

ISSUE

20.32

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

August 12,  
2018

## Services

Sunday: 9:00 AM

10:00 AM

11:00 AM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Jeff Nunn

## Deacons:

Steve Dixon  
Ryan Ferguson  
Arend Gressley  
Ben Hight  
Blake McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Ryan Matney  
Sam Nunn  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott  
Justin Smiley  
Kevin Wise  
Trevor Yontz

## Evangelist:

Kyle Pope



## “Be Angry and Do Not Sin”

By Kyle Pope

In the fourth Psalm, David charges the reader—**“Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still”** (Psa. 4:4, NKJV). The apostle Paul quotes the first part of this verse in his epistle to the Ephesians, and offers either additional instruction or a paraphrase of the last part of the verse, declaring, **“Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath”** (Eph. 4:26). This text is often applied in one of two ways.



First, we understand it to refer to our behavior when something makes us angry. For example, a car pulls out in front of us on the highway, and in our fear of an accident we get angry. Or a repairman cheats us by charging too much, leaving the job undone, or lying to us about work that was done. This makes us feel angry and resentful of the fact that someone has taken advantage of us. Perhaps it is an unkind and hurtful word that was spoken to us. Our blood boils, the pressure rises, and anger builds within us. In such cases, we look at

the instruction of the psalmist and the apostle as warnings not to allow this sudden anger to lead us to sin.

Secondly, we also, use this text as justification for *righteous indignation*. We consider the fact that Jesus, on occasion, was angered by sinful and hypocritical behavior. For example, Jesus drove out the moneychangers with a whip (John 2:15-16), yet Scripture tells us Jesus was **“without sin”** (Hebrews 4:15). We see then from Jesus’ example the psalmist and the apostle pointing out that anger alone is not sin, but must be controlled lest it lead us to commit sin.

These applications of this text are valid, but they do not address all that Psalm 4:4 would teach us. The word in the Hebrew translated “angry” is the word *ragaz* (רָגַז), defined, “to be agitated, quiver, quake, be excited, perturbed” (BDB, 919). While the New Testament, in Ephesians 4:26 uses a word that more narrowly addresses anger,<sup>1</sup> *ragaz* is used

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<sup>1</sup> The Greek word in Ephesians 4:26 is *orgizo* (ὀργίζω) defined, “to provoke, to arouse to anger, to be provoked to anger, be angry, be wroth” (Thayer). Unlike *ragaz*, which refers to the unsettled motion of an object or emotion, *orgizo* always refers to passionate emotion.

variously in Scripture in reference to fear (Exod. 15:14), earthquake (1 Sam. 14:15), dislocation (2 Sam. 7:10), tumultuous waters (Psa. 77:16) and rage (Isa. 37:29). The New American Standard Bible renders this literally, **“Tremble, and do not sin.”**

There are many things in life that lead us to agitation and uneasiness. These might include fear, worry, frustration, persecution, hardship, weakness, or anger. What do we do when we have such an unsettled feeling? It is so easy to allow agitation, anxiety, or distress to make us sin! We allow ourselves to see sin as justified. We might say to ourselves, “they wronged me, I’ll wrong them.” Or, we lose our self-control. The trembling agitation of the moment robs us of the good sense we would normally have to avoid sin. Although it is easy at such times to sin, the Psalmist tells us, “Don’t do it!” Instead, do two other things: 1) **“Meditate within your heart”** (i.e. think about it and carefully consider the situation); and 2) **“Be still.”** This is not apathy or a refusal to address

a problem. It is simply a matter of calming the raging motion of the moment in order to allow a cool evaluation of the situation. How often are the good motives of the heart short-circuited by the hasty movement of the tongue or body, as the mind has become disengaged in the process of rash anger?

James tells us the same thing in charging us to be **“swift to**





**hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”** (Jas. 1:19). Only a few verses before this he taught that all sin has an internal beginning in the desires of the heart (James 1:15). Jesus addresses this in its broadest terms. He explains to those

interested only in external cleanliness, **“What comes out of a man, that defiles a man”** (Mark 7:20). Listing a variety of sins, Jesus explains, **“All these evil things come from within and defile a man”** (Mark 7:23).

We will face many things in life that lead us to feel unsettled. The Lord calls us to realize that when we experience these things the challenge for the child of God is not to let them lead us to sin. We will tremble, shake, be agitated, be angry, or perturbed, but it can and must be that we, **“tremble, and do not sin.”**



Faithful Sayings Issue 20.32 August 12, 2018

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## *Welcome Visitors*

**We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.**

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**