

# F. Y. C.

**For Your Consideration**

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## Recording Sight and Sound

Just about every home today has numerous electronic devices that are capable of recording sight and sound. Yet long before the electronic age, most homes already had recording devices. What were they, you ask? The answer: “children.”

The ears of a child are sensitive instruments which hear ordinary conversations, incidental remarks, and everything else that is said within their hearing. Their eyes see every action, witness every event, observing all that goes on around them. These instruments which are capable of capturing sight and sound store the information in highly impressionable minds. The recorded words and actions are often replayed in the lives of the children, sometimes to the dismay of the parents.

“Be careful what you say and do” is sound advice for parents. Actually, that’s good advice for all of us. Quite often other people “record” what we say and do and emulate us. We shall never know the full extent of our influence in the lives of others. But it’s probably much more than we realize.

**Consider this: Someone else is recording what we say and do.**

*“And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.”*

Matthew 12:36-37

*“For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God . . . so then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.”*

Romans 14:10-12

*“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:16

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**FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT**

**Knowing what is *none* of your business is just as important as knowing what is.**

*But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.*

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

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# THE LONG HAUL

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, *“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”*

This young man had spent considerable time traveling with the Apostle. Instructed in the ways of the Lord by Paul, he was about to continue on without his mentor. Continue how long? For the rest of his life!

The long haul. It’s part of life. We have to persevere in many things while waiting for the results of our efforts.

Many continue to pay for an automobile for 4 or 5 years after purchasing it. The payments continue long after the excitement and thrill of owning a new car have waned.

Men and women join the military with thoughts of retiring after 20 years of service. They soon find out that military life can be hard at times, but they persevere to reach their goal of retirement.

House payments often last for 30 years. Month after month the payment must be made, and very little goes on the principal at first. But the hope of building equity or someday paying off the loan causes people to persevere.

## HANGING IN THERE

The concept of ‘hanging in there’ is a part of life. Therefore, it should not shock us to realize it’s a major part of living for the Lord. The results of serving the Lord comes at the end, not the beginning. Rewards are the fruit of our faithful labor.

Nothing of great value comes instantly. Our heavenly reward comes later. Our task is to persevere. If we do not, we will lose out. *Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.*<sup>2</sup>

But we must not view it with dread (“if I have to”), but rather we should glory in the fact that we have the privilege of serving the Lord: willing to spend and be spent for the Him. No matter what we endure, or how long we persevere, the results far outweigh our travail.

## ADMONITION

*Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Timothy 4:16

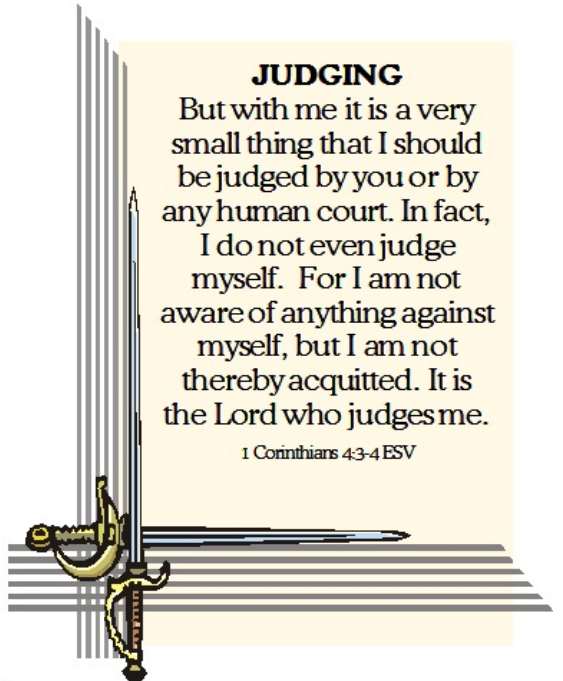
<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 9:26-27

<sup>3</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

## JUDGING

*But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.*

1 Corinthians 4:3-4 ESV



# Listening to Yourself

Years ago, when tape recorders were still a novelty, someone decided to hide a microphone in a room where guests would gather. The plan was that, later, during the time refreshments would be served, the tape would be played back to the amusement of all.

At the scheduled time, the tape recorder was brought out. The guests were eager to hear themselves. However, as the tape was playing, grins soon turned grim, and laughter was replaced with soberness. What happened? Everyone was hearing themselves as they actually sounded, and it didn't sound good.

Now, everyone finds their voice sounding "strange" when it is played back on a recorder. But it wasn't the strangeness of their voices that took the joy out of this gathering. What took them back was what they said and how they said it. They didn't realize how they sounded to others.

They had no idea how harsh their words were at times. How insensitive they were to the feelings of others. How self-centered their comments were. In short, they hadn't been listening to themselves talk. Humbled and humiliated, the guests left with a fresh understanding of how they sounded to others.

## LISTEN TO YOURSELF!

Often, we think of ourselves as speaking in a forthright manner, but if we listened to ourselves we may hear painfully blunt words. We perceive ourselves as merely passing on information, but if we listen to ourselves, we might hear only gossip. Often what is thought to be frank speech sounds harsh and cruel to the listener. We may

think we are speaking with a velvet tongue, when literally we are wielding a sword.

It is imperative to keep the listeners in mind. How will it sound to them? How will it affect them? If I were in their place, how would I receive it? These questions must be foremost in our minds. Kindness must be on our tongue. "And so, as those *who have been chosen of God,*

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*Let your speech  
always be with  
grace, seasoned, as  
it were, with salt, so  
that you may know  
how you should  
respond to each  
person.*

Colossians 4:6

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*holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."* Colossians 3:12



Perchance someone reading this article may entertain the thought that I had them in mind. I can confidently say, I did not. The impetus for this article came from an occasion when I stopped to listen to myself. It was a jarring "ear-opening" experience. I had no idea how I sounded until I took the time to listen to myself. I didn't like

what I heard. Listening to yourself is one sobering and humbling exercise, but without a doubt, a necessary one!

## Consider This!

### **Talebearing Can Cause Much Hurt**

*He who goes about as a talebearer  
reveals secrets, but he who is  
trustworthy conceals a matter.*

Proverbs 1:13



# Ponder This Osmosis

One definition of this word is: A gradual, often unconscious process of assimilation or absorption. Associating with ungodly people can cause one to gradually become involved, almost imperceptibly, and eventually be like them.

## Admonitions

*Do not associate with a man given to anger;  
Or go with a hot-tempered man,  
Lest you learn his ways,  
And find a snare for yourself.*  
Proverbs 22:24-25

*Do not answer a fool according to his folly,  
lest you also be like him.*  
Proverbs 26:4

## Notice the gradual progression in Psalms 1:1

*How blessed is the man who does not  
walk in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the path of sinners,  
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!*



**WALK with**  
**STAND with**  
**SIT with**



**LISTEN** – counsel of the wicked  
**FOLLOW** – path of sinners  
**JOIN** – seat of scoffers



## WORD STUDY

enhance your  
Bible knowledge

## Edify

To instruct especially so as to encourage intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement.

– American Heritage Dictionary

**Edify:** (greek: **oikodome** denotes (a) “the act of building.” Used figuratively in the New Testament in the sense of edification, the promotion of spiritual growth. –Vines

## We edify (build up, encourage) by...

### DOING GOOD TO OTHERS

*Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.*  
Romans 15:2

### WHOLESOME SPEECH

*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*  
Ephesians 4:29

### SINGING AND TEACHING

*What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.*  
1 Corinthians 14:26

### SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTION

*For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*  
Romans 15:4

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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