

A Word Fitly Spoken

Introduction

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.

1. The tongue is one of the smaller members of the human body and may seem to be quite insignificant to some.

A. But all one needs to do is spend some time considering the various scriptures that deal with this "little member" and he will realize otherwise.

2. Notice what the apostle James says of the tongue:

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

James 3:8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

A. We learn that we can use it for "blessing" and "cursing" (v.10)

3. On one occasion Jesus taught His hearers:

Matthew 12:37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

A. In other words, one's salvation hinges on the use he makes of his tongue.

- 4. Wars have been started and lives have been lost because of the tongue. The tongue is a powerful instrument for good or evil. Solomon proclaimed:**

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Controlling the Tongue

- 1. It is important that one learns to control his tongue. It could be that someone may be quick to cite James 3:8 to justify the misuse of the tongue.**

James 3:8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

- A. Does James mean that we have no control over what we say?**
- 1) That we are not accountable?**

David wrote:

Psalms 39:1 "I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me."

Peter states:

1 Peter 3:10 for he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.

James also writes:

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

B. So when James wrote “the tongue can no man tame” he did not mean a person’s tongue could not be controlled by the person himself, but that no other person could control his tongue.

1) He uses two illustrations:

James 3:3-4

2) The horse is controlled by someone beside itself and the ship is controlled by someone at the helm.

2. James 3:8 is teaching us that no one can control our tongues for us; we have to do it ourselves.

A. If we don’t, our religion is vain.

Job said,

Job 6:24 "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; Cause me to understand wherein I have erred.

Sins Committed

1. There are many sins that can be committed with an unbridled tongue.

A. Some of these sins include:

- 1) Slander (Proverbs 10:18)**
- 2) Whispering – Gossip (Romans 1:29)**
- 3) Foul Language (Ephesians 4:29)**
- 4) Lying (Revelation 21:8)**
- 5) Cursing (James 3:10)**
- 6) Double Tongue (1 Timothy 3:8)**
- 7) Flattery (Proverbs 26:28; Psalm 12:3)**

B. There are more sins that can be committed with the tongue, but these are some of the more prevalent ones.

2. In order to keep from committing sins with the mouth, the tongue must be bridled.

James 1:19-20

A Great Blessing

1. The tongue, although it can get us into trouble with the Lord if it is misused, on the other hand, it can be a great blessing if we use it for the good of man and the glory of God.

2. We can make up our mind like Job who said:

Job 27:4 My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.

David said:

Psalms 35:28 And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness And of Your praise all the day long.

Apostle Paul penned:

Romans 15:6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Truly, we can use our mouths and our tongues to preach and teach the gospel of Christ to the salvation of souls.

2 Corinthians 4:13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I BELIEVED AND THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe and therefore speak,

Conclusion

Proverbs 21:23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.

1. Our tongues are either good or bad. Jesus said:

Matthew 12:37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver"

