

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

March 3, 2019

Issue 9

The Tongue—One Of Man's Most Dangerous Weapons

Wayne Jackson

Jesus Christ gave a stern warning regarding the unseemly language that sometimes proceeds from a person's mouth. It is not without significance that two of the Ten Commandments deal with speech—taking the name of God in vain and bearing false witness against another person (Ex. 20:7,16). Similarly, in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus warned against the abuse of the tongue in “swearing falsely” (Mt. 5:33-37). The way one talks is a very revealing index to his character. The Scriptures describe different kinds of “tongues” (speech). Let us consider some of these.

The Hateful Tongue

Jeremiah spoke of those “treacherous” people who “bend their tongue like a bow.” He cautioned that no one should place trust in the person who “deceives” and “slanders,” nor with those who “have taught their tongue to speak lies” (Jer. 9:2-5). Jehovah hates the lying tongue (Prov. 6:17; cf. Acts 5:3-4). Some use their tongues to rip and gut others—even their brethren in Christ.

The Licentious Tongue

Solomon said that the mouth of the forbidden woman is a “deep pit” (Prov. 22:14). Note the perfume drenched words (“fair speech”) of the dissolute woman who lures the unwary lad to his destruction (7:14ff). Men have similarly taken advantage of vulnerable, lonely women by their deceitful language.

The Boasting Tongue

The vain Pharisee, in a dramatic presentation before the Lord, paraded his feigned ac-

complishments, but he was not accounted as just with God, in spite of his boasting (Lk. 18:9ff). It was Francis Bacon who said something to the effect that “a bragging man is scorned by the wise, and admired by fools.” There are those with whom one can scarcely engage a conversation without being bored to tears with an incessant stream of self-adulating and dubious accomplishments.

The Impetuous Tongue

An inspired writer declared: “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak” (Jas. 1:19). The poet Robert Frost once said that “half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.” A wise man wrote: “Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise” (Prov. 17:28). Unfortunately, he frequently opens his mouth and removes all doubt! There are far too many people who talk in an attempt to discover the content of their thoughts.

The Obscure Tongue

Have you ever had a religious conversation with a person, and when the exchange was concluded, you had no earthly idea where he stood on any significant issue? Such folks slip and slide, flip and flop. “What is your position, brother?” “Well, I think there is much to be said on both sides of that argument.” Some people simply cannot be pinned down on any point of truth.

The Critical Tongue

A wise man values constructive criticism; it's just that sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between constructive criticism and

plain old meanness. But, as Solomon observed, **“A rebuke enters deeper into one who has understanding, than [do] a hundred stripes into a fool”** (Prov. 17:10). A wise person can learn valuable lessons from his critics if he but will. On the other hand, there are those who have turned criticism into a recreational sport. Whenever they gather, like vicious piranha, they devour all flesh in sight.

The Double-Tongued

In setting forth qualifications for deacons, Paul admonished that they must not be *“double-tongued”* (1Tim. 3:8). The double-tongued person is one who has refined the art of duplicity. He will say anything to get you off his back, then say quite another to someone else. His word is not his bond. His tongue flaps like an irritating awning in a winter storm (see Prov. 8:8).

The Explosive Tongue

James observed that the tongue is an instrument that no man can control completely (cf. Jas. 3:8). But some make almost no attempt at the effort. At the least irritant they explode with expletives. One might be surprised to listen to the language of the man on Monday who has spoken so piously over the Lord’s table on Sunday! To those who operate in such fashion, the Lord’s says: *“What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant upon your lips?”* (Psa. 50:16).

Conclusion

“Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth” (Eph. 4:29), rather, put away shameful speaking from your mouth (Col. 3:8). Listen to the warning of the Judge of the universe: I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned (Mt. 12:36-37).

Northern Oaks Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, July 8, 2012

Move Your Chair

The very accomplished architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, built a house for businessman Hibbard Johnson back in 1937. One rainy evening, Johnson was entertaining some very distinguished guests for dinner when the roof began to leak and drip directly on top of Johnson’s head. Furious and embarrassed, he called up Wright and complained about the roof leaking on top of his head. Frank Wright simply replied, “Well Hib, why don’t you move your chair?”

Obviously, Wright was going to need to come and fix the leak, but Johnson certainly could have taken steps to be part of the solution. Sometimes people have a knack for inflaming situations and making problems more difficult than they need to be. We bicker, gossip, complain, frown, pout, and even throw fits at times. The church body will always encounter problems simply because it’s comprised of imperfect people. However, such problems are made exponentially worse when people stubbornly refuse to “move their chair.”

Paul issued a valuable reminder in 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15: “We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.” Admonish. Encourage. Help. Be Patient. Don’t repay evil for evil. Seek that which is good.

These wonderful qualities are found in those who are trying to be part of the solution instead of the problem. These attributes are found in those who are dedicated to service instead of selfishness. These traits are found in those who seek to help instead of hurt. These qualities can even be found in the person who is being wronged by someone else!

If a congregation is full of people living these qualities, any problem will be short lived. It’s hard to imagine a problem which wouldn’t be dealt with correctly by such people. So let’s practice these problem-solving characteristics and seek to be a part of the solution, even if that means we have to “move our chair.”

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of March 3, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobs

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Don Lynn
Assist: Sammy Scherffius, Kirk FitzSimmons, Brant Jacobs

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Dennis Bryson
P.M. Closing: Doug Jobs

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Anthony Scherffius

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Curtis Scherffius

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Jamison

Please mark your calendar for MidTown church of Christ's Annual Spring Gospel Meeting from March 24th through March 27th, 2019. Our speaker will be Wade Webster. Theme is "Tell Us Plainly". Wade will be speaking on Evangelism, Membership, Leadership, Baptism, the Church and the Cross. There will be a potluck luncheon and a 1pm afternoon service in lieu of the 5pm evening service.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26:

Men's and Ladies' Tuesday class at 10 am on March 26th will be a combined class in the auditorium. Wade Webster will be speaking about Missions and there will be a potluck luncheon afterwards. All are invited to attend.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Wayne Martin, who was recently diagnosed with Lymphoma. He is in room 480 at Citizens Hospital.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 5,12,19,26: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10 am
March 9: GEMS Meeting
March 10: Jr./ Sr. high devotional
March 24-27: Spring gospel meeting with Wade Webster. Potluck luncheon after morning worship and a 1pm afternoon service.

AREA EVENTS

Mar. 29-31: Gospel meeting @ Adams Street church of Christ. More info on the bulletin board in hallway.
Mar. 30: South Texas Youth Lectures @ Adams Street . More info on the bulletin board in hallway.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Patsy Cope, Meagan Stryker (2), Libby Jobs (4), Samuel Pantel, Curtis Scherffius (7).

FOREVER YOUNG GROUP:

The Forever Young Group will not be meeting after worship this evening.

SPRING QUARTER BIBLE CLASSES START TODAY!

Spring quarter Bible classes start today. Class teachers are noted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Thank you to all the teachers who work hard in preparing lessons for their Bible classes. It is very much appreciated.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of February 24, 2019

Bible Class.....141
A.M. Worship.....197
P.M. Worship.....101
Wednesday Bible Study.....85

Offering \$5,250

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Wives

God created.....Gen. 2:22-24
1 Pet. 3:7; Titus 2:4-5; Col. 3:18



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

GO PAPERLESS!

Want the digital version?

Email us at midtowncoc2017@gmail.com
To receive the MidTown Messenger in your inbox
or visit www.midtowncoc.org

MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
(361) 573-0030
midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

