

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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George L. Faull, Editor

A Look at Proverbs 26:18-19

Dear Brother Faull,

Could you comment about the meaning of **Proverbs 26:18-19**?

"18 As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, 19 So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport."

Thank you

ANSWER:

A man who feigns that he is a madman (for so the word implies) and throws around firebrands or carelessly shoots arrows and kills, is just like the man who deceives and lies to his neighbor and teases and then claims he was only kidding.

Both are evil men full of mischief and pretend to say only an innocent thing. They are men who do not mind hurting under pretense and just does not want to be held accountable.

This would fall under "foolish jesting" that the New Testament speaks about; to get a laugh and mock. He actually says what he is thinking but claims he did not mean to hurt anyone which is like casting fiery arrows and risking death to innocent people.

Teasing people or lying at the risk of hurting their reputation, influence, or even feelings, is the sport of a

madman who feigns to be mad while shooting their victim or burning his house.

Many crimes hurt and evil is done by the expression, "I was only teasing". Calling a woman "a fat pig" and saying "I did not mean anything by it and was only teasing" is an example.

But the damage is done, the woman is hurt, her self-worth destroyed, her hatred of men deepened, and her husband has a cold wife.

I have a preacher friend that is a master of insults that he means but excuses himself by saying, "That was meant to be a joke!"

I have seen him destroy people and then act shocked at their pain and offer that kind of excuse for his behavior. He has done it to me many times, but I know the intent of his jabs.

His comments do not hurt me because of this proverb. He is a foolish madman who thinks he can stand taller because he puts others down. Some of us can handle it, but most cannot, and they draw into themselves.

I do not believe that God takes such sinners lightly. I hope you get the idea.