

THE TONGUE  
Text: Proverbs 13:3; 21:23

INTRO: The wise man suggests that there is a constant need to guard the tongue.

I. THE TONGUE WILL EXPRESS WHAT THE HEART EMBRACES.

Matt 12:34-37, Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Our speech is a window of the soul.

II. THE TONGUE IS A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT--FOR GOOD OR EVIL. READ JAMES 3:1-12.

III. SINS OF THE TONGUE.

A. Lying, bearing false witness, (perjury). Eph. 4:25

B. Cursing, profanity.

Avoid profane & idle babble...

(1 Tim 6:20)

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth  
(Eph. 5:29).

Let all... evil speaking be put away from you...  
(Eph. 5:31).

C. Gossip, whispering, backbiting, talebearing, slander.

2 Cor 12:20, I fear lest when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish... lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults...

A neighbor was passing my garden one time

She stopped & I knew right away  
It was gossip-not flowers- she had on her mind  
This is what I heard her say:  
"That girl down the street should be run from our midst,  
She drinks & she talks quite a lot.  
She knows not to speak to my child or to me."  
My neighbor then smiled, & I thought:

A tongue can accuse & carry bad news'  
The seeds of distrust it can sew.  
So unless you've made no mistakes in your life  
Be careful of stones that you throw.

A car speeded by & the screaming of brakes,  
A sound that made my blood chill,  
For my neighbor's one child had been pulled from the path  
And saved by a girl lying still.  
The child was unhurt, & my neighbor cried out,  
"O, who was that brave girl so sweet?"  
I covered the crushed, broken body & said,  
"The bad girl who lived down the street."

D. Murmuring, chronic complaining.

Nor complain as some of them also complained &  
were destroyed by the destroyer. (1 Cor 10:10).

E. Foolish jesting.

neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor course jesting  
[should even be named among you.] (Gal 5:4)

#### IV. USING THE TONGUE TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

A. Speak as the oracles of God, 1 Pet 4:11

B. Speak in psalms, hymns, & s.s. Col 3:16; Gal 5:19

C. Speak to God in prayer.

By prayer & supplication, with thanksgiving, let your  
requests be made known to God. (Phil 4:6).

D. Confess our faith in Jesus, Rom. 10:10

E. Confess our sins & ask forgiveness, 1 John 1:9

F. Speak so as to edify, build up, encourage others.

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. (Eph. 4:29).

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. (Prov. 25:11).

CONCLUSION: The tongue can be a powerful tool in serving God, or a powerful foe to war against our souls. Tho mankind in general has not learned to control the tongue, each of us as individuals can, should, must, learn to control our tongues & harness this mighty power for the cause of Christ & for the sake of our own eternal well-being.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 24, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 2, 2003