

*Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.*

**Psalm 141:3**

## Store In My Heart

### Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

We often consider this verse in regard to the authority of elders, but we must not ignore the plain statement here regarding God as the owner of the Church. He bought it with the precious blood of His Own Son. We need to heed the authority such ownership demands.

This is one of many passages that remind us that we do not own the church. We sometimes hear folks talk about 'my church', but none of us are in full control. We have no authority of our own and must submit in all things to God.

God is Ruler over the Church. We are members as long as we fully submit to His revealed Word in all things.



# “There Are Times To Keep Your Mouth Shut!”

**Kent E. Heaton Sr**

In the long ago, Solomon said, *“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles”* (**Proverbs 21:23**). This is undoubtedly a true statement! Many times, our mouths get us in trouble, don't they? James said that the tongue can *“defile the whole body”* (**James 3:6**). **Proverbs 10:19** states: *“In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.”* Geoffrey Chaucer wisely said, “God in his great discretion walled a tongue with teeth.” Friend, let us be mindful of what the Bible says about the sins associated with speech, and remember that there are times to keep your mouth shut!

When ought you be quiet? Solomon gave some good advice when it comes to controlling speech. You need to be quiet when ...

- You are tempted to talk instead of work: *“In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to poverty”* (**Proverbs 14:23**).
- You are tempted to lie: *“A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies”* (**Proverbs 14:5**).
- You are tempted to joke about sin: *“Fools make a mock at sin ...”* (**Proverbs 14:9**).
- You are tempted to “shoot off at the lip”: *“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter*

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Adene Gray is feeling a bit stronger.

Jon Ross and Amy Simpson are both feeling better.

John and Betty Ragsdale had several doctor appointments last week that left them exhausted and unable to attend mid-week Bible study.

You are missing good studies if you are not attending our regular classes.

Tonight we start in 1Kings 21.

Wednesday we are in 2Timothy 2:24.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.



*any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few” (Ecclesiastes 5:2).*

- You are tempted to curse or slander men: *“Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be” (James 3:9-10).*

Remember, *“Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding” (Proverbs 17:27-28)!* A modern rendering is, *“It is better to keep silent and be considered a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.”*

We can also read James chapter three and see the warnings concerning the tongue. It is *“an unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8).* Can we not see that there are definite times when a person needs to be quiet?

Lest we get the wrong impression, there are also times when a person needs to speak out (*Isaiah 58:1; 2Timothy 4:2;* etc.). Jesus told His disciples, *“What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops” (Matthew 10:27).* Let us never be ashamed of the gospel (*Romans 1:16*). Let us speak up and speak out when it comes to telling the truth to people and bringing the lost to Christ! However, there are also times when silence is the best answer for the situation. Let us not get those times confused!

(Many of the difficulties I have had in life could probably be traced back to speaking when I should have been silent or being silent when I should have spoken. I suspect many of us have such situations in our background that we wish had gone differently. As this article relates, Scripture has more than enough instruction to help with this problem.

I want to emphasize his last paragraph. Many in the world would love for us to be silent on a number of things, but Scripture is just a clear in telling us to speak against evil and wickedness. We must stand up and speak out regarding what God has revealed.)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!