

THE FIRST WORD for September 8, 2024



First Baptist Church Eden

A Place of Grace to
Believe, Belong, and Become

101 Burleson Street (325) 869-3681

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday Small Groups 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Pastor: John Curry (432) 923-2163 edenpastor@frontier.com

Worship Ministry Leader: Mike Turner conchospringsgolf@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry Leader: Loren Briggs (325) 656-3234 loren3484@hotmail.com

Children's Ministry Leader: Pam Young (432) 413-3205 Pamela Young jeunejoven@gmail.com

Adult Ministry Leader: Teresa Escue (325) 450-7279 edenfbsec@frontier.com

**FBC Eden exists to bring glory to God by becoming a "3E community":
Embracing God in worship, Encouraging one another in love to become
fully-devoted disciples, and Engaging the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

September 9: 6:00 pm MOC

September 16: 2:00 pm Card Making Class

September 22: 3:00 pm Nursing Home Ministry
3:45 pm Deacons Meeting

September 25: 7:00 am See You At The Pole
3:00 pm Cell Phone Assistance for Seniors (Eden CISDO)

September 28: Fall Fest

September 29: Praise & Worship

September 30: Fun Day Monday

October 2: Fields of Faith

Today's Message:

Overwatch

Psalm 127:1(B)

FOR THE RECORD ...

Worship106

Small Groups..... 57

**Thanks to Tina Briley
for her article for this
week's First Word.**



A 24-Hour Challenge

Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil. 1 Peter 3:10

A noted author and speaker asked his audience if they could go 24 hours without criticizing or saying an unkind word to or about another person. The people snickered and shook their heads admitting they could not do it. He smiled gently and said, "If you cannot go 24 hours without drinking, you are an alcoholic. If you cannot go 24 hours without smoking, you are addicted to nicotine. If you cannot go 24 hours without saying an unkind word, you have lost control of your tongue." Immediately, I thought of the verse in James that says, "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless."

Quite honestly, I did not like what this challenge revealed about myself. I thought I was a decent person, but I learned that, in the words of James, I had deceived myself as I often vocalized my thoughts about other people. This challenge also opened my eyes to the conversations around me. Do you realize that close to half of what we talk about is other people? People in traffic, people on TV, people in the community. Try it and see. Just take a minute and listen. What are the people around you discussing? Who was the last person you talked about? It is a bit of a sobering thought.

As any good counselor will tell you, you cannot fix the problem until you admit there is a problem. So, your challenge is to go 24 hours writing down every time you say anything unkind, critical, or negative about other people. Be honest with yourself because during this 24-hour period of "watching your tongue" you may catch yourself "just in time" and refrain from verbalizing your thoughts.

So, if half of our conversations are about other people, what will we fill that void with when we stop talking about them? According to God, we should talk about Him. God said, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. **Talk** about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up," Deut. 6:4-7. Spend the time talking to and about God.

When we were in Israel, I noticed several of the men constantly speaking even if they were walking or standing alone. I asked our guide what they were doing. He said, "Do you know the scripture, 'May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer'? They are meditating on God's word." He told me these men would constantly speak God's word and meditate on scripture as they walked along to keep themselves from being drawn into foolish conversations and the temptations of life. What a great and biblical idea.

So, let's take the challenge this week and let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing in the sight of our Rock and our Redeemer.