

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Mark 16.

Proverbs 10:23:

"A fool finds pleasure in wicked schemes, but a person of understanding delights in wisdom." (NIV)

Happy April Fools' Day. When and where did this tradition of pulling pranks begin? Some say the tradition goes back to Ancient Rome or Britain, but I am not convinced we know for certain when the fun began. After all, we have had fools all along.

From an article in the Cap Cod Times, written by C. Messier. "One popular theory is that the tradition started when France changed their calendar from Julian to Gregorian, thus changing the celebration of a New Year from late March to January 1 – a transition that swept the country throughout the 1500s and was officially signed into law by King Charles IX in 1564.

According to legend, those who failed to recognize the change of the new year continued to celebrate in late March and early April, leading others to call them "April fools" and pull pranks. In this theory, early versions of April Fools' pranks included sending foolish gifts and invitations to non-existent parties."

While April Fools' Day has its laughs, being a fool is no laughing matter. According to scripture and a number of Bible websites, here are some characteristics of a fool.

"They reject wisdom and instruction."

"They have a lack of self-control."

"They are puffed up by pride and arrogance."

"They lack a fear of God."

"They are impulsive, reckless, overconfident, careless, speak without thinking, and are quick to become angry and ready to quarrel."

Enjoy the day. Have some fun. Watch your back. But don't become a fool.

Seek God. Walk in humility. Put away pride and arrogance. Search for wisdom and truth. Have self-control and don't be careless. And think before you speak.

Have a happy and safe day.