

The purpose of this publication is to spread the truth, to sow God's good seed, the Word of God, and to confront religious error for the good of men's souls. Editor: Allen Dvorak

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461 Kelly Spring Road - Harvest, AL 35749 Telephone: (256) 325-8585

For additional information about us, visit our website  
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Of course, it should be noted that the power of words is not just for evil! For example, the gospel is a message transmitted by words and it is described as the "power of God for salvation" (Romans 1:16).

There can be healing and encouragement through words. Consider these passages:

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.  
-- Ephesians 4:29; ESV

Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.  
-- Proverbs 12:25; ESV

To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!  
-- Proverbs 15:23; ESV

Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.  
-- Proverbs 16:24; ESV

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.  
-- Proverbs 25:11; ESV

There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings

healing.  
-- Proverbs 12:18; ESV

Michelle Carter has yet to be sentenced for her crime, but her conviction says that she will be held accountable for her words. Although charged as a juvenile offender (she was 17 at the time of Roy's death), she could be facing up to 20 years in prison.

The Lord Himself taught that we will be held accountable for our words as well:

<sup>36</sup> I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, <sup>37</sup> for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."  
-- Matthew 12:36-37; ESV

This passage from Proverbs give good counsel:

Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.  
-- Proverbs 13:3; ESV

There's power in words!

Source: Western Journalism – Woman Who Texted Boyfriend To Commit Suicide Convicted Of Manslaughter by Jack Davis; June 16, 2017 (<http://www.westernjournalism.com/woman-texted-boyfriend-commit-suicide-convicted-manslaughter>)

### **Bible Challenge Question - Answer**

When Abraham was 99 years old, God appeared to him and told him that Sarah would bear him a son a year later. Abraham laughed within himself, wondering about a man having a son when he was 100 years old (Genesis 17:15-21). He even expressed the desire that God would use Ishmael to fulfill the promise of many descendants. The name Isaac means "he laughs."



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## **The Power of Words**

By Allen Dvorak

"Guilty as charged." This past week saw the end of an interesting trial. The defendant was Michelle Carter, a 20-year-old Massachusetts woman who was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of her (ex?) boyfriend.

What made the case unusual was the fact that Michelle Carter was nowhere near her boyfriend, Conrad Roy, when he died in 2014. And he committed suicide. He flooded the cab of his truck with carbon dioxide and died of asphyxiation.

How could she be found guilty of involuntary manslaughter...if her boyfriend committed suicide? At her trial, evidence was presented to show that Carter had sent many texts and made many phone calls to her boyfriend, with the repeated message that he should kill himself (the article did not reveal her motive[s] for doing this). In fact, her boyfriend called her as he was breathing the carbon dioxide because it made him sick. He had gotten out of his truck to call her, but instead of instructing him to stay out of the truck, she told him to get back in the cab. He listened to her and died. Despite the fact that she was not present where he killed himself, the

prosecution in the bench trial (Carter waived her right to a jury trial) argued that "distance was not a barrier in the cyber age."

"It's a new day and age, your honor, and the phones that we have now allow you to be virtually present with somebody," said Katie Rayburn, an assistant district attorney. "People fall in love on the internet and via text, people bully via text and the internet, and you can encourage someone to die via text."

Judge Lawrence Moniz concluded that Carter had "willfully pushed Roy (her boyfriend – asd) to end his life." His conclusion was based on the power of her words.

Words are indeed powerful. The book of Proverbs affirms, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits" (18:21; ESV).

The New Testament writer James also emphasized the power of our speech. He wrote about the power of the tongue (our speech) and the difficulty of controlling it.

Continued on page 3

# Contending for the Faith

By Allen Dvorak



Text: \_\_\_\_\_

## General Guidelines:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
5. \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
6. \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ )

## Final Thoughts:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

For though we \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, we are not waging \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ are not of the \_\_\_\_\_ but have divine power to destroy \_\_\_\_\_.

-- 2 Corinthians 10: \_\_\_\_\_; ESV

**“If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves.”**

-- Maria Edgeworth

**“Time = life; therefore, waste your time and waste your life, or master your time and master your life.”**

-- Alan Lakein

<sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup> Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.  
-- James 3:2-8; ESV

We can do so much damage with our words. Lies, slander, malice, gossip, bullying, dissension, obscenity – the list of sins that are committed

through words spoken goes on and on (cf. Colossians 3:8-9; Ephesians 4:25, 29, 31; 5:4). Consider these passages also:

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.  
-- Proverbs 19:5; ESV

A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.  
-- Proverbs 16:28; ESV

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.  
-- Proverbs 15:1; ESV

A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin.  
-- Proverbs 26:28; ESV

The conviction of Michelle Carter is NOT significant because it recognizes the power of words; that is no “new discovery.” Her conviction speaks to the power of words in digitally transmitted text. As was already noted, modern technology makes it so that one is virtually present with others. One does not have to be in the physical presence of another person in order to have a “real time” conversation via text (note that the transmission of auditory messages has been around for a long time; much of what the article claimed about “text” could be said for auditory conversations as well).

## Bible Challenge Question

**What appears to have been the motivation for Isaac’s name?**

The answer to this question is on the back page.