

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps - Lesson 24
The Sin of Profanity

return pages 7 & 8

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works* In this lesson it is our hope that at least one of these admonishments above will take root in your heart. If you have been a Christian for any length of time, you are very familiar with Hebrews 12. While our subject is not the theme of Hebrews 12, there are a few verses that will act as a spring board into our subject. Hebrews 12:1-3 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.* We will focus our attention on this phrase from verses one. *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us*, from this verse we will focus our attention. There is a sin within each of us that does in fact so easily beset us. I am sure that you know what that sin is for you, but if not, ask your spouse, or ask the Lord in sincerity, and He will reveal it to you. In Romans 7:24, even Paul the Apostle had a sin that just seemed to grab his attention at times when he least expected. Romans 7:24 *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?* Paul confessing would then say Roman 7:25 *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

We are so fortunate that we can run to our Lord when we know we have sinned. He is our advocate 1 John 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:* I am saved, forgiven, pardoned, justified; but from now until Christ comes and makes us like himself, we all struggle with sin. It is a fact, according to the Bible, that temptation is common to all born again believers 1 Corinthians 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* It is also a fact that we all do not face the same temptations or sins. There may be sins you struggle with that I've never struggled with and vice versa. The scripture tells us in James 1:14-15 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath*

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conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Yet, we are all very much the same and easily beset by sin. It is also a fact that if a sin is common to you, that you have no excuse to hold on to that sin. Saying something like, "Well the Lord understands me. Because I have had such a bad life, that I am allowed to lose my tempter because it keeps me strong." NO! That is an excuse, and it is still sin in the eyes of a Holy God.

Hebrews 12 calls upon each one of us to lay aside the sin that does so easily beset us. You cannot run the Christian race and hold on to your sin. You cannot serve the Lord and make excuses for your sin. Never think God is OK with your sin; He is not. This is a basic Bible principle that has lost its effectiveness in our modern society. Sin and Christianity are not compatible. God wants us to look at sin the same way that He does. God wants us to call it sin, own up to it, acknowledge it, and then repent of it, putting it aside, never to pick it back up again.

There is a particular sin that we would like to discuss, a sin that is increasingly prevalent in our society. The sin of profanity - cussing, cursing, swearing, crass language, inappropriate language, filthy language, dirty language, racial slurs, innuendo. If this is your besetting sin, then it is time for you to deal with it because God is not well pleased with that which comes out of your mouth. James 3:10-11 *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*

Filthy language is the way of the world; that is the way they talk. Somehow, they think that it brings emphasis to what they are saying, but what it actually does is show those who are within ear shot of their words just how unlearned and ignorant they are, that they do not know the proper use of English vocabulary. Most people would never talk that way in church, so it can be controlled.

A simple definition of profanity is ***strong words used by weak people***. George Washington said this, "The foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing, swearing, is a vice so mean and low that every person of sense and character detests and despises it." A Christian who cannot get through a bad day, a traffic jam, or a moment of intense fellowship with a spouse, a boss or a coworker, without letting one of these words slip, certainly needs to allow the Holy Spirit control that part of their lives.

Back in the old days, you could actually drive down the street and see billboards that did not have cuss words used in their advertisement. Nowadays, the street, TV, livestream, YouTube, and supermarket are littered with foul language. Vulgar language is practically everywhere - on bumper stickers, tee-shirts, even on tattoos.

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Have you ever tasted soap? There was a time when I used a cuss word in the presence of my Mother, and she introduced me to the taste. It kept me from talking that trash while I was growing up; but today, in the 21st. century, that would be considered child abuse. You can't go to the store and buy groceries without hearing people cuss. Even professionals are getting in the swing of things. Sadly, I have been in churches and heard the preacher cuss. What is a Christian supposed to do? The Lord told His Father not to take us out of the world, John 17:15 *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.* Why? Our mission field is the world, and even though we have to be around them every day, we do not have to be like them. What we have is far better than what they have, and that should reflect upon our lives in the way we live and act. Philippians 2:15 *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

What is God's position regarding profanity? Ephesians 4:17-20 *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ;* Stop living like you used to live. Do not pattern your life after heathen who do not know God. Jesus Christ saved your soul; He forgave your sins. Your life should reflect that of being a child of the Living God. Stop talking about the old life. Stop reminding yourself of how things were in the past. The good ole days are over. (Why do we call them so, they were never good.) They have been washed in the precious blood of the Lamb. Ephesians 4:22 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;* Stop doing things the way you used to do them, and start doing things the way God wants you to do them. Be a reflection of the Holy God that lives inside of you. The past is gone, and there is no need for us to think about it anymore, Philippians 3:13-14 *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Included in the list of things that God expects from a born again child of God are as follows (Ephesians 4:25-32): stop lying, get your anger under control, don't steal, let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, speak only that which is good to the use of edifying, speak that which will administer grace to the hearers, grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby we are sealed till the day of redemption, let all bitterness, wrath and anger and

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clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. Be kind, one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake, has forgiven you.

Focus back on Ephesians 4:29 ***Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*** Ephesians 4:31 ***Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*** Profanity is a sin. It is a sin against God every time a cuss word comes out of your mouth. Here is what most Christian people do - they don't use "that word", they just use the word in its closest proximity with the same number of syllables and the same starting letter. If you say it fast enough and loud enough, it might just be the same one. That is a sin too. It is a sin when you say it, text it, or post it. Even if you just use the initials, "O.M.G." that is a sin ***Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth*** or off your fingers onto the screen. Just stop! Why is it a sin? It is a sin because God is holy, and we're supposed to reflect His character by being different from the heathen. We are not to use dirty language, filthy language, profane and crude language. The Bible says our words ought to be for the use of edifying, administering grace to the hearers. "Corrupt" is an interesting Bible word. It has many definitions. It is used here as an adjective; but as a verb, "to corrupt" means to waste, to spoil, to defile, to pollute, to pervert, to render impure. "To corrupt" means to deprave, to change from good to bad.

The Bible uses words like hell, damn, bastard, ass. Often these words are spoken in the company of non-believers, and it is not uncommon to hear them chuckle, laugh, or blush. You know why, because the devil has taken something that is good and turned it into something that is bad. God said everything He had made was good. Everything. Wheat is good, rye is good, barley is good. Corn is good. Grapes are good. So you know what the devil does? He takes those good things and corrupts them, ferments them into all kinds of wickedness. How many times have you heard people say when witnessing that if everything was good when God created it, what's wrong with smoking marijuana? The devil takes it and turns it into ways of wickedness. Yes, God made it but not for that purpose. God created marriage a special relationship that a husband and wife are to enjoy within the context of marriage. It is not dirty; it is very good. The devil will twist it, perverted it, and corrupt it. The devil will take something that is honorable to God and turn it into something dishonorable.

Ephesians 5:1-4 ***Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh***

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saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

If it is your choice to be recognized as a follower of Christ, let none of these sins ever be a part of your life, not ever - ***fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting,*** Brother, Sister, the next time you are tempted to cuss, thank God instead. God said, "Don't talk foolishly, don't be filthy, give thanks," Ephesians 5:6. ***Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*** God is not happy with that type of behaviour. He judges people for this Ephesians 5:7-8 ***Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:***

Do not do the things that cause God to judge you. You are saved; you are supposed to be different. Ephesians 5:10-12 ***Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.*** People are just not ashamed anymore. The Old Testament contains the reference, "neither could they blush" (Jeremiah 6:15) In today's world, conversation about private parts of your body are common place. Everything is wide open. You can talk about anything, and it is acceptable to those who listen. These things should not be.

There was a time in our past when it was shocking for someone to use the Lord's name in vain. In Leviticus 24:10-15, An Israelitish woman's son was eventually killed by the congregation with stones because he blasphemed the name of the Lord. Using the Lord's name as a cuss word is a very serious offense to God. God warns us three times not to do that. Exodus 20:7 ***Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*** Deuteronomy 5:11 ***Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*** Psalms 139:20-22 ***For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.***

By now we should all know what God says about cussing, wicked talk, foolish jesting, and using the Lord's name in vain. It is sin, and it comes with consequences.

One last very important point. Take heed what you hear, see, or touch. Leviticus 5:1 ***And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.*** The passage very clearly says if you hear cursing or swearing, you will bear the iniquity. What is iniquity? A sin, but a sin that can take up

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residence in your heart, deep in your heart, and the only way that it can be purged is by mercy and truth (Proverbs 16:). Iniquity will prevent God from hearing your prayers (Psalm 66:18). A simple definition is iniquity is being prejudiced; keeping a deep dark secret of an offence in your heart that you never let out until an appropriate time; holding a grudge. It is a secret sin that no one knows about you. God knows, Psalms 90:7-9 *For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.* The results of holding on to your iniquity will be devastating to your Christian life unless you stop, repent, confess, and ask God's mercy to remove it from your heart.

- Protect your ears.

Be very careful about what you listen too. You are accountable for what you hear.

Proverbs 19:27 *Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.*

Ecclesiastes 7:5 *It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.*

- Protect your eyes

Psalms 101:3 *I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.*

- Protect your life by not touching or participating in that which is evil

2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

The devil has managed to create an attraction that easily draws in all three of the areas of our life, and we really need to protect them. The TV will teach you to be a republican or democrat, a white supremacist or not, a lover of a sports team or not. The TV holds the carrot of the world in front of us with its' greed for the love of money. The attraction of alcohol with its glitter and glory, showing you the pictures of profit, hearing the words of excitement, and the encouragement to participate in their activities. You may never do anything that is advertised, but it gets in your heart, and it will come out when you least expect it. Leviticus 5:1b *...whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.*

The Bible exhorts us with practical instructions for us to keep our minds clean from the world's evils. Here are just a few: Read the Bible (Psalm 119:18). Memorize Scripture (Psalm 119:11). Meditate on scripture (Joshua 1:8). What we are to think about (Philippians 4:8) Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Sing songs to yourselves (Ephesians 5:19). Witness (Acts 1:8; 26:16)

After you have done all this, if you are still having a problem with this besetting sin, you may consider fasting and praying, seeking God's help.

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Filling in the Gaps - Lesson 24
The Sin of Profanity

Name _____

Note: (*) An asterisk indicates must include scripture with your answers.

1. What is your besetting sin?
2. What has foul language done to our society?
3. How does God hold us accountable for what we hear? *
4. How does 1 Timothy 3:16 tie into what this Bible lesson has been teaching?
5. What kind of people are tempted? *
6. How does discussion of the old life effect your new life in Christ? *
7. Why was the son killed by the congregation in the book of Leviticus? *
8. What are the three areas of our lives that we need to protect?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
9. What is the definition of iniquity? *

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10. What sin concerning himself did God tell us three times not to do? *
11. What one tool is best used by the devil in convincing you to be active in his evils?
12. Discuss the definition of Leviticus 5:1 and Hebrews 12:1-3
13. What are three ways we can keep our heart and mind on that which is pleasing to our Saviour? *
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

True/false

- Protecting our heart begins with our eyes, our ears, and our touch.
- It is OK to think profanity, just as long as it does not come out of your mouth.
- If you use God's name as a cuss word, you can expect judgment. *
- Profanity is used by unlearned and ignorant people who do not understand English vocabulary.
- The Bible will teach you how to talk properly.

**Scripture memorization**

Hebrews 12:1; James 3:10-11; Philippians 2:15

Write out these verses on the back on this page or a separate piece of paper:

(must be in KJV)

any questions?