this is something Jesus Christ forbids us to do. We are not to belittle or put anyone down, but to view all in the context of God’s merciful word, and He tells us that we that are without sin, then you can cast the first stone. And if you are like all the rest of us, in that state of sin, (all have sinned and come short of the glory of God), well then we have to bow to the deference of God’s word, because He’s the final word on this matter.

Now, the subject of back-biting is a little different. It’s gossip that goes a little bit deeper, a little bit more poisonous in its relationship. It makes a verbal attack on someone, or some individual, behind their backs when they’re not there to defend themselves – that’s what makes it bad, because usually then a person could straighten it out right then and there. But sometimes people don’t even know it’s going on – don’t even know that that’s happening. Generally speaking, it’s more malicious and it has more of an evil intent for those who participate in back-biting. It indicates a vendetta that a person has regarding individuals who

they're doing this to, or it could represent a private warfare, or a feud that's going on, or it could be directed toward a person, or persons.

So, anyway, the bottom line is this: Jesus taught us that our mouths merely reflect what's in our hearts – out of the abundance of the heart, the mouths speak. So, when we run into people who start this process of either gossiping or back-biting, we know immediately this is a no-no from God's point of view – this is something we want to stay clear of like the plague, because it will destroy you. You'll see in a moment here why God is so upset about this very thing, because these attitudes of erupting in this end-time pictures something that is found in II Timothy, Chapter 3 beginning in Verses one through three (II Timothy 3, Verses one through three) if you'll turn there with me. And here we have the following admonition. It says: II Timothy 3:1 But realize this, (take note of this and realize this) that in the last days difficult times will come: (and boy, nothing could be more true than that statement right there) Verse 2: For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, (you know, people want to be involved, they'll do anything). All these TV shows right now – well, they'll do this for a million dollars, they'll do it for six million dollars, whatever it is – they'll beat a person down, belittle them, cut the rug out from underneath them just so they can get that particular monetary reward. They will be boastful, they will be arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

Verse 3: unloving, irreconcilable, and malicious gossips – (in other words, they will be instruments in Satan's hands to feed the very thing that he likes to do, to accuse other individuals), and without self-control, brutal, and haters of good.

Now, it's important to understand that what these statements refer to is that the conditions you and I will be exposed to in the latter days – it's what you and I will have to deal with. So you go to school, you go to the work place, you go to your neighbors, etc. and you run smack-dab in the middle of this stuff, and how do you deal with it? Well, God tells us how to deal with it and He gives us specific instructions how to avoid the pitfall that we don't end up in this condition. We can expect these things because, again, it's the world we live in now. The good news is that a better world is coming in which this type of thing will not be allowed. People will be taught the right way and they'll learn how to esteem others better than themselves, instead of always putting the other person down. They'll learn what Jesus was always trying to teach in His day, is that you raise people up, you don't put them down.

We're all in that same boat as human beings, made in the image of God. God has a purpose for each and every one of us to be a part of His family, and He doesn't want to see any of us out of that family. If anyone chooses to abort, it will be their choice, not God. He's not willing any should perish. But He will give us the free choice that He has promised, to choose either life, or choose death. He's not going to force it down our throats, but He'll give up the opportunity to make the choice.

How He reveals this marvelous revelation of Scripture is through His law. His law is the actual law that deals with relationships – our relationship with God, our relationship with our fellow human beings. And, also our relationship with the ministry that serves the flock of God. That becomes a very important part also in this whole picture and equation.

So, let's take a look at some of this and take note of the very fact that Proverbs, Chapter 6 gives us an important clue as to how God is viewing things when He looks at human beings, their behavior patterns, and He tells us through Solomon's wisdom, as written and recorded in the Proverbs, and it is a dynamic book to review. I mentioned this to you before, if you just want to learn and glean wisdom from the Scriptures, just take one day at a time: just like, say it's the first, go to Chapter 1; tomorrow's the second, read Chapter 2. You've got 31 chapters; for most months you've got 31 days. So you get a chapter a day of the wisdom of God, burned into your psyche toward the spirit of God. And it's marvelous what it brings to your forefront – it just helps you to remember things, and it's just a matter of "Oh wow!", this or that – and you might be tempted to — but it says in the Proverbs, "Don't do that". So, you learn, you begin to understand how the mind of God works.

Well, notice what Solomon said here in this particular area, Chapter 6 and beginning in Verse 16. Here he states the following:

These six things does the Lord (that's Lord capital, meaning the Self-existent One, the Almighty, the Everlasting, the I Am that I Am) – He says, these six things does the Lord hate, Notice, now God is a God of love, but when it comes to these things, He says, "I hate these things, and I don't want these things in my sons and daughters to be". And so He goes on to say, "I hate these things and yes, seven, (whatever that seventh one is) – is an abomination unto Him: (Meaning detestable – it's not only things are bad, but it's detestable when we get to that seventh point, as we're going to see.

And he goes and defines in:

Verse 17: A proud look, a lying tongue, a hand that sheds innocent blood,

Verse 18: A heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that are swift to running to mischief, (Well, we've got all these things here today, alive and well on planet earth, do we not?)

Verse 19: A false witness that speaks lies, and number seven is: He that sows discord among brethren.

That's the one we more specifically want to take a look at, because these are the areas that God says, "I don't want you messing with" – And obviously, humanly, our spirit says, "I don't want to mess with these either". But in case we should fall into the trap by not being mindful of what God is saying, then we need to review just what is it about this sowing discord that God takes exception to?

Well, as I mentioned, God's laws deal with relationships; and relationships, the first portion of the commandments tell us what? – How to love God. The second portion tell us, how to love our fellow-man. And the final conclusion of the matter is this: Jesus magnified in the New Testament, (remember He came to magnify the law), and He emphasized not the commandments in the context of first, second, third etc., but He emphasized it in the context of love – that the spiritual fulfillment of the law of God is when that love is made manifest. How is it made manifest? Well, according to the Scriptures, we're told in Romans 5:5 that the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts – it is shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. So

this is what the spirit of God is doing in our lives as men and women. It's producing the love of God that helps us to see what we humanly could not see of and by ourselves. And what it said according to Jesus, was that everything hinges on the whole commandments of God – hinge on this love toward God and love toward your fellow human being.

Now there's another aspect of this also, is that Jesus considers Himself one of the brethren when He says in Hebrews 2 and Verse 11 that He didn't consider it something that He was to be ashamed of, to call us His brethren. So Jesus is the Captain of our salvation – He sets the pace; He's the one who guides us. And He also gave us ministry. And we're told that in Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 11 through 13, that the ministry plays a vital part, by God's grace, to help feed the flock, to help them over the hurdles of life, to point out where the danger zones are – to guide them through the spirit of God away from that which is unacceptable in God's eyes, and to the area where they can be blessed of God, which is His desire.

And so we find also in Psalm 133, Verse 1. Why does God take exception to those that sow discord, and why must we stay away from that, for all that we're worth? Simply because He says, "How beautiful it is for brethren to dwell in unity". He loves to see His sons and daughters together in harmony and in a spirit of unity. He does not enjoy seeing them working behind the scenes and saying things they shouldn't say.

I was visiting a church many years ago, and – I think many of you realize, "years ago" means years ago, in a different organization and a time frame, not necessarily with the United Church of God – but I was visiting this Church congregation and lo and behold the lady who was there introduced herself to me, (my wife and I were there) – and she came up and she says, "Oh Pastor Martin, nice to meet you, and I'm 'so and so' – I'm the local Church gossip"! And I was kind of taken back at first – I said "What?" And she says, "Oh, everybody calls me the local gossip". And I said, "Well Ma'am, I don't think you'd be wanting to wear that kind of sign over your head". And that's not a kind of thing that is pleasing – she may have been joking, I don't know what – maybe she talks a lot, (who knows) but it could be misinterpreted by people. And people do not like gossip; they do not like people who break confidence and things of this nature. And so the Scriptures are clear on this. But, that's why God is very upset – He wants peace; He wants harmony among His people. He does not want this stabbing and back-biting and whispering, and things of this nature, because that's what goes on in this world.

So the laws of God then do what? They reflect our relationship with God. He doesn't want anything that interferes, that sows discord with our relationship with Him, and He doesn't want anything that sows discord in our relationship with one another. And He doesn't want anything to sow discord between the relationship of the flock and the servants of God. That's very important, because again, we all are in this team effort together; this is part of it. So, moving along very quickly, let's take a look at some of these other Scriptures that deal with this subject, because it's a very important subject indeed.

Let's go to Proverbs, Chapter 18, if you will join me there. Proverbs Chapter 18 and in Verse 8. Here it tells us (this is in the authorized version) that:

The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost part of the belly.

Well, you know, I think all of us can agree with that. Have you ever heard that old saying, “Sticks and stones can break my bones, but names can never hurt me”? If you’ve ever been called a name, did it hurt? Sure did! I think we’d rather been hit with sticks and stones – but we don’t know why it is, but just when somebody said something like that, umm, all emotions go south in a hurry, and you just feel terrible. That’s why when somebody hits you with stuff like that and then they say, “Oh I was just joking” – then, “why am I bleeding? Why am I bleeding – why am I hurting, if you were joking?” Now, when you joke, you have to be sure who you’re joking with; you’ve got to be sure you’re on the same page with that person, or otherwise they can read you wrong. And joking – not everybody laughs at the same thing, but everybody knows how to cry, right? Everybody knows what hurt me, no matter what language you speak. There’s an old saying, “Laugh and the world laughs with you; cry and you cry alone”. Well, not necessarily – people all – they may cry alone, but they know everybody else has that hurting feeling down deep down inside. Well, God doesn’t want that in His sons and daughters. So, here we’re just reminded that it does hurt to the innermost part of the body.

Notice II Corinthians, Chapter 10. Now this was a Church, (remember that the Apostle Paul had many problems), where they were the people of God; they were a new Testament Church, but they had a lot of problems. Paul even said that on one occasion. He said, “You know” he said, “there is so much more I would like to tell you, but I can’t because you are yet carnal”. He says, “You’re thinking like kids; you’re thinking like children, you’re acting like children – I have to feed you with the milk of the word”, he says, “when I want to give you so much more, and I can give you that if you’ll just let me”. But, he had to fight his way through all kinds of difficulties and oppositions. In fact, one time he would refuse to even take tithes from the people because they would accuse him of, “Well, you want it for the money”, you know. Well, do we hear that today from people, “Oh, minister’s in it for the money?” I think of a lot of other opportunities in businesses you can get into that they pay a lot more than ministers – they just really do. Unless you happen to be one of those Tela-Evangelists that know how to “milk the masses”, and fill the stadiums with all that do-good religion – now they’re making the money! Sorry, we can’t go there- we’re responsible for the truth of God – we can’t teach that kind of stuff. We have to stay with the little flock, where God has trained us to serve those who are faithful to Him – and you are precious in the eyes of God. And we who serve in the ministry can’t thank you enough for that wonderful faithfulness to God, because we’re with you. This is what we’re all about. If this isn’t it, I’m sorry, I don’t know where it’s at, because I’ve looked high and low, and this is what I’ve seen is the best thing on the market that God has given us so that we can worship Him in spirit and truth.

But in II Corinthians, Chapter 10, beginning in Verse 10, notice – these were some of the critical comments that were coming in Paul’s day – poor Paul had to deal with these things. It says:

II Corinthians 10:10 “For his letters,” they say, “are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech is contemptible.” So they didn’t like – you know – he didn’t speak, I guess, just the way they thought he should speak. Well, there was even Jesus, you know, at one time – and they said, “if you don’t like the way I look, just believe for the miracles sake.” But people always can find something to pick at in this world, and all of us have suffered from that. The biggest thing that God wants is that we don’t pick at one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Every one of us have foibles, every one of us have idiosyncrasies that are uniquely our own – that’s what makes us who we are. The important thing is that we just don’t carry it and start using it against our brothers and sisters, because again, we’re all in the same boat! Only Satan is the accuser – he’s the one that would always like to hammer home, and when he does, it’s for a purpose, as we’ll see later on.

But in II Corinthians 10 now, it says in:

Verse 11: Let such a one think this, that such as we are in word by letters, he says, when we are absent, he says, such we will be also in deed when we are present. In other words, what he is saying in essence, is that: “you’re saying, ‘boy he’s strong in his letters, but when he’s actually there, it doesn’t really connect.’”

But he goes on in Verse 12, and shows what the problem really is. He says:

Verse 12 : For we dare not make ourselves of the number, – (we are the elite) – those are the ones, you know, who have all the ducks in a row – everybody else is out of sync with us. He says, we’re not to compare ourselves, and commend ourselves. But they that measuring themselves by themselves, comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. It’s not a way to make your assessment; our comparison is to be with Jesus Christ, not one another, because all of us are on different levels of conversion. All of us have little elements of different understanding – we don’t a hundred percent see everything. That’s why it says we’re maturing, till we all come to the maturity and the unity in Christ. And thank God that He doesn’t just throw us to the wind, just because we don’t understand a little something at a certain time – He’s a very loving and a merciful and kind God, and He’s provided that way of escape for us through His Son.

All right – then we move along in this verse down here, it says – let’s go on to verse 15 – it says:

Verse 15: not boasting of things without our measure, that other men labors, he says, but having hope when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly. In other words, being a servant to the people, that they would come to see and understand what Paul was really trying to accomplish.

Verse 16 : And to preach the gospel in regions beyond you, and not to boast at another man’s line of things, made ready into our hand.

Verse 18: He finalizes – he says, For not he that commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

And that's what we all want to strive for – we want God's blessing, that God commends His blessing upon us – that we don't get a higher idea of ourselves than we actually should.

Now moving along very quickly, in Proverbs 26 (Proverbs 26) – we're going to go through some Scriptures here very quickly. Proverbs 26, Verses 20 through 22 we're reminded of something: that tale bearing is a cause of strife among brethren. (This is Proverbs, Chapter 26 and beginning in Verse 20):

It says, Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; (well, that's common sense) – it says – So where there is no tale bearer, the strife ceases.

When people stop doing that, or that individual is asked, you know, "if you're not going to cease and desist, then you're just going to have to leave the fellowship – there's no reason for you to be around if you're so unhappy and all you do is pick away at people all the time." If you can't learn to love one another – as Jesus said – we're practicing and learning now, then what do we have to look forward to? The whole kingdom of God is a time of great love and rejoicing, and you can't even contemplate eternity out of the context of peace and love, as Jesus outlined. And so he goes on to say:

Verse 21: As coals are to burning coals, he says, and wood to fire, so is the contentious man to kindle strife.

God does not want to see any type of strife brought to bear in that area.

I Peter, Chapter 4 and Verse 15 (I Peter 4, Verse 15) – notice the connotation in which this is placed, (or the context, better put, not the connotation) – but the context:

I Peter 4:15 Now it says: But let none of you suffer as a murderer, (we don't want that), nor as a thief, (now we don't want that either), or as an evildoer, (and that's understood), or a busybody in other men's matters. In other words, sticking our nose into people's lives; let people live their life, and don't try to micro-manage other people, or think they have to do a thing the way you do it, because they'll not always do it. There's that old saying: "You can skin a cat many different ways", and that's exactly what God is doing -He's watching how we skin the cats of life – in this particular case, to see how we're going to handle it. And He doesn't want us to be involved in other people's lives, sticking our nose in, in an unrighteous way. We want to be concerned about our brothers and sisters in Christ, but not to become busy-body, or nosy into things that really don't apply to us and don't help, one way or the other.

Let's take a look now at Proverbs, Chapter 11 (going back to the Book of Proverbs again). And in Proverbs, Chapter 11 we have the following admonition:

Verse 13: One who carries on as a talebearer, it says, reveals secrets. In other words, they don't know how to hold confidence in the right way – but he that is of a faithful spirit conceals the matter.

In other words, there's no reason to pass things on – if somebody has asked you a private thing, it's kept private. That's why we have confidentiality of the ministry. When things are brought to the Administrator's attention, that's just between us and the individual. Now, when a person sometimes goes out from that confidentiality, (and sometimes people will do this) –

they'll say, "Well, you talk to the Pastor? Well, what did the Pastor have to say?" And then – (blurt, blurt, blurt, blurt, blurt) – people sometimes blurt it out – "uh-oh, I'm sorry, don't ask me now to be bound by confidentiality – anybody ask me what happened, I can tell now, too, cause you just broke confidentiality." It's a two-way street – you tell me, alright I'll keep your confidence – but now, if you just go blab it out to everybody else what we discussed – and a lot of times people are curious – "Well, what kind of advice did you get?" "Well, if you want to know, go ask the minister". That's what you find out, but you don't break confidentiality – that's a sacred trust.

When we bear that responsibility we have to really watch that one carefully, because again, trust is a very important commodity, and we all know what it's like when trust is broken – it does something to you, and you want to make sure you maintain the values that God has outlined.

Proverbs 20:19

He that goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore, meddle not with him that flatters with his lips.

And we've all run into people like that in the course of time, and hopefully we just don't have that in the Church of God, but again, should it ever surface you will know from God's point of view what course of action to take.

Proverbs 17:9

See All...

He that covers a transgression seeks love, but he that repeats a matter separates very friends.

Friendships can be broken and really damaged if an individual does not take into consideration that you must not repeat certain things – there's no advantage to saying it again to somebody else. What's the purpose of it? Well, again, the Bible just tells us what course of action to take.

Even many times when there's nothing wrong, people sometimes just like to tear people down – it makes them feel better, you know. "Hey! 'I'm up here and you're down here.'" Well God's says, (according to the last time I read the Book), it says: All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We're all in the same boat – it's full of holes, and unless God plugs that hole for us, or saves us from that sinking boat, (by His grace we're saved through faith), we haven't got a chance. We're just there – lost, without hope in this world. But, we have the greatest hope going; we have the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as our one who is spearing our ship of life, and guiding us to the kingdom of God.

Now, in Proverbs 16, we see something – Proverbs 16, Verse 27.

It says:

Verse 27 : An ungodly man digs up evil,

Well, you've heard – (some of you may be familiar, I forget the artist), – but there was a song years ago, in the country field, called: Digging Up Bones – remember that one, any of you?

“Digging Up Bones?” Well, what are they digging up? They’re digging up the past – they’re looking for something, you know, to make an issue over something, and so they’re digging up bones!

Well, it says that’s an evil person who goes around digging up bones, and we don’t want to be involved with any kind of a relationship with a person like that. It says:

And in his lips there is a burning fire – that there’s just something there that has a very burning effect, and it’s not a good one. That’s why, again, it is put in this context.

Talking behind another person’s back is revealed in Scripture in the Book of Psalms, Chapter 41, as something that stems from hatred.

Psalm 41:7

It says: All that hate me whisper together against me; against me do they devise my hurt.

And you know, there’s so much of that that goes on in the world today – they’re just wise to do evil – people out there hurting other people – again, some of these TV shows that we reference from time to time – I don’t know how you (if you’ve had a chance to ever look at some of those) find it. It’s a good experience – just turn them on once – get a quick shot at it, see what’s going on in the world, and you just see people are willing to hurt one another, and do things to each other at the drop of a hat. Especially if it’s got monetary value they’re willing to do that. But aah, that’s not how you and I are called to live our life.

I John, Chapter 4 (I John, Chapter 4) These are important Scriptures, that if you haven’t actually taken time to go through them from time to time and remind yourself, then you might not even realize some of these are there as a warning.

I John 4:19

It says: We love Him because He first loved us.

Verse 20: And if any man say, “I love God,” and hates his brother, (speaks evil about them – back-bites, spreads gossip) – he says: he’s a liar; for he that loves not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

And that is so true. That’s just a pious hypocrisy, saying “I love God”, and then we turn around and just hate somebody else, and spit out things that are not right, and yet there are people who have done that. And we know that for a fact because many of us have lived through that in our own personal conversion process, dealing with people.

Alright – Let’s take a look at Romans 1, Verse 29 (Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 29). This is, again, showing what is happening in our society today, how culture is beginning to disintegrate, and how they slowly go downhill, till finally they just collapse and implode. Now we’re seeing today some of these very signs in our own beloved country, and it’s a sad thing to witness.

Now, if you’ll take note of verse 29 – notice what it says:

Verse 29: These are individuals who are being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity and

whisperers: “Did you know, did you hear about this?” You notice when somebody whispers, everybody moves up closer to hear. That’s when we want to back away from the whisperers.

Now, this is a very interesting thing, because we live in a day and age today where that’s the theme of movies, and what people see on television; all the different programs, all deal with these things. So, it’s all around us – I mean, we see people treating each other with deceit, murders, and hateful – and we don’t see the principles that Jesus taught. And you and I truly are lights in the world, when we see how little light is out there. Maybe we can talk about that at another time and another message. But right now, we’re told that there is going to be a time when God is going to cut off the slanderers – Psalm 101 (Psalm 101). See, what most people have failed to take into consideration, is that they think they’re free moral agents, that they can run around and do anything. And as I’ve mentioned to you before, they’re only free to choose: either choose the right way or the wrong way. God is the Sovereign Lord – that’s why He is able to know the beginning to the end. He knows how this is all going to turn out, because this is His plan. People are not free to operate outside that plan; we’re all in it. And He is working out His great plan and purpose in the lives of human beings, and we have chosen to align ourselves with God. There are others out there who have chosen to align themselves in a different direction. And so, as we look at this subject, notice what it says in Psalm 101, Verse 5.

Psalms 101: 5 Whoso privately slanders his neighbor, him will I cut off; and he that has a high look and a proud heart, will I not suffer – Notice, “I won’t put up with it.” God is not going to put up with the arrogance and the high-mindedness of man today. People think that they can just kind of do anything they want – and God can’t do anything about it? Wait till God arises mightily and starts to shake the earth – Oh my, oh my! Will people get an eyeful at that time!

We’re living in a day and age that you and I are told that we have got to be sure that we stop such talk in our own personal lives, if we have ever fallen prey to it; and we all have at one time or another, I’m sure. None of us are clean in any of these things; we all (maybe not deliberately) – but again, as we said, either as an observer, or as a victim, or a participant – one way or the other we’ve been exposed, because we’re living in Satan’s world, and we want to come out of it; we don’t want to be a participant.

So, how do we operate? According to Jesus, let’s take a look at Ephesians, Chapter 4 – Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 31. Here we have some positive instruction from the writings of Paul on this matter, and he says in Verse 31:

Verse 31: Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, clamor, and evil speaking – you see that you can speak in an uplifting way, or you can speak in a bad way, to really put people down. Well that’s called evil speaking, and we’re told to put it away from you, with all malice. And how should we conduct ourselves? We should be just here, in Verse 32:

Verse 32 : And be you kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s own sake, has forgiven you.

Because we all need forgiveness, and who are we to cast stones at anyone else, because we ourselves are just as guilty. Jesus said it to those that were wanting to kill the young lady in

adultery (caught in adultery): He said, you without sin, cast the first stone. They couldn't do it. Well, Jesus knew why, because again, all mankind is under the curse of sin, and unless God delivers us through His Son, there is no way of escape. Only those who receive that wonderful way of escape through Jesus Christ will find the answers to their personal problems.

I Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 1 (I Peter 2, Verse 1). Here again, a reminder – it says:

I Peter 2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking – Because why? Well Verse 2 says:

Verse 2: As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.

Leave that stuff behind that has contaminated your life – throw it out, and ask God to guide and help you with His spirit, so that you can master the flesh with the power of God's spirit. And that is the battle of overcoming.

Let's take a look at Titus, Chapter 3 (Titus, Chapter 3) – I'm giving you a lot of Scriptures, one right after the other, but they're very important, and they show you again – there's more here than meets the eye, than you would think of. Who would sit down and just normally go through all these Scriptures, but there they are, and it's designed to help the God-fearing man and woman be able to stand their ground. And in this particular case (Titus, Chapter 3) we have verses 1, 2, and 3 as follows:

Titus 3:1

But put them in mind to be subject to all principalities, and powers, and obey magistrates and be ready to every good work,

Verse 2: And to speak evil of no man – Now, you're going to hear at election time some of the most wicked verbalizing against other fellow human beings – they're going to speak evil like you have never heard evil spoken of. And of course we've referenced the book by Kupelian, on "The Marketing of Evil", that's going on right now. It's speaking evil of people, and we're going to hear a lot of it, and we don't want to be a part of it: to be no brawlers, but to be gentle, showing meekness unto all men. Why? Because Verse 3 reminds us:

Verse 3: For we ourselves were also sometimes foolish, disobedient, and deceiving, serving diverse lusts, and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. That was our state of affairs until conversion came forth.

Verse 4: But after the kindness and the love of God, our Savior – what happened? – He appeared. Jesus came and showed us a better way.

Now the most important, effective thing that I can tell you in conclusion here, as we wrap this message up – and I wanted to make this short and sweet and to the point today, because again, it's something that again, hopefully nobody is practicing or involved in. But it is going on, and you will bump into it from time to time. God wants you to understand what that state of affairs is and how to avoid it, so that you don't end up getting hurt.

If somebody is plotting against you, out of jealousy, trying to do you harm, gossiping, backbiting, telling lies about you as an individual, what do you do? The answer is, be careful how you respond – be careful how you respond. The temptation is to fly right back in the same direction and to attack – that's our human weakness in the flesh, and Satan knows it. But now

we are told in the Scripture, that we have examples like Daniel – Daniel who was attacked by all his peers back in his day. They were jealous of him, and so they began to concoct all kinds of stories about him, and saying he wasn't this, he wasn't that – but they couldn't find anything – they couldn't nail him down, that he had done anything wrong. And so why? Because it says: he served His God, and he served the king. He did what his job was supposed to be, but he served God; he didn't compromise in those areas.

So it's very important that when he learned about the plan, and the plot to overthrow him, the first thing he did, he ran to God – he went to God in prayer. And that's what you do.

When you discover this kind of stuff going on, or you should become involved in it in some way, shape, or form, (may you God be blessed you never have it happen), – but if it should happen, go to God and bring God down on them; call God down on them, and say: "God, look what they're doing – look what they're seeking to do to me, and you are the one who is to fight my battles for me; please, deliver me from this – let their own ways come upon them." And God will fight that battle for you. He will deliver you from your enemies; He's promised to do that. And that is for the purpose of what? Praying and asking God for His wisdom, and His understanding, and His patience to deal with these problems, and also to remember that you never operate out of vengeance; God says, Vengeance is mine, I will repay – no matter how hurtful it is, I will take care of it – I see what they're doing to you, and I know what's going down – they may not think I do, but I do, and I keep accurate records, and I know what to do when the time is right.

That's why He's called the Sovereign Lord! He doesn't miss a trick! It's we human beings who fall through the cracks, but not God. And now, He also gives us a very encouraging admonition, that as we pray, we must always pray that in serving our God and asking for His help, that He may be glorified out of the whole mess – not you, not me – that He who fights our battles; He who will defend us against all enemies; He must be glorified and receive the honor. And He will do it, because He says: no flesh will glory in His presence.

So, that is something that God wants us to remember, is our plan of attack when we are attacked by the adversary, and to avoid falling prey to gossip. Three little filters might help, to filter through your mind: Ask yourself, Is what I'm hearing true? Is what I'm hearing good? Is it useful? Those three things: Is it true, good, useful? If not, don't pass it on to others, because if it is true, or good, or useful, you know, you have no problem – that's not gossiping behind someone's back. But if it's not true, not good, not useful, don't pass it on – don't be a participant.

It's very important to understand that it's a serious matter when a brother in God, (or the Lord, as the Scripture says), speaks evil of another. Let's take a look (final Scripture) in James 4, Verse 11. It says:

James 4:11

Speak not evil one to another, brethren – notice He's talking now to Church people; people who understand the plan and purpose of God, and the calling. Obviously, there's an application in dealing with people as a whole, but the people of God must really understand

this more than ever. Don't speak evil of your brethren. He that speaks evil of his brother judges his brother, (or sister), and speaks evil of the law, and judges the law. But if you judge the law, are you not a doer of the law, but a judge?

And then it reminds us:

Verse 12: There is one Lawgiver, who is judge, (namely God, Himself).

We don't want to put ourselves in a position of judging others in a wrong and improper way. There's a right kind of judgment necessary in all of our lives: it's called judge righteous judgment.

Now what is righteousness? It's defined by the commandments of God. That helps us to understand what evil is: sin is the transgression of the law. So somebody who goes out and does wrong – just say: Well, that's wrong, they shouldn't have done that. And they'll say, Oh, but you're judging; yes, and I judge righteously, that is wrong! But, people don't want to hear that today; people don't want to hear anything – don't tell me – who are you putting yourself up on a high-horse and telling me that I'm wrong? It's the way they look at you today, because they don't know what right and wrong is anymore. They have done, unfortunately, one terrible thing: they have forsaken the law of their God, and God says, because of that, I have forsaken your children; you're left to yourself, and your house is ruined, because the leaders that are leading you destroy your path, O Israel.

And so the Church of God plays a very important part in this end-time. Now, we must be careful not to allow anything to happen that would impact on our spiritual lives as brothers and sisters in Christ. And one of the areas that Satan will use, he will try to use gossip, back-biting; but more important, the thing that God hates most of all, He does not want to see us ever guilty of sowing discord among our brethren.

With that, may God help us all to stay alert, to stay on top of things, and keep Satan far, far away.