

Do Not Sin With The Tongue

No. 82

Introduction.

I. One of the most practical books of the New Testament is the book of James.

A. This book is filled with teaching dealing with problems Christians encounter every day.

B. I would like to invite your attention to the reading of James 3:1-12.

1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. 3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well. 4 Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. 5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. 7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed by the human race. 8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; 10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. 11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Neither can salt water produce fresh. NASB

II. In this passage James discusses one of the greatest problems of life - the control of the tongue. He states it is very difficult not to sin with the tongue. (Jas. 3:2).

III. Not only is it difficult not to sin with the tongue, there are many ways to sin with it. At this time let's consider some of the ways man sins with the tongue.

I. **Taking God's Name In Vain** - One way man sins with the tongue is by taking God's name in vain. (Exod. 20:7).

A. This commandment forbids swearing falsely by God's name. It also forbids speaking evil of God or showing disrespect for His name.

B. It is regrettable that there is so much disrespect for God's name in our land today.

1. Millions of people use God's name in vain and disrespectful manner.

2. Many who take God's name in vain do not think it is a serious matter. This is, however, a very grievous sin. Those who show respect for God will be condemned in the judgment to suffer eternal punishment.

II. **Murmuring** - A second way man sins with the tongue is by murmuring.

- A. The children of Israel are a classic example of this sin. God delivered them from Egyptian oppression and blessed them with numerous blessings. What was their response to these blessings? Did they get on their knees and humbly thank God? Not at all! They constantly murmured and whined because of what they did not have and spoke evil of God.
- B. **Christians must not murmur.** God despises ungratefulness on the part of His children. (**1 Cor. 10:10**).

III. **Hasty Words** - A third way man sins with the tongue is by speaking hasty words. (Jas. 1:19).

- A. We often sin with the tongue because we fail to think before we speak. These hasty words often hurt or sever our relationships with others.
- B. Once an **elderly woman was asked her secret** for having so many friends. She said, "I always stop and taste my words before I let them pass through my lips."
 1. This is sound advice for everyone. Our words have taste. Some are sweet, some are sour, some are bitter, some are salty, some are spicy and some are flat. Let's make sure we taste our words before we let them pass through our lips.
 2. Someone has written these lines about words spoken in haste.

<p>One day a harsh word, harshly said, Upon an evil journey sped, And like a sharp and cruel dart It pierced a fond and loving heart.</p> <p>It turned a friend into a foe And everywhere brought pain and woe. A kind word followed it one day, Sped swiftly on its blessed way.</p> <p>It healed the wound and soothed the pain, And friends of old were friends again. It made the hate and anger cease, And everywhere brought joy and peace.</p>	<p>And yet the harsh word left a trace The kind word could not efface, And though the heart its love regained It left a scar that long remained.</p> <p>Friends can forgive but not forget, Nor lose the sense of keen regret. Oh, if we would but learn to know How swift and sure our words can go.</p> <p>How we would weigh with utmost care Each though before it reached the air- And only speak the words that move Like white-winged messengers of love.</p>
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IV. **Filthy Speaking** - A fourth way man sins with the tongue is by speaking filthy words. (Col. 3:8).

- A. A **filthy mouth** is very repulsive to God and good people.
- B. It reveals two things about a person.
 1. First, it reveals the **ignorance of an individual**. There are more than 500,000 words in the English language. When a person uses the same word about every other word he speaks he reveals his

ignorance of the language.

2. Second, it reveals **a filthy heart**. (Matt. 12:34). The Christian should not let filthy speaking come from his mouth. He is to speak pure things. (Jas. 3:10).

V. **Gossip** - A fifth way man wins with the tongue is by gossiping.

- A. Gossip is wrong because it hastens to destroy others by speaking and spreading evil about them. The scriptures warn we are not to speak evil about others. (Lev. 19:16; Tit. 3:2; Jas. 4:11).
- B. There are many people who ignore these teachings and hasten to destroy others through their gossip.
Once a group of ladies met at a minister's house. As he entered the room, he heard them speaking of an absent friend. "She's very odd!" said one. "She's very singular," said another. "Do you know she often does so and so?" said another. The minister asked whom they were talking about. When told he said, "Oh yes, you are quite right. She is odd. She is singular. She was never know to speak evil of an absent friend."
- C. We should emulate this absent lady. We should not speak evil of others, but should always speak good of them.
 1. **Once 2 boys were speaking of another boy.** One criticized him by saying, "He is slow in games!" The other replied, "Yes, but he always play fair." The first boy said, "He is so stupid in school!" The second answered, "But he always studies hard." He replaced every unkind word of the first boy with a kind one. This is the way you and I should be. If we hear an unkind remark about a person, let's replace it with a kind one.
 2. Let's spread the good we know about people, not the evil.

Wouldn't this old world be better, If the folks we meet would say: "I know something good about you" And then treat you just that way?	Wouldn't things be more pleasant If the good that's in us all Were the only thing about us That folks bothered to recall?	Wouldn't it be nice to practice This fine way of thinking too; You know something good about me, I know something good about you.
Wouldn't it be fine and dandy If each hand clasp warm and true, Carried with it this assurance: I know something good about you?	Wouldn't life be more happy If we'd praise the good we see; For there's such a lot of goodness In the worst of you and me.	

VI. **Lying** - Another way man sins with the tongue is lying. (Prov. 12:22; Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9.).

There are a number of way we can commit this abominable sin.

- A. We can lie by **stating that which we know to be false**. (Acts 5:1-11).
- B. We can lie by **leaving the wrong impression**.
 1. Many of you recall the **story of 2 boys selling lemonade** in the same block. One was selling his for ten cents a glass, while the other boy was asking five cents a glass. The boy who was getting ten cents had plenty of customers while the other had only a few. A man asked the boy how it was that he could sell his drinks for ten cents and still have more customers than the boy who was getting five. He answered,

“A cat didn’t fall in mine.” Later when the other boy asked him why he told the gentleman that a cat fell in his lemonade, he said, “I didn’t tell him that. I merely told him a cat did not fall in mine.” Needless to say, however, the boy had left the wrong impression.

2. We can also lie by leaving the wrong impression. (1) “I don’t drink (2) Small print in contract (3) Salesman concealing defects in a car.

C. We can lie by telling the **so-called white or innocent lie**. The Bible does not classify lies. (Rev. 21:8).

1. Someone has said that “those who think it is permissible to tell white lies soon grow color blind.”
2. There is a **story told of an Indian** who was caught committing a crime that called for his death. It was decided that he should be hanged on a certain day. He promised to return on that date, so they allowed him to go free until that time. On the day the court had set he came into town and they hanged him. His word was good even though it cost him his life.
3. This is not a pleasant story, but it illustrates an important lesson. The Christian is to tell the truth regardless of the consequences. A Christian’s word should be his bond.

Conclusion.

I. David once said. (Psa. 39:1).

A. David was determined to bridle his tongue for several reasons.

1. First, he realized that an **unbridled tongue can cause a person not to enjoy life**. (Prov. 21:23; 1 Pet.3:10).
2. Second, he realized we must give **strict account for every word we have uttered in life**. (Matt. 12:36, 37).

B. Remembering these facts let us determine to guard our tongues from evil. Let us pray as David did. (Psa. 19:14).

II. In this lesson we have been discussing ways we can sin with the tongue. Before closing our lesson, let’s consider a good way we can use our tongues. We should use our tongues to confess the name of Jesus before men. We have been promised if we will confess our faith in Jesus we will be saved. Will you come confessing the name of Jesus Christ and then be baptized as we stand sing?

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