

We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

Thank you for being our Guest today!



This is not the kind of Christian God is calling us to be!

For more information as to what I mean go to the Q and A section...



# Dolphin Talk

David Everson

Dolphins are members of a very unique group of animals in which God has instilled some truly amazing abilities. They are in a group of animals called "Toothed whales" or Odontocetes that have the ability to communicate in ways that defy any explanation other than a Divine Creator. Let's look at just a little of what God has created in these mammals.

Dolphins use their communication abilities for sound production and reception, for navigation in dark and murky waters, and for food location. The variety of clicks, moans, trills, grunts, squeaks, and whistles are made without vocal cords. The voice box, or larynx, of the toothed whales does lack vocal cords, but does appear to be able to create some of the sounds. They also have a region called the *nasal sacs*. This area has special structures called *sphincter muscles* that are involved in sound production. The sounds themselves are probably made when air is moved in the wind pipe and the nasal sacs. During some vocalizations, the dolphin will release air from the blow hole, but most scientists believe this is for visual effect and not necessarily connected to making the sound.

The sounds are produced in the frequency range from 0.25 to 150 hertz. It seems that this wide range of pitch is used by dolphins for various jobs. The lowest ranges seem to be reserved for social communications and most are in the 40 hertz region. The highest frequencies in the 40 to 150 hertz clicks are probably used primarily for something called *echolocation*. This process allows the toothed whales and other marine mammals to "see" with their "ears" as the clicks are reflected back to structures on their head that allow them to tell what is out in front of them.

The forehead of the dolphin has an area called the *melon*, and it seems to act as an acoustical lens to focus the sound waves into a narrow beam. This then travels out into the water at almost 1 mile per second. The beam then bounces off objects ahead of the dolphin and returns as echoes, where it is picked up by the fat-filled lower jawbones. This sound is then conducted into the middle and then inner ear for being heard in the auditory center of the brain.

The dolphin appears to recognize by hearing its favorite types of food, and maybe even "see" a mental image of the food quality of the fish it is considering for food. This unique set of organs for communicating and "seeing" gives these animals unmatched talking ability.

While it seems to most zoologists that there is no language for the dolphins, they can identify each other with unique signature whistles. Mothers whistle almost continuously for several days to their calves after giving birth to help the calves identify and locate their mother in a very large ocean.

The females in the dolphin species are also impressive in the fact that they can create small, self-organized networks. These networks seem to be able to transfer information about their environment and other communications. They are as complex as any group of animals that God has created and almost as sophisticated as any human network or Internet network.

Let us praise God for the marvelous creation we can see in the word He made for us and love and serve Him all of the days of our lives.



If we expire when we die, should we not inspire when we live?

# Hindering the Gospel

## Steve Higginbotham

The story is told of a preacher who once preached in an old-fashioned tent revival. During this revival, a couple of young men decided to harass the preacher, hoping that he would pack up and leave town. So, one night after the preacher had started into his sermon, one of these young men stood up, interrupted the service and yelled out, "Hey preacher! What's the difference between a preacher and a fool?" Without missing a beat, the preacher responded by saying, "You two come up here and stand beside me a moment and I think the audience can see the difference." –It wasn't the preacher who packed up and left.

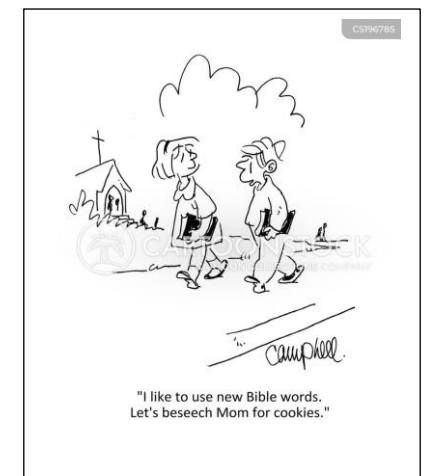
Of course, while we may get a chuckle out of the story, hindering the Gospel is no laughing matter. While we would never stand up and so rudely attempt to impede the Gospel, we may be guilty of hindering it in other, more subtle ways.

Do you think one is helping the Gospel when one:

- Misses worship services, not because of some compelling reason, but for the simple fact that the assembly of the saints is not high on his priority list?
- Fails to attend Bible classes, where he can learn more of God's word, or if he is knowledgeable, help others to learn more of God's Word?
- Criticizes the preacher and song leader for their subpar weekly "performance"?
- Whispers and passes notes all through worship, while refusing to join in the songs, prayers and Bible lesson?
- Gossips about someone?
- When one dresses provocatively and challenges the purity of those in his or her presence?

You see, my point is that one doesn't have to stand up in the middle of church and interrupt a worship service to hinder the Gospel of Christ. There are many subtle ways that one can hinder the Gospel without really realizing that his is what he is doing.

Brethren, give care and attention to your lives. Don't allow yourself to unwittingly be used as a tool of Satan to hinder the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Consider this thought: If today God chose to strike blind, as he did in Acts 13:6-11, all of us who were hindering the Gospel, would you need someone to help you read this article?



## This Week's Q&A

### Q: What is that in the picture on the front?

A: The picture on the front is of a Kallima Inachus. It is a butterfly that pretends to be a dead leaf. This type of butterfly has a wide range of habitat stretching from India to Japan and is one of the best examples of animal camouflage in nature. Our God has created some magnificent little critters, and this is a great little gem. This butterfly when being chased by a predator bird or feels in danger will begin to fly erratically and suddenly fall to the forest foliage and remain motionless with its eyes closed. That way the bird will be unable to find it. The butterfly even has what looks like veins of a leaf under its wings. This is what it looks like with its wings closed. God doesn't want us to be invisible. He wants us to be a light shining in/into the darkness.

"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." Matt 4:16.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt 5:14-16

Where will you be seated in eternity- smoking or non-smoking?

# Being a Servant

## Gary C. Hampton

Paul proclaimed Jesus as the ultimate example of a servant. He followed that example in serving the church in Philippi. He was able to broaden his service to the various churches by sending faithful messengers to them, such as Timothy, whom he trusted to check on the welfare of the church at Philippi. Timothy would deliver word from Paul to them and report back the things he had seen in the church. Paul expected the report to be good, as he said it would comfort him (Philippians 2:1-19).

Timothy was the one upon whom Paul could depend to be concerned for the welfare of the church (Philippians 2:20). He told the Corinthian brethren, **“Now if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do”** (I Corinthians 16:10). Paul’s confidence in Timothy can be seen as he described him as a fellow worker. **“true son in the faith”** and a brother who had preached among the Corinthians (Romans 16:21; I Timothy 1:2, 18; 2 Timothy 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1, 19).

Concern for the church at Thessalonica drove Paul to choose to be left alone in Athens and send **“Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith”** (I Thessalonians 3:12). Others sought only their own personal gain, but Timothy, like a coin or precious metal that had been proven genuine, was known as one who loved the church dearly as Paul, his father in the faith. The apostle planned to send him to Philippi as soon as Paul knew how his trial would go. He believed in God’s providence and felt sure he would soon be released so he could visit Philippi firsthand (Philippians 2:21-24).

Each of us can make a difference by displaying the heart of a servant. Let us focus on the welfare of others and sacrifice to provide their needs.

The best vitamin for a Christian is B-1.

Second Street

Church of Christ

P.O. Box 126  
260 Second Street  
Belmont, MS 38827  
662-454-9429 building

Mail me to  
someone  
who might  
read me!