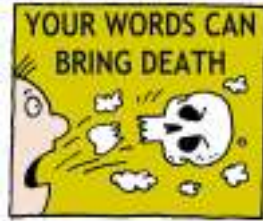


“Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World”
A Study in Proverbs
Lesson #4 – Control of the Mouth

Introduction: “Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.” Proverbs 13:3



Last week, we discussed self-control. This message is repeated in Proverbs over and over... Words have the potential to cut and destroy. If you don't control what you say, you have not mastered self-control. Self-control begins with the right **attitude**. Again, stop and think before we react: verbally or physically. If we can control our tongue, we can work on bring the rest of our thoughts and body under subjection. A truly wise person knows when to speak and when it's best to be silent. Think about this... What we say probably affects more people than anything else we do.

Pride is something that we all deal with... some more so than others. Remember King Nebuchadnezzar, and how pride led to his downfall? How he was humiliated? Pride is something that we all deal with. Remember King Nebuchadnezzar, and how pride led to his downfall? How he was humiliated? Prov 13:10 talks about pride, “Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise.” “I was wrong” or “I need advice” are difficult phrases to say because it requires humility. Pride is an ingredient in every quarrel. It stirs up conflict and divides people. Humility, by contrast, heals. Guard yourself against pride. If you find yourself constantly arguing, examine your life for pride. Be open to the advice from others. Ask for help when you need it, and be willing to admit your mistakes.

Today we will consider some key Proverbs providing for our attitude and proper & misuses of our tongue.

1. The impact in one's life with proper control of the tongue (be prepared to discuss).

Wholesome - Prov 15: 1-4

Practical Implications: Even in what seem minor aspects of service, such as off-hand remarks to friends, we need to be so cautious, always alert to the Lord's directions. When you are itching to give advice, remember this inspired prayer as found in Psm 141:3 and Prov 18:21.

2. The impact in one's life without proper control of the tongue (be prepared to discuss).

Despises - Prov 13:13

Strife - Prov 15:18 -28

Deceitful – Prov 4:24; (6:12, 17, 19); (12:5,17,19); (17:4,7)

Hasty – Prov 6:2; (12:18); (13:3); (18:13)

Destructive – Prov 17:4; (22:12); (30:10)

Arrogant – Prov 25:14; (27:2)

Questions for Discussion

1. What can the lying tongue do to a relationship; how can it hurt the Lord's body (Prov 25:18)?
2. God hates a proud tongue. What's the impact of a "proud-tongue" Christian (Psm 12:3-4)?
3. To what principles can we draw from (Prov 25:23 and Rom 1:30)?
4. Why did Paul say, "be angry and sin not" (Eph 4:29)