## Profanity

"His heart cannot be pure whose tongue is not clean." – Anonymous

"The foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing is a vice so mean and low that every person of sense and character detests and despises it." – George Washington

"Diogenes struck the father when the son swore." – Robert Burton, *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, Part III, Sect. ii

"Profanity is the effort of a feeble brain to express itself forcibly." – Spencer W. Kimball

"Intelligent people do not use profanity. For they can always think of something better to say." – Anonymous

"Nearly three-quarters of Americans questioned last week – 74% - said they encounter profanity in public frequently or occasionally, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll. Two-thirds said they think people swear more than they did 20 years ago. …64% said they use the F-word – ranging from several times a day (8%) to a few times a year (15%)." (Associated Press, March 28, 2006)

It truly is shocking how prevalent profanity is in our society today. Even in the movies they are given to excess. The movie, "The Wolf of Wall-Street," released in 2013, had an unbelievable tally of 569 F-words. One would tend to think if you removed them you would have cut the movie time in half.

We have grown to expect vulgar language in our society. It is tragic as some children learn profanity even before they learn their ABC's. But what is alarming is when one hears such language emerge from the lips of a professed Christian.

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). The word translated "corrupt," literally means "rotten," "i.e. worthless." If you notice, the admonition involves "necessary edification." How can one build someone else up by the use of such vile language? How can profane cursing "impart grace to the hearers?"

"…let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1). "He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit" (1 Pet. 3:10).

If you want to truly "perfect" or "fulfill holiness," then you are going to have to avoid the use of profanity. There is nothing good that can come from it. And, not only will it drag you down, but it will also drag others down who hear it and believe it is acceptable to use it, since you do!