

January 3, 2021

Sins of the Tongue

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall
Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff, Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

*We offer Bible classes for all ages
We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

James 3:8: *But nobody can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*

James 3 speaks about how dangerous the tongue (our speech) can be. Like bits in horses' mouths that guide the entire horse (**verse 3**), or rudders of ships that guide the entire ship (**verse 4**), the tongue is a small part of the body, but it has great power (**verse 5**). The tongue will cause much harm if we are not careful (**verse 6**).

Consider six specific sins of the tongue:

1) False Teaching - This is the "sin of the tongue" first warned against in **James 3. Verse 1** of the chapter says that teachers will receive strict judgment. This implies that *false* teachers will be judged harshly. While the words of the Gospel teacher are wonderful (**Rom. 10:15**), the words of the false teacher are destructive (**2 Tim. 4:4**).

2) Lying - **Colossians 3:9** says "**don't lie to one another.**" **Proverbs 12:22** says "**lying lips are abomination to the LORD.**" Lying promotes hypocrisy and strife. It must be put away.

3) Gossiping - God rebukes busybodies (**2 Thess. 3:11; 1 Tim. 5:13**), whisperers (**Rom. 1:29**), tattlers (**1 Tim. 5:13**), and talebearers (**Prov. 11:13; 20:19**). All of these relate to the sin of gossiping.

Sins of the Tongue

(Continued)

Gossip involves saying things about others behind their backs that are not appropriate. It could involve repeating rumors that may or may not be true. It could involve speaking things about others that are true, but ought not to be repeated. Gossiping is often done as a way of making the gossiper feel better about him or herself. Such is not only selfish, but harmful (cf. **Prov. 26:20**).

4) Boasting - While some gossip to bring others low, others boast in order to exalt themselves high. Such is foolish. Notice **Proverbs 27:2: *Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.*** When we consider how hopeless we are without God, it is evident that we have no reason to boast “***except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ***” (**Gal. 6:14**).

5) Angry Words - The hymn *Angry Words, O Let Them Never* warns against speaking rash words that damage relationships. The song may remind us of the Scripture, “***a gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger***” (**Prov. 15:1**). Instead of speaking wrathfully toward someone, the Holy Spirit exhorts “***let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath***” (**Jas. 1:19**).

6) Corrupt Speech - **Ephesians 4:29**

says “***let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for building up as the need may be, that it may give grace to those who hear.***” **Ephesians 5:4** warns against “***foolish talking***” and “***jesting, which are not appropriate.***” **Colossians 3:8** says to put away “***shameful speaking out of your mouth.***”

Corrupt speech could include false teaching, lying, gossiping, boasting, and angry words, but it could also include cursing, taking the Lord’s name in vain, or repeating vulgar and inappropriate jokes...these are not the things that come out of the mouths of those who are focused on serving God.

Words *can* be a wonderful thing. (**Prov. 16:24; 25:11**), but when our words are not what they should be, they cause much damage.

May we choose our words wisely and purify our hearts so that they will produce good words (**Matt. 12:34-35**). May we remember *Jesus’* words “***that every idle word that men 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***” (**Matt. 12:36-37**).

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose confidence is in the LORD. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, who spreads out its roots by the river, and shall not fear when heat comes, but its leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." – Jeremiah 17:7-8

"Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the Word of God is not bound." – 2 Timothy 2:9

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
Roger S
Jeanette's Grandson, Oliver
L.A. S (COVID)

Daily Bible Reading

January 3 – Jeremiah 18-19; 2 Timothy 3
January 4 – Jeremiah 20-21; 2 Timothy 4
January 5 – Jeremiah 22-23; Titus 1
January 6 – Jeremiah 24-26; Titus 2
January 7 – Jeremiah 27-29; Titus 3
January 8 – Jeremiah 30-31; Philemon
January 9 – Jeremiah 32-33; Hebrews 1

***"Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the Word of truth."
– 2 Timothy 2:15***

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Bible Study: John

Worship: Harold

Evening:

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Assignments

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Harold

Table: Dave

Serve: Steve

John

Clean Building

Jeanette

Prepare Communion

Jeanette

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Invitation:

Upcoming Reminders

**Sunday afternoon services and Wednesday*

evening Bible classes are temporarily

suspended, due to effects of COVID

Anniversaries

January 3 – Dave & Donna

Birthdays

January 9 – Maxine

January 9 – Douglas

January 10 – Cynde

January 15 – Mike

January 17 – Raymond