

Slander and Judgment

Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people ..."(Bible Commentary: "A **talebearer** is not just a gossip, but a slanderer, actively seeking to destroy another's reputation." (Lev. 19:16)

For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. (11) He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. (12) For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." (1 Pe. 3:10-12)

The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. (Psa. 5:5)

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment. (2) A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart. ("Pro 18:1)

"Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful" (Rom 1:31)

God, who is enthroned forever, will hear them and afflict them - Selah men who never change their ways and have no fear of God. (20) My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant. (21) His speech is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords. (Psa. 55:19-21)

Hebrew: BAGAD--Mal 2:10 - "Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our fathers by breaking faith [BAGAD] with one another? ... (16b) So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith."

"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." (1 Cor 4:5)

Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses (1 Tim 5:19)

"Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand." (Rom 14:4) If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. (Ja. 1:26)

My slanderers pursue me all day long; many are attacking me in their pride. (Psa. 56:2)

Let slanderers not be established in the land; may disaster hunt down men of violence. (12) I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. (13) Surely the righteous will praise your name and the upright will live before you. (Psa. 140:11-13)

This is the fate of those who trust in themselves, and of their followers, who approve their sayings. (Psa. 49:13)

... especially those ... who despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord." (2 Pe. 2:10-11).

If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man ...And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell ... For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace (Jas 3:2,6, 16-18).

Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts. (4) Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back upon them what they deserve. (5) **Since they show no regard for the works of the Lord and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again.** (Psa. 28:3-5)

Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you to judgment. (Ecc. 11:9)

They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them. (Pro. 28:4)

May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, "The Lord be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant." (Psa. 35:27) ... For you have heard my vows, O God; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name (Psa. 61:5)

Our prayer will continue to be:

My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. (16) Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. (17) Let me not be put to shame, O Lord, for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave. (18) Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous. (19) How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. (20) In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men; in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues. (21) Praise be to the Lord, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city. (22) In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!" Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help. (23) Love the Lord, all his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full. (24) Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. (Psa. 31:15-32:2)