

*1Pet 3.10—Keep your tongue from evil*

**The Good Life**

- I. The directives given here are directives to *living the good life*. cf. Ps 34.12-16.
  - A. Who among us doesn't want to live the good life? But what exactly is the good life?
  - B. In the eyes of the world it's living for self, the moment, and sin, Jdg 17.6; Eph 2.3; 4.19. It's living as if yesterday didn't matter and tomorrow will never happen. But such a life is neither good nor truly life.
  - C. In the eyes of God, the good life is a life lived in the fear and worship of Him, Ps 34.11. When His glory is our chief end, the good life is His promise, Ex 20.12.
- II. Peter's telling us how to obtain the blessing of v.9. It's by fearing God and, in particular, honoring God with our tongue in the face of our enemies.

**The good life entails *not* speaking evil**

- I. The tongue is *a world of unrighteousness* (Js 3.6).
  - A. Just think what a hellfire our tongue can set ablaze in another man's life!
    1. By an evil tongue, we *gossip* behind his back and spread his dirty laundry for others to see, so that he's lowered in the eyes of others.
      - a) We should've prayed for him, but instead we besmear him to others.
      - b) We sin the sin of Ham, Gen 10.22-25.
    2. By an evil tongue we *slander* a man's good name and character, saying things about him that simply aren't true.
      - a) Rather than seeking to build him up, we seek to tear him down from behind.
      - b) Words that should be seasoned with grace are seasoned with sin. Where there should be charity, there's cruelty.
      - c) It's inexpressible how deep a wound a slanderous tongue can give a person.
      - d) We sin the sin of Satan who slandered God, Gen 3.5.
    3. By an evil tongue, we *rail* at a man with swears and curses.
      - a) Never stopping to think before we speak, we just say what we think, speak as we feel, and vent the fire that rages in our heart.

- b) We don't stop to consider whether out of the same mouth with which we just prayed to God, there should be coming cursing towards man, Js 3.10.
      - c) We sin the sin of Shimei, who cursed David, 2Sam 16.13.
  4. By an evil tongue, we *lie*, twisting the truth, stretching the truth, halving the truth, or hiding the truth altogether.
    - a) Nothing seems more common than lying. The truth is so hard to say and the lie so easily comes out. Why? Because we fear all that we should not and don't fear Him whom we should, Mal 1.6.
    - b) To lie is to sin the sin of Satan, Gen 3.4.
- B. Satan works so hard to spoil our speech because if he can defile that which most makes us like God and most fits us for fellowship with God, then what have we fallen to but to become like the very beasts of the field?

**Directions to governing the tongue**

- I. Get a clean heart, Lk 6.45.
  - A. Whatever's in is what comes out. The heart is the forge of what the lips bring forth so that the only way to change the speech is to change the heart.
  - B. Can we be so confident that we have grace and goodness in our heart when all that's heard at our lips is evil?
- II. Keep good company, Ps 1.1; 1Cor 15.33; Pr 13.20.
  - A. Choose your company wisely because you'll influence each other.
- III. Bridle your tongue, Pr 10.19.
  - A. Our speech won't improve on its own, Ps 39.1; Pr 30.32.
  - B. This also means bridling that anger which can stain the truth itself, Pr 15.1. Our words are to be soft and wooing, not sharp and provoking.
- IV. Go to God, because all your efforts without His blessing and grace are vain, Ps 141.3.
  - A. Pray for Him to stand guard at the door of your mouth and speak as if He hears every word—because He does.
- V. Set your tongue about a better work, i.e. put it to holy use, Eph 4.29; 5.4; Pr 12.18.

\*No one will enjoy life and see many good days by God's grace who gives his tongue to evil.

