

# Just a Word...

from Steve Dickerson, Communications Secretary



## **Typo: an error (as of spelling) in typed or typeset material.**

Typographical errors—or typos—are as old as movable type. Were you ever warned to “mind your p’s and q’s”? That’s because (as you can see) the shapes of the two letters can be mirror images. If you were composing sentences using movable type, you needed to pull each bit of type from its respective compartment in a type case and put it where it belongs—except that when you’re setting type, everything is backwards—like this: zbnswknsd

So you can see how easy it might be to make a mistake! Today, with automatic spell checkers to help us, we produce fewer typos, but when we do, they can be funny. How about the sign, for example, that said “NO SMOKING ALOUD”? Or the one that said, “ILLEGALLY PARKED CARS WILL BE FINE”? I’ll bet they meant “fined,” but who knows? Then there’s this excerpt from our July 13, 2019 church bulletin: It’s a nice quote from the Bible, and it’s all good—except for the last line. “Be tenderhearted and keep a jumble attitude.” (I took a picture of it so you’d know I wasn’t just making it up!)

*Growing Young Together:*

### **“Understanding”**

*“... Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a jumble attitude..”*

1 Peter 3:8

It’s easy to see that it should have read, “a *humble* attitude,” but the typo set me to thinking. Some of us probably do have a “jumble” attitude from time to time. There are so many things demanding our attention that we get easily sidetracked. My dad used to speak of having “too many irons in the fire.” The expression comes from the blacksmith shop. In order to forge iron into different shapes, it had to be heated. If the blacksmith tried to have too many

jobs going at once, he might spoil some (if, for example, they got too hot and melted, instead of just softening). If our lives get that way (in a jumble), we, too, run the risk of spoiling part of it.

So how does one avoid having a jumble attitude? Ask any athlete, artist, or fine craftsman, and the answers will be similar. Concentrate. Focus. Pay attention to what’s important. Develop single-mindedness.

David says (in Psalms 119:10), “*With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh let me not wander from Your commandments!*” The Apostle Paul puts it this way (in Philippians 3:13), “*...one thing I do, forgetting those things that are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*” And God Himself made this promise to His people (in Deuteronomy 4:29), “*...you will seek the Lord your God and you will find Him if you seek him with all your heart and all your soul.*”

That may not sound like something you’re able to do, but if it sounds like something you *want* to do, ask God to take away your “jumble attitude” and see what happens!