

- Seeing of the importance of the use of our tongue, and its life giving/destructive power we need wisdom.
- We find a wealth of help from the "Book of Wisdom", Proverbs

### I. WHAT AM I GOING TO SPEAK?

- Exodus 20:16 *You shall not bear false witness*
- Ephesians 4:25 *let each one of you speak truth to his neighbor*

#### A. The Truthful Tongue

- 1.) Delights God Proverbs 12:22 *they that deal truly are his delight* This is true because it reflects His image
- 2.) Brings blessing Proverbs 13:17 25:13
- 3.) Is an act of kindness Proverbs 19:22

#### B. The Lying Tongue

- To purposefully communicate that which is not according to reality, or so speak as to distort reality
- 1.) **God hates** Proverbs 6:17, 19 12:22
  - 2.) **The righteous person hates** Proverbs 13:5
  - 3.) **Demonstrates hatred towards others** Proverbs 26:28
  - 4.) **Has a destructive power** Proverbs 25:18  
*"would you shrink with horror at the thought of beating out your neighbor's brains with a hammer, or of piercing his bowels with a sword, or a sharp arrow? Why then do you indulge in the like barbarity; destroying as far as you can that reputation, which is dear to men as their life, and wounding all their best interests, by mangling their character?" (Bridges)*
  - 5.) **Demonstrates a love for lies** Proverbs 17:4
    - reading of trash papers and TV shows; giving ears to what is known as lies  
*"there would not be so many open mouths, if there were not as many willing ears to entertain them" (Bridges); why are the shows and papers so popular? Because people love lies*
  - 6.) **Makes one untrustworthy**
    - there is almost nothing so precious as to speak with someone and know they speak truth; once that confidence is lost, then almost impossible to get back; when someone is found a liar, reputation as such is nearly indelible
  - 7.) **Will not go unpunished** Proverbs 19:5, 9
    - Possibly at the hands of men, and certainly God

#### Why We Lie

- 1.) **Personal advantage** Proverbs 20:14 in workplace, home, relatives
- 2.) **Pride**
- 3.) **To cover up/indulge sin**
- 4.) **To avoid harm/displeasure from others**

#### Proverbs 14:5 *faithful witness will not lie*

- Truth about the past, the present, and the future
- A carefulness with exaggeration and "universal language."
- This includes making promises flippantly or that that you don't intend to keep
- This includes making promises that you don't keep that you could have
- Particularly with marriage, being unwilling to be honest with the person with whom is the offense; child or spouse when asked what's wrong, "nothing"; is that true?
- We must not lie to our spouse, to our children, to our brethren, to the world
- This includes everything from our actual speech to correspondence. Reporting taxes

### II. WHY AM I GOING TO SPEAK?

- Edification or Destruction – Ephesians 4:29 to be purposefully thinking about the power of words
- Words of rebuke, though true, can be used destructively
- In another message I will deal with the necessity of giving and receiving rebuke, but this week to look at the topic of compliment and flattery.

#### A. Compliment/encouragement

- Compliment - an act or expression which conveys appropriate approval, praise, or honor to another for the hearer's benefit. May be natural abilities, or skills developed.
- Romans 13:7 giving honor where due

- Proverbs 26:1 - honor not fitting for a fool; for whom is it fitting? A wise man
- Proverbs 27:2 – let another man praise you...; let, allow, why? Because it is right (when it is due); not excessively, but appropriately; not to seek that praise (as the Pharisees)
- Proverbs 27:21 tried by his praise; a building of a good reputation by what others say
- Daniel could honor by saying "King, live forever" (Daniel 6:21), yet refuse to bow in idolatry

**By Jesus**

- John 1:47 – Nathanael without guile
- Matthew 15:28 – Canaanite woman
- Matthew 8:10 – Centurion
- Revelation 2:2, 3, 9, 13, 19 – to the churches

**By Paul**

- the various letters and introductions; wasn't unaware of their errors, will address them in due time; but knows of his need to encourage before bringing rebuke. 1Corinthians 11:2 same word used for praising God

**Miscellaneous**

- 31:28 - children call her blessed, her husband praises her (for her godliness)
- Genesis 41:39 – even a pagan like Pharaoh praised Joseph
- For the Christian, such praise is an opportunity for God to be more glorified by directing to the Lord.
- This brings encouragement that may help them to improve, try even harder, and know that someone is noticing; Proverbs 16:24; Hebrews 10:24
- We should encourage others by godly compliment. I have become aware of how important this is with our children. I was so afraid of "doting" parents who falsely inflate the ego of a child (which CAN be a problem). But there is to be righteous encouragement.

**B. Flattery**

- Flattery - an expression which conveys inappropriate approval, praise, or honor to another for the speaker's benefit or desires. Most marked in Proverbs by the adulteress woman 2:16; 5:3; 6:24; 7:5; 7:24
- Inappropriate in its truthfulness or degree
- Proverbs 26:28 it works ruin
- A mark of false teachers Jude 16