

“HUME’S HAPPENINGS”

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Greetings brethren ,

Thank you for your support , it is very much appreciated . Following is my report for **December 2024** .

EARLY REPORT !

I am sending this report three days early because tomorrow (Sunday 29th December) Jackie and I are driving to north west Tasmania (about 90 minutes) right after worship to spend a week there .

The purpose for this trip is because our brother - in - law (he married Jackie’s sister) has been accepted into a nursing home near where his daughter lives . He is very well physically , but has serious dementia , and early in our married life we ate every Sunday evening dinner in his home , then we have had no contact with him for thirty years .

When he was initially admitted into hospital in my city , doctors and nurses told us he was non - verbal and remembers no - one . Jackie went into his bedside with the head nurse and Jackie gave him a kiss and said , “*Do you know who I am*” ? He smiled and said , “*Yes , Jackie , how is Barry , he is a good man*” . The head nurse said , “*That is amazing , he cannot talk*” .

When it was my turn to go into his bedside , the head nurse said , “*Can I bring some nurses in with you to see what his reaction is*” ? I walked to his bed , he looked at me and smiled and whispered “*Barry*” and reached out and took my hand and would not let it go .

I said to him , “*We had some good times together Charlie , in the three homes you lived in*” , and he said , “*Yes , I liked Kerren Crescent best*” . The nursing staff standing at the end of his bed were stunned and speechless .

Two weeks ago he was taken to north west Tasmania so that his daughter can visit him every day , and after he had settled in , Jackie and I drove the 90 minutes to visit him in his new “home” . When we walked into his room , he gave us the biggest smile , and said “*Hello*” . When it was time for Jackie and I

to drive back to Launceston , we asked him , *“Would you like us to visit you again” ?* He grabbed my hand and squeezed it and said , *“Yes , please do”* .

His doctors are amazed and believe he has “short term memory loss” whereby he can remember things from thirty plus years ago , but still only recognizes Jackie and I , and his daughter , but has no memory of anything or anyone else .

So Jackie and I are going to reside near his nursing home for a week and visit him every day , then when we return to my city we will try to visit him once a fortnight .

ANDREW RETURNS TO APARTMENT .

Last month I reported on the Eastside brother who has a quadruple heart bypass operation , lived in our “brethren’s apartment” for three weeks , then his sister arrived from Western Australia and moved with Andrew into his wilderness cabin for a week .

When she returned to Western Australia she convinced Andrew he was not recuperated enough to live on his own , so he moved back into our apartment for two weeks . He then decided he was right to “go home” , but after four days he moved back into our apartment again for the THIRD time .

He found it difficult to live alone in a wilderness setting (especially at night) knowing he was some distance away from our city and doctors when our apartment is about five minutes from both . His heart and chest are still healing from the major operation and every pain is more traumatic knowing he is isolated , as opposed to knowing Jackie and I are just above him when he is in the apartment .

So , he is back with us for who knows how long . He is no trouble at all , he prepares his own meals , and has the comfort of knowing that when he drives into our city , and his chest does not feel right , he is only five minutes away from Jackie and I , and does not have to drive a considerable distance to his forest cabin to find a bed .

QUEENSLAND BRETHREN VISIT .

This month a middle aged sister in Christ from a Brisbane congregation (Helen) who has worshipped at Eastside twice a year for about ten years (while visiting her favourite Auntie) for the first time arrived at Eastside with her husband Steve .

We always rejoice when Helen walks in the door , and it was great to finally meet Steve , who had not been to Tasmania before and he was “blown away” by

the beauty of our island state , so much so that he and Helen are seriously considering moving here to live .

Naturally we emphasized the wisdom of locating in / around our city and placing membership at Eastside (Ha) .

NEW PROJECT .

Early this year our visitor's book at Eastside became full , necessitating the purchase of a new one and starting again , so I have decided to scan through our old visitor's book and contact every visitor at Eastside for the past ten years .

My plan is to thank them again for worshipping with us , and inviting them to do so again . I also plan to offer to mail to them free of charge leaflets re New Testament Christianity , DVD's , and my Bound Lesson booklets on a monthly basis . I will also offer them private "one on one" Bible studies if they would like me to visit their homes .

CHERYL HAS AN OPERATION

Cheryl Clarke , an Eastside member was rushed to hospital and after tests , surgeons removed her Gall Bladder and did something re her pancreas . This past week Jackie drove her from the hospital back home to her unit .

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY .

This month Jackie and I attended the end of year for grade six students graduation assembly at the school where we meet for church services . This assembly is attended by state and Federal politicians , business leaders , prominent members of the community , and many parents and friends of the students .

Each year at this assembly , Jackie and I present an award each to a student , with the award winners and presenters listed in a nicely printed official program . Our awards in the program state , "*From the , members of the Eastside church*" (not from the Eastside church) . These awards are not paid for out of the church treasury , but from private contributions of the Eastside members .

Every year at the assembly , some politician or business leader will ask the Principle of the school , "*What is the Eastside church of Christ , where are they located*" etc , and the Principle will introduce Jackie and I to the person and we have opportunity to tell them all about the church .

BENEVOLENCE BASKETS .

On the morning of the school assembly Jackie and I delivered the last two washing baskets of groceries (for 2024) to the Principle of the school , and he gave them to two needy families that he chose .

He made a point of telling us of the emotional response from the families he chose to receive these benevolence baskets .

This year we distributed six (6) grocery baskets . This program has no connection with the work of the Eastside church or the treasury of the congregation , but rather is an initiative of our individual members .

Each Tuesday evening when brethren come to our home for dinner before the 7pm - 8 pm Bible Class , they bring items of groceries and place them in the washing baskets .

When these two baskets are overflowing , Jackie covers them with colorful see - through paper , each with a card that says , "*From the members of the Eastside church*" (not from the Eastside church) , and we deliver them to the Principle .

Jackie then buys two new baskets , places them in our lounge room where the brethren can see them , and the process starts again .

LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN DECEMBER .

Most of my Bible class and sermon subjects take several weeks to cover due to the nature of the Eastside members who need constant repetition , detailed explanations , and mutual discussions among brethren re personal applications of Biblical principles in their lives .

Also , I encourage members to ask questions re anything they do not understand or even something that is a side issue to what we are actually studying at the time .

Thus it is very rare for me to ever complete a lesson in one Bible class .

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS .

December 1 - "*The Virgin Birth of Christ*" .
8 - "*The Virgin Birth of Christ*" .
15 - "*The Life of Christ*" .
22 - "*The Life of Christ*" .
29 - "*Resurrection of Christ (the empty tomb)*" .

SUNDAY SERMONS .

December 1 - "*Excuses , Excuses*" .
8 - "*How far will you go*" .
15 - "*Is our work worth the effort*" .
22 - "*A tale of two kings*" ?
29 - "*God was a carpenter*" .

MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

December 3 - Viktor taught **Revelation 2** .
10 - Viktor taught **Revelation 3** .
17 - Viktor taught **Revelation 4** .
24 - Viktor taught **Revelation 5** .
31 - Viktor taught **Revelation 6** .

Following is a repeat of the items that form the basis of my activities each month .

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES .

Set up school :

Jackie and I arrive about one hour early on Sunday morning along with two other members and we set up an "auditorium" in the gymnasium of the Ravenswood Heights Primary School .

"Friend day" lunch :

At our house for brethren and visitors after Sunday worship on the second or third Sunday in the month .

Midweek Bible Class :

Continues to be at my house .

Study periods :

Preparing sermons and Bible classes for Eastside's meetings .

Lesson booklets :

Ongoing typing , photocopying , stapling , and binding of new and replacement booklets for requests , and for display at our church meetings .

Study packs :

Ongoing photocopying , stapling , and packaging of these as time permits .

Letterboxing :

Jackie and I make every effort to continue this project on a weekly basis , but often a lack of time does not allow this to happen .

Thank you once again for your wonderful support , please visit us if you ever get the opportunity to do so ,

Yours in Christ ,

Barry Hume

P . S . “CHARACTERISTICS OF A FOOL”

I have attached another one of my sermons for you to see how and what I preach

CHARACTERISTICS OF A FOOL

INTRODUCTION

A . MISCONCEPTION OF MANY .

Today , in our world of political correctness , Satan has deceived many into believing that it is rude and un - Christlike to call somebody a fool , or to even have an opinion that somebody is a fool .

Well , the Bible tells us that Jesus never sinned , and that we must emulate Christ in all we think , say , and do - **Heb 4 : 15 2 Cor 10 : 5 Rom 8 : 29 .**

God , the Father , and Jesus both clearly and openly called people fools - **Lk 12 : 20 Matt 23 : 17 .**

Jesus often taught that there are two classes of people , those who are wise , and those who are foolish - **Matt 7 : 24 - 27 .**

We need to avoid being deceived into thinking and speaking as the world dictates , and instead we ought to think and speak as God does - **Col 2 : 8 1 Pet 4 : 11 .**

B . DEFINITION .

The Proverb writer says , *"it is better to be a poor person with integrity than to be a fool"* (**Prov 19 : 1**) , and in the book of Proverbs three Hebrew words are translated as "fool" .

KESIL (49 times) means , *"the opposite to wise"* .

EWIL (19 times) *"one without any sense of proportion or judgment"* .

NABAL (3 times) includes , *"rude"* and *"ill - mannered"* .

Who is a "fool" ?

One who is unwise , lacks sense , or is silly . A person who is rude , ill - mannered , or one who lacks the ability to make sound judgments .

C . WHAT ABOUT US TODAY ?

We have seen in the above scriptures that God (the Father) and Jesus called people "fools", and they did not sin, and we are to emulate them.

It is not wrong for us to make a judgment that someone is a "fool", in the sense that we consider them to be "unwise", "lacking sense", "silly", "rude and ill-mannered", or "lacking the ability to make sound judgments".

We must make such a judgment every day, if we are to obey scripture teaching :

God says we must not

ever associate with fools **Prov 13 : 20 & 14 : 7 .**

Must know how

to answer fools **Prov 26 : 4 - 5 .**

We must avoid hiring fools **Prov 26 : 10 .**

We need to realise that fools are not only found outside of the church . Some brethren in Christ are fools according to God's evaluation .

Also, we do not have to possess all of the following characteristics to be a fool, just one is enough .

Now let us consider the characteristics of a fool,

FOOLS DESPISE

WISDOM AND INSTRUCTION

(PROV 1 : 7)

A . LACK FAITH IN GOD .

Many people who are fools do not believe in God (some fools do, but are foolish in other areas) - **Ps 14 : 1 .**

Because of this lack of faith in God, these fools do not fear the Lord and thus :

They have not ever begun

to have (true) knowledge **Prov 1 : 7 .**

They have not even

begun to be wise **Prov 9 : 10 .**

They do not delight

in any understanding **Prov 18 : 2 .**

They are unlike wise people who, "*understand what the will of the Lord is*" - **Eph 5 : 15 - 17 .**

B . FOOLS AND WISDOM .

The "gate" of a city was where wise men and elders discussed official city business, but fools do not participate because the wisdom discussed is, "too high" for them, it is "over their heads" - **Prov 31 : 23 & 24 : 7**.

Fools do not spread knowledge, because their hearts do not contain such wisdom - **Prov 15 : 7 Matt 12 : 34**.

What should our attitude be toward instruction ? - **Prov 8 : 33 & 2 : 2 & 4 : 1**.

FOOLS WILL NOT LISTEN

TO GOOD ADVICE

(PROV 12 : 15)

A. OUR ATTITUDE TO FOOLS.

Nobody can teach a fool anything because they won't accept that they may be wrong on some point, and note the attitude of a wise person - **Isa 5 : 21 Rom 12 : 16 1 Cor 3 : 18 - 21**.

We must not waste time and efforts on fools who will not

listen to and appreciate advice **Prov 23 : 9**.

Note what Jesus said, and then consider the

Matt 7 : 6

Acts 13 : 45 - 46

example of the apostles **Acts 18 : 5 - 6**.

We all need to appreciate

Prov 11 : 14

the value of good advice **Prov 15 : 22**.

FOOLS DO NOT APPRECIATE

REPROOF AND DISCIPLINE

A. ATTITUDE TO REPROOF.

"Reproof" means, "words of disapproval", "reprimand", "censure", "constructive criticism", "rebuke" etc.

Note two different attitudes

Prov 12 : 1

people have toward reproof **Prov 15 : 31**.

Note different results of people's attitude

Prov 1 : 24 - 33

Prov 15 : 10

toward reproof **Prov 29 : 1 & 19 : 20**.

B. ATTITUDE TO DISCIPLINE.

"Discipline" means, "reprimand", "rebuke", "penalty", or "punishment in order to train or correct".

Note a fool's attitude to discipline, and the result, then consider the opposite attitude and result - **Prov 15 : 5 & 19 : 27 & 15 : 32.**

We need to also be mindful of God's discipline - **Prov 3 : 11 - 12** **Heb 12 : 3 - 11.**

FOOLS DO NOT **PRACTICE SELF - CONTROL**

(PROV 26 : 11)

A. DEFINITION.

"Self - control" means, "*self - restraint*", "*self - discipline*", "*bringing our appetites, desires, and passions into harmony with God's will*", "*willpower*".

It involves control of one's spirit, and self - mastery is the greatest of all victories. Many people have captured cities but were not able to control themselves. - **Prov 16 : 32**

A person without self - control is as defenceless as a city with broken down walls, they are "wide open" to attacks by Satan against the soul, vulnerable to temptation, fleshly lusts, evil passions, sin etc - **Prov 25 : 28.**

B. CONTROL OF TEMPER.

Fools lose control of their temper - **Prov 29 : 11.**

Note the result of an uncontrolled temper :

Causes one to act foolishly **Prov 14 : 17 & 29.**

Causes one to sin **Prov 29 : 22.**

Stirs up strife **Prov 15 : 18.**

We must not associate with foolish, unwise, evil, hot tempered people - **Prov 22 : 24 - 25 & 13 : 20** **1 Cor 15 : 33.**

FOOLS SIN WITH **THEIR TONGUE**

(PROV 15 : 2)

A. SPEECH REVEALS A LOT.

Self - control of our tongue is a sign of wisdom - **Prov 10 : 19 & 17 : 27 - 28.**

OLD SAYING : "*It is better to keep silent so people only think you may be a fool, than to open your mouth and convince them you are*".

Such self - control will guard our soul from trouble and preserve our life - **Prov 13 : 3 & 21 : 23.**

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOL'S SPEECH.

Speaking of things that we know little about **Prov 18 : 2 .**

Rash , hasty speech **Prov 18 : 13 .**

Engaging in quarrels **Prov 20 : 3 .**

Spreading slander **Prov 10 : 18 .**

"Slander" means , *"to make malicious accusations against someone with the intention of defaming or harming their character and reputation"* .

Note what a slanderer does , and consider God's attitude toward such a person - **Prov 16 : 28** **Ps 101 : 5 .**

Thus God classes slander with the worst of sins - **Rom 1 : 28 - 32 .**

C. RESULTS OF FOOL'S SPEECH.

Brings strife , and ruins them , when their hasty and / or quarrelsome mouth gets them into trouble , because a fool says the wrong thing at the wrong time to the wrong person .

Thus a fool will be *"thrown down"* - **Prov 18 : 6 - 7** **Prov 10 : 8 & 10 .**

Just like all other people , fools will give account for every careless word they have spoken - **Matt 12 : 36 - 37 .**

SOME FOOLS LEAN TOWARD
WICKEDNESS AND SIN

A. LIKE A SPORT.

Some fools consider practicing wickedness as being like playing a sport , and things that a wise person will shrink from in horror , a fool will practice with delight , because folly is joy to him who lacks sense - **Prov 10 : 23** **& 15 : 21 .**

B. NOTE THEIR SICK MINDSET.

Not only do they love practicing evil , in their sick minds , it would be an abomination for them to depart from evil - **Prov 13 : 19 .**

They not only practice evil themselves , but also give hearty approval to others who do likewise - **Rom 1 : 21 - 22** **& 28 - 32 .**

C. THEIR ATTITUDE TO SIN.

They mock at sin, instead of seriously considering God's warning - **Prov 14 : 9**
Gal 6 : 7.

FOOLS BLAME GOD

FOR THEIR PROBLEMS

(PROV 19 : 3)

A. CONSIDER DAVID.

David became very angry at God because He had killed Uzzah - **2 Sam 6 : 6 - 8.**

God had commanded that the ark was to be carried by poles inserted into rings at the side of the ark, and God also decreed that the holy objects of the tabernacle were not to be touched - **Ex 25 : 10 - 15** **Num 4 : 15.**

David sinned by carrying the ark on a cart, so the consequences of that sin (Uzzah's death) were David and Uzzah's fault, not God's ! - **2 Sam 6 : 1 - 3.**

B. ADAM BLAMED GOD.

When Adam was confronted by God, he tried to put the blame on God, with the excuse, "*The woman whom Thou gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate*" - **Gen 3 : 11 - 12.**

Note what God says about us sinning - **Jms 1 : 13 - 15.**

ERRONEOUS OPPOSITION

TO THIS LESSON

A. THE PURPOSE FOR THIS LESSON.

Everything I have stated in this lesson so far has been to show from the scriptures that God wants us to recognise and beware of fools, and to ensure we don't become fools.

But every time you take this position, someone will accuse you of being in error because Jesus said in **Matt 5 : 22** that anyone who calls someone a fool is guilty of fiery hell.

These people conveniently ignore the fact that if Jesus is using the word "fool" in **Matt 5 : 22** in the same sense as we have been using it in this lesson, then both God the Father and Christ are guilty of fiery hell !

Before I close this lesson we need to realise that in **Matt 5 : 22** Jesus is not using the word "fool" to refer to someone being unwise.

WHAT JESUS MEANT

IN MATT 5 : 22

A . NOTE THE CONTEXT .

1 . He begins by condemning murder, which is the overt act of killing somebody - vs 21 .

2 . Then He teaches it is just as wrong to harbour ill - feeling toward another person , because hate and anger is murder in the heart - vs 22
1 Jn 3 : 15 .

3 . Jesus then condemns saying "Raca" to a brother (vs 22) . Raca is translated from the Aramaic word RAKA , and **Vines** says , "It was a word of utter contempt , signifying 'empty' intellectually (rather than morally) .

It was worse than being angry , in as much as a vocal utterance is worse than an unexpressed feeling" .

It is a step further than just feeling anger and thinking hateful thoughts , it is expressing in words , hatred felt for someone .

4 . Jesus then condemns calling someone a "fool" (vs 22) and He says the guilty one deserves hellfire .

Many people completely misuse this verse to claim that we must not call people "fools" today . Jesus is not using the term "fool" to refer to foolish people , who make foolish decisions .

B . DEFINITION OF "FOOL" IN VERSE 22 .

"Fool" in vs 22 is from the Greek word , MOROS , and **Vines** says , "It means "morally worthless" , a more serious reproach than Raca . Raca scorns a person's mind and calls them stupid , Moros scorns their heart and character" .

It is not referring to a person as lacking wisdom , but rather , of being morally deficient , lacking any redeeming characteristics , without any good in them .

C . REMEMBER THIS CONTRAST .

A FOOL :

"Is unwise" - "Lacks sense" - "Is silly" - "Is rude and ill - mannered" - "Lacks the ability to make sound judgments" .

If you have irrefutable evidence , considering and calling someone a fool in this sense is authorised . God the Father and Christ called people "fools" in this sense and they never sinned - Lk 12 : 20 Matt 23 : 17 .

A FOOL :

"Morally worthless" - "Scorning a person's heart" - morally deficient - lacking any redeeming characteristics - without any good in them" .

Considering and calling someone a fool in this sense is not authorised , and will result in God's condemnation .

A WARNING

ABOUT OUR SPEECH

A. NOT ALL THINGS ARE EXPEDIENT - 1 Cor 10 : 23 .

Paul teaches that though it is not sinful to eat meat that has been sacrificed to idols, it is not expedient or wise to do so if it wounds someone's conscience or does not edify - vs 24 - 33 .

Even though you may have legitimate evidence that someone is a fool (in the sense of this lesson) and the scriptures allow you to call them a fool , it may cause more harm than good if you do so .

They will probably never listen to anything you ever say to them again , as you try to teach them God's word . You will most likely alienate yourself from all their relatives and friends as well .

B. PRINCIPLES RE OUR SPEECH .

We need to learn to be wise when we speak to non - Christians , with gracious speech - Col 4 : 5 - 6 .

We should always look for opportunities to speak in a manner that will edify the one we are speaking to , and be gracious to them - Eph 4 : 29 .

CONCLUSION

A. TWO CLASSES OF PEOPLE .

The Bible contrasts two classes of people , the wise and the foolish .

Wise and foolish builders .

Jesus referred to wise and foolish builders , and taught that each one of us are building our lives upon either "rock" or "sand" - Matt 7 : 24 - 27 .

Wise and foolish virgins .

Jesus also spoke of wise and foolish virgins , and that failure to prepare for the Lord's coming and judgment day is utter foolishness - Matt 25 : 1 - 13 .

"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith" - 2 Cor 13 : 5 .

Paul talked about walking in a wise or unwise manner , are you wise or foolish ? - Eph 5 : 15 .
