

SERMON, CLASS, and/or ANNOUNCEMENT NOTES:

Horizontal lines for writing notes.

**THIS WEEK'S CLASS SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY MORNING: PROVERBS—The Tongue (Lesson 9)

WEDNESDAY EVENING: JOHN 13:12

Answers: Deut. 1:2 / Num. 32:13

# THE SENSE

*"they read from the Law and gave the sense, helping them to understand"*  
(Nehemiah 8:8)

## "LET US LOVE IN DEED AND IN TRUTH!"—RO

It happened just yesterday; it happens all the time. I go to the register to checkout and the cashier asks me, "Did you find what you needed today?" Honesty being the best policy, I often say, "Unfortunately, I did not." What gets me is the cashier's response, or shall I say, lack of response. Was I just supposed to say 'yes!?' Every time it happens it makes me wonder: "Why did you even ask the question? Were you just curious? Were you making small talk, or did you ever have any intention of trying to help me find what I need? Maybe you could get someone to check the end-caps to see if it was set up on display, or maybe in the backroom. Maybe you can tell me when that item will be re-stocked. Or, maybe you can't do any of those things,

but by trying to help you've made me appreciative.

As you may have guessed, this message isn't really about customer service fails. I wonder, are we ever guilty of the same inattentiveness to people's condition? Do we have interest in other people's lives and needs, but lack the real concern necessary to do something to rectify their problems? Ezekiel uttered a phrase which can be applied to this subject—"...with their mouths they

Northern Kentucky Church of Christ - Vol. 1, No. 4

**NORTHERN KENTUCKY  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Elders:**

Greg Litmer, Craig Powell,  
Bob Rice, Marvin Saylor

**Evangelists:**

Greg Litmer & Ross Oldenkamp

Sunday AM Worship 9:45  
Sunday AM Bible Study 11:10  
Sunday PM Worship 6:00  
Wednesday PM Bible Study 7:30

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## GIVING THE SENSE (CONT.)

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show much love.” (33:31) It is easy to talk like we care; we need to love in deed, and in truth (1 Jn. 3:18). When we ask our brethren, “How are you doing?” are we really prepared for the truth when someone offers more than the seemingly obligatory “I’m fine.”?

James alludes to this when he made a point to prove that faith without works is dead. He said, *“If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead (2:15-17).*

This week, “be warmed” has taken on special significance for our family. We’ve been without central heat since Monday and the weather (for those on our mailing list) has been in the single digits. There are some heat sources, but it’s still been chilly. What has warmed me though is the sincere concern that so many have shown when they heard about it. A few elders have contacted me daily for updates since they found out, and have personally offered to take our family into their homes. Others have offered tips to help keep my pipes from freezing...much appreciated! Brother Ben loaned me a kerosene heater.

These are the things I would expect from my parents, from my sisters, and my wife’s family. I am so very blessed to be among family in the Lord here at the Northern Kentucky church of Christ. I hear similar expressions of gratitude concerning you all the time. Most recently it was from Annie who wrote about how much your encouragement meant to her after her accident. I could go on.

**Love is meant to be demonstrated.** Again, John wrote: *“My children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the*

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## GIVING THE SENSE (CONT.)

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*truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him (1Jn. 3:18ff).”*

Remember that, next time you say those words, “How are you?” May they never be spoken lightly, and only with real intent. Small talk isn’t meant for family! I don’t come downstairs in the morning and feel the need to make “small talk” with my children. I speak to them out of love and concern for their well-being. It may be when you inquire about the welfare of your brethren that they may not volunteer their problems. But, can you see the sadness in their eyes, the hesitation in their voice, the pain on their hearts? In that moment, you have an opportunity to “assure your heart before Him” that you are of the truth, because the “purpose of the commandments of God is love from a pure heart...” (1 Tim. 1:5). Not only can we assure our hearts, and encourage our brother’s heart, but we also demonstrate to the world that we are of God when they see our love for one another (Jn. 17:23).

I remember cleaning up hurricane debris for a Christian family in Beaumont, TX. This was already a couple weeks after the disaster, and two other crews from elsewhere had already come. Everything they owned was ripped out and taken to the curb, including the sheetrock halfway up the walls. The mound of debris in front of their house was awesome! The next door neighbor sat on his porch, alone, having barely even begun on his house for the overwhelming magnitude of what was before him. All he could do is shake his head in amazement at how much love and support was shown by the brethren. *“Let us do good unto all men, especially the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10).*

### Do you know your Bible?

- 1) How far was it from Sinai to Kadesh Barnea (the door to Canaan)?
- 2) How long did it actually take Israel from Sinai to enter Canaan?

*(Answers on back)*