

"The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself." Ecclesiastes 10:12



THE MAN WHO SWALLOWED HIMSELF

By Rev. Charles Svoboda

INTRODUCTION

The world has seen some outstanding magicians down through the years, magicians with outstanding abilities, daring performers. There have been the common run of magicians and the unusual, the magician who seemingly saws a woman in half or the magician who vanishes in a puff of smoke. Houdini, perhaps the greatest magician of them all, was known to have himself bound in chains, put into a box, and then be thrown into the river. He would appear free of his chains and quite comfortable.

I don't believe that any magician could top the act in Eccl. 10:12. The man begins with his toes and ends up swallowing his entire self. The Bible does not boast of this feat, but rather calls the man a fool, for after swallowing himself there is nothing left but a - - -

BIG MOUTH

The man in Eccl.10:12 is "Mr. Know It All" or "Chief Running Mouth." Vaccinated with a phonograph needle, he forever talks and ends up swallowing himself. Someone said that the thing most opened up by mistake is the mouth, and that much of the world's trouble is caused by a combination of a narrow mind and a wide mouth. One was overheard to say of such a person that he needed to go in for "open mouth surgery."

The man in Eccl. 10:12 swallowed himself; there are those who swallow up others:

"But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Galatians 5:15

Someone said that if you run others down you will become a lonely person. A teacher related a story of cannibalistic tribes to her pupils, and then to find out if it registered with the children, she asked, "Johnny, if you were to eat your mother and father, what would you be?" Instead of saying a cannibal, he said, "An orphan." Johnny missed the teacher's point, but invented another good one. We can become orphans without friends because of having devoured them through gossip, unjust criticism, etc.

The great need of the day is for:

I. MOUTHS THAT WILL CRY OUT A PRAYER FOR SALVATION:

... "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30

"For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

-- God hears the vilest of sinners when one cries out for salvation.

- We do the calling, God does the saving.
- One need not issue an audible call, for even if the thief on the cross would have had his lips taped, God would have heard his call from the heart – Jer 17:10.
- Prayer releases the energies of God.

II. MOUTHS THAT WILL CRY OUT A PRAYER OF REDEDICATION:

"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalm 19:13-14

-- Salvation just once, rededication of self to God many times as God convicts us as believers of sin in our lives.

- A great sweeping in of souls to God for salvation will occur when God's children first get right with God and one another.
- A prayer of rededication of self to Him is needed.

III. MOUTHS THAT WILL CRY OUT A PRAYER OF EXALTATION:

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord!" Psalm 150:6

Billy Sunday said, "More Christians ought to yank out groans and shove in some praises in their prayers."

- Do you believe God is still in control? If not, you may as well join the 'God is Dead' movement. See Luke 18:27 and Psalms 24:1.
- Are you lifting up your praise to Him or to man? Are you depending on Him or man? The middle verse of the Bible put there with infinite accuracy is: *Psalms 118:8 "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."*
- Isn't that a beautiful verse? Do you believe it? If so, then lift up your heart in exaltation to Him every day.

SALVATION ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ REDEDICATION ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ EXALTATION

is the need of our day in this sin-sick world.

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