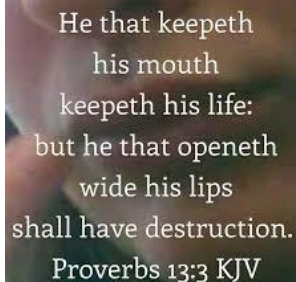


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The Discipline of Wholesome Communication

Life has to do with inter-personal communication including social media and the electronic means too. One of the most potent members of our body is a tiny member called the tongue. It is an influential member that gets the attention of others and is a vital part of our life. Let us be careful how we say it.



He that keepeth
his mouth
keepeth his life:
but he that openeth
wide his lips
shall have destruction.
Proverbs 13:3 KJV

The Instrument of the Tongue for Good and Evil

The tongue, as a bodily organ, has an vital function. It is the organ of speech and does but help to express thought and feeling in words that can influence another. By thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." In Jas 3:1-14, James reminds us that the tongue can be used differently in good and bad ways. **It is a needful agency in our lives, but every effort should be made to keep it, in full control. The tongue is with sound disciplined governance can be useful; and without it, disastrous.**

I. The Tongue for Self

James warns that the tongue can boast of many things" with words of pride or complaint against God and man. Boasting is the expression of pride and self-conceit; and **John says we must decrease and He, increase.** Whoever does this

1. Injures himself or herself, if left unchecked.
2. Unduly praises oneself which is contrary to the will of God.
3. Dishonours God, who require self-denial and humble discipleship.

II. The Tongue for Inciting Evil

The Tongue is called a Fire by James. A spark of fire can be a destructive work for the evil one.

1. The unclean word may burn up the purity in others.
2. The slanderous word may burn up the good name of others.

3. The murmuring word may burn up care in others.
4. The doubtful word may burn up faith in others.

A word spoken may work as a good thing or deadly poison through a whole life. The snake in the Garden of Eden incited and led to Eve disobeying the warning of God. Every unedifying word that man shall speak, he shall give account of it on the day of judgment.

III. The Tongue for Unedifying Things

We are to be mindful that world of iniquity is around us . With this should be taken the tongue can be untamed. It is a wild animal, that even at its best and must be brought into control The shorter Catechism teaches us that we must refrain from evil speaking, lying and slandering. The tongue is an unruly (restless) evil, full of deadly poison. The slanderer, liar, foul-mouthed can do much harm to the name of God and others. One spouse in anger, scolded vulgar words that will harm the marital relationship.

IV. The Tongue used for Blessing and Cursing

James' knows the proper use of the tongue, with fitting Christian control. But here **he is dealing with the unrestrained tongue, and the evil may come out of it. It can be used to exhort, praise and pray and bless God and at the same time curse men.** What a strange and unreasonable irony it could be to Christian disciples. To curse or bless another from the same lips is unnatural indeed. We need the proper control of the tongue that it will only utter blessing and exhortation and cease to curse and discourage others. If we fail to do so, it can have serious consequences.



The Perils of the Tongue

Words can both heal and hurt, be careful what you say and consider the following description.

I. The True Character of the Human Tongue

1. It is a Fire.
Fire can be intended for the useful good of man; It can be highly beneficial to encourage others, but it can destroy others too. The tongue can cause harm beyond the power of man to repair. So it may exasperate our spouse or children, parents or another to serve the evil one's end.
2. It is a World of Iniquity.
There is much sinful activity with the tongue and when we employ it in wrong manner. Eph 4:26 says, *"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no*

more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

II. Its Effects

1. Defilement of the Soul

Sin in the heart defiles the soul; when uttered by the lips, defiles the whole body. Utterance can help or hurt others. All communications if sinful need the blood of the Lamb to cleanse and wash them away when we confess and repent of them.

2. Destruction of Others

Beware as we see in families; the words used! Conflicts are started with exchange of words by leaders that can kindle a war.

3. The Devastating Effects

James says the tongue is "set on fire of hell" The evil one is the author of all the evils that proceed from the tongue. The wickedness of the heart can be abused an evil agency which we need to be vigilant against, .

- a) Be careful that our speech do not come out of the evil of his heart,
- b) We need to pray for the guidance and influences of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can help us to overcome these sinful tendencies if we call upon Him for help.
- c) Be careful of every word we utter which we are to be accountable. We may take away a good character by our false accusations or wound another that will take a long time to heal. We have to account for every idle word. Let then our tongue be to enrich and comfort the Lord's people. Let our "*speech be always with grace seasoned with salt*" (Col 4:6) for God's honour and man's good.

The Depravity of the Tongue

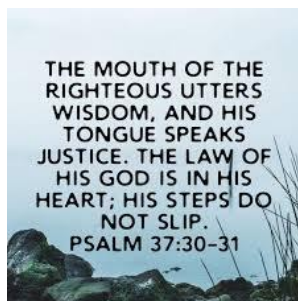
- 1. Among the many sins of the tongue are unguarded and uncouth or idle words. we need to prayerfully avoid foolish talking with others. A wise man "*sets a watch on the door of his lips*" even before it utters a word.
- 2. Malicious words that attack others unlawfully are sinful before God and so are unedifying idle words. Kind words are the oil that lubricates and removes the friction in life. A slanderer is an enemy of both God and man and will have their consequences.
- 3. A filthy imagination can comes out on the tongue one day.
- 4. There is also the danger of profane swearing. Beware that we do not take the name of the Lord in vain.

The Regulation of the Tongue

The wise saying is *"No man can tame the tongue."* The reasons: James says It is unruly and it is full of deadly poison. the poison of the tongue can be *"deadly as it can destroy people"*. **How can a Christian do it then by the grace of God? Consider the following:**

Rules for Managing our Tongue

1. Think through before we speak and let your words be few.
2. Examine your manner and content of your speech first.
3. Do not respond in anger always, wait for a while.
4. Do not allow falsehood or lies to come through your lips.
5. Always be prepared to apologise when you are in the wrong.
6. Never use your lips to advance gossip, tale-bearing or malicious rumours.
7. Be prepared to say words that you can eat them if you have to
8. Be courteous and gentle and respect others in your conversation.
9. Do not be self-centred or always complaining in your conversation, let God be the centre of your speech and life.
10. Pray for wisdom and the right words to say at all times.



We live in a world of constant communication, and our tongue is a vital number in this important aspect of human life. A Christian should be disciplined and careful in the employment of his lips to use words to edify and build up others and not to tear down and destroy.

An Ambassador of Christ

Every child of God is an ambassador and representative of heaven and his or her words and demeanour are noteworthy in that he will influence others positively for Christ or negatively against Him. The following is a good example of one who honour Christ. Firstly, it was Nabal's wife, Abigail who has saved her husband's life by her prudence and find word to David that prevented bloodshed in 1 Sam 15. She was careful, courteous, wise and saved the day from bloody war and battle. We need to be discreet and circumspect to think before we speak to encourage and bless as there are serious consequences.



The second incident is found in 1 Sam 16 and the person is Shimei, who was cursing David and throwing stones at him and his company. Abisha desired to put him to death, but David did not do it. Later, he apologized to king David where he came to the throne. Foolish and vain talking may lead us no way and we may regret our words one day.

The final example is that of Aquila and Priscilla correcting Apollos where he was serving and doing it in the right humble spirit and hence the latter was a blessing to other believers in Greece (Act 18:21-28).

Conclusion

Are you using your tongue wisely today in praising God, edifying the people through encouraging word to the depressed with words of comfort and solace to the sick and money and prayer to the Lord on belief of the saints daily. Let us be a good witness and testimony for Christ and use every member of our body for the glory of His name, be on our lips in our family and workplace and anyway always. Examine your life and your speech and ask God to set divine sentinels at your mouth to guide us daily that we may use it properly for His glory.in all things to be a good witness and testimony for Him till He comes. .

Jack Sin

***Come & Join the Sunday
School Classes!***



Pastoral Musings from South Island, New Zealand

- Evidence of Creation and Catastrophism -

As we travel around the South Island and observe the natural formations of this beautiful vast land, we see evidences of supernatural Creation with intelligent design in the flora and fauna and wildlife especially in Lake Tekapo.

The magnificent Tasman glacier formation at Mt Cook that is 3,700m above sea level testify to a universal flood followed by a short singular ice age (Job 38:29-30) and continental shift for a few hundred years and not millions of years nor 4 ice ages as wrongly surmised by proponents of evolution.



The creation of a natural lake due to volcanic eruption shows what natural disasters can do to create new natural formation within months and not millions of years as in the eruption of Mount St Helen in 1982 in the USA Washington State which we visited in 2001.

The Bible is absolutely accurate to explain these icy formations which took place after the global deluge of Noah less than 10,000 years ago. Our faith rests on the reliable basis of an inerrant and inspired scripture vis a vis man-made evolution idea that is not supported by empirical evidence.

We also attended a Virtual Star Gazing presentation by the Dark Sky Project team who are astronomy experts to appreciate the constellation of celestial bodies and behold the firmament of God in the outer space. (Job 9 and 38) It is another evidence of intelligent design by our Great Creator God.

Let us be a witness for Christ wherever we are. We gave Prima chicken rice paste and gospel tracts to Gladys from Singapore working here in Lake Tekapo in the Chinese restaurant and Susie from Penang Malaysia at a souvenir shop and they were so happy to receive it - do pray for their salvation.



On the Lord's Day 16 Nov morning, we worshipped at the Wakatipu Presbyterian Church in Queenstown. It was delightful to meet and fellowship with fellow Singaporean Belinda and



her Kiwi husband Michael. In a country where “many worship God in their own way” (as often heard), it was a blessing to see many brethren gathered in church to worship the Lord together and as a witness of God’s continuing work here. The Lord’s messenger was an invited speaker Richard Drudy from Barnabas Aid, an organization that reaches out to persecuted Christians in various countries and we were edified by the sermon and the ministry of Barnabas Aid.



In the evening, we attended Queenstown Bible Baptist Church where Pastor Jeff and his wife Debbie have been serving for 30 years. Again, we were much ministered by the preaching of God’s Word and fellowship of the saints. We met a Singaporean couple Kelvin and Nancy who were also visiting and have invited them to SHBPC when they are back in Singapore.

While in Queenstown, we visited to reach out to Julie's sister-in-law Zhang Lin from Jilin province. (Julie is the landlord of our church rented premises.) Zhang Lin and her husband migrated here over 20 years ago and has a convenience store at the town centre. We gave her a Chinese gospel tract and a Jn 3:16 key chain and invited her to church.



It has been a month since we arrived in New Zealand. We thank God for many moments of reflections, learning from God’s Word, fellowship with brethren, edified by listening to Rejoice Radio and protection on the road as we drive and keeping us in good health. We are also glad to receive good reports of the continuing ministry at Sovereign Hope. Let us continue in prayer for one another.

2Chr 7:14

Pastor Jack & Angie

Memory Verse

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Bro Joseph Wee brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Salvation of a Gentile Military Officer (Acts 10:1-38)***", continuing the quarterly series on "***Understanding Church Growth from the Early Church (Book of Acts)***."
3. Next Sunday, Rev Cheong Chin Meng will preach on "***The Good Example of Barnabas (Acts 11:22-30)***",
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
 - Sunday School on "The Fruit of the Spirit" (Bro Joseph Wee)
 - Studies in Job (Dr Kwong Leen)
 - Youth Class (Eld Yue Kay)
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the Psalms. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
6. Pastor & Angie are on sabbatical leave from Oct 21 to Dec 4. Rev Tan Eng Boo and Bro Joseph Wee will be available to provide pastoral support during this period. Do contact the session members for assistance when needed
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
8. Pray for:
 - **Travels: Pastor & Angie** [New Zealand, 21/10-4/12],
 - **Geok Pin's family** [health and spiritual growth of father Mr Low and salvation of family members], **Pit Yuen** [post-radiotherapy recovery], **Agnes' Parents** [health & salvation], **Mrs Philip Heng** [stroke recovery]
 - **Lily Almon**: Singapore Citizenship Application
 - **John Almon**: Application for course at Nanyang Polytechnic
 - **Joseph & Rachel**: GPS Christmas Outreach on Sat 13 Dec.
 - **SHBPC Bible Study at All Saints Home (Tampines)** on **Thu 27 Nov**.
 - **Dec Mission Team**
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB Account 392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.