

- I) V1-5 INTRO: My brethren let not many of you become teachers knowing that we
AS WE KNOW
- II) Speech is unusually potent in its use for good or for evil
ON THE ONE HAND
- III) **Words** can provoke tremendous joy and healing in people
Pr 12:25 **Anxiety** in the heart of man causes depression (**weighs down**), but a
good word (pleasant speech) makes it glad
- IV) Our **words** can bring comfort and encouragement to those who are hurting
Pr 16:24 Kind words are like honey--sweet to the soul and healthy for the body
ON THE OTHER HAND
- V) **Unguarded** and unkind words can hurt and emotionally cripple others
We have used our words to hurt, or have been hurt by things said to or about us
- VI) Some seem to feel it necessary to fill any silence with their words
They **speak** more than they listen
Pr 17:28 Even fools are thought wise **if they keep silent**, and discerning if they
hold their tongues.
- VII) We have two ears and one mouth for a reason!
- VIII) There are those who are experts at tearing people down, **using only their words**
I don't need you, you're stupid, you're ugly, I never loved you, **I hate you**
Ps 64:3 (Speaks of those) Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, and bend their
bows **to shoot their arrows--bitter words**
- IX) I remember the words of a dying man to his son: **you will never be anything**
- X) In our day speech is used to create a culture of fear, anger and distrust
We especially see this in the **daily news reports**
FACT
- XI) The **worst use** of speech occurs when things are said **about God** that are untrue
Those who **do not know Him or the bible**, often speak of what **they do not know**
- XII) Their **unbelief** undermines faith of the young, as occurs in some college classes
This is something that we can deal with if we stay in the Word
We know they are not Christians, so we are not taken by surprise

- I) The worst transgressors are the **false teachers** who promote a false gospel
This is something that we have been made aware of and warned about
Mt 7:15 Beware of **false prophets**, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

PAUL WARNED US

- II) Ac 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

2 Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables

PETER WROTE

- III) 2 Pe 2:1-2 But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach their destructive heresies about God and even turn against their Master who bought them. Theirs will be a swift and terrible end. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of them, Christ and his true way will be slandered

WITH THIS IN MIND

- IV) V1 **Bible teachers** are judged by a **stricter standard**
They speak of eternal things, influencing the direction of the lives of their hearers

- V) This is one reason for those being taught should show respect to their teachers
Heb 13:7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith

- VI) We who teach give an account of what we taught and how we influenced others
Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

1 Co 3:11-15 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, **he will suffer loss**; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- I) **THEY TEACH ACCURATELY AND THOROUGHLY**
- II) Teachers are to teach *accurately*
2 Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**.
Pr 30:6 Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and prove you a liar
- III) **Second**: They are to teach **thoroughly**
Mt 28:20 teaching them to observe **all things** that I have commanded you
REMEMBER
- IV) James has already warned all Christians to **guard their speech**
He has made this clear in various portions of this letter: 1:19, 26, 2:12
HE WAS MAKING IT CLEAR
- V) If a person truly knows the Lord, **his speech** will reveal whether this is true
Lu 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.
KEY
- VI) Guarding your speech is a **basic** and **general** discipline of a Christian believer
The general body of Christ is instructed to be careful with our language
Eph 4:29 No **foul (rotten) language** is to come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.
Eph 5:4 Nor should there be **obscenity**, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving
- VII) Matthew Henry: **Filthy words** proceed from corruption in the speaker, and they corrupt the minds and manners of those who hear them
- VIII) We, **of all people**, should understand the power of the **spoken word**
It is through the power of the spoken word (preaching) that people are saved
Ro 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without **a preacher**?
- IX) There is a special responsibility placed on the teacher of God's word
We preach and teach a holy gospel of a holy God to encourage holy lives
Cussing pastors should remember this

I) **BEGIN THE STUDY**

V1 **My brethren** let not many of you become **teachers** knowing that **we shall**

WHAT IS GOING ON

II) People were taking upon themselves the position of teaching the bible
They were **self appointed** but not anointed: this made them **unqualified** to teach

III) Some were teaching what they themselves did not comprehend
They were teaching error but presenting it as gospel truth

WE NEED TO REMEMBER

IV) **Teaching** is a gift and a place that God calls you to, and not just a natural talent

Eph 4:11 And **He** Himself **gave some** to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some **pastors and teachers**

2 Ti 1:11 (Paul spoke of himself) **appointed** as a preacher, apostle, and **a teacher**

V) Teachers are gifts from God to the church

Bible teachers have the responsibility of teaching **God's word** to **God's people**

VI) They proclaim God's word, explain its meaning and encourage its application

They **explain** God's truth, **encourage** faith, and **equip** believers to serve God

VII) In order to do so, there must be an **anointing** and **gifting** of the Holy Spirit

Spurgeon: If there is to be a Divine result from God's Word, the Holy Ghost must go forth with it. As surely as God went before the children of Israel when He divided the Red Sea, as surely as He led them through the wilderness by the pillar of cloud and fire, so surely must the Lord's powerful presence go with His Word if there is to be any blessing from it.

THE FACT IS

VIII) Incompetent and unworthy teachers do much harm to God's cause and the church

They can teach error to the hearers and turn them in the wrong direction

IX) Because **it is God's word**, teachers are subject to stricter judgment

Lu 12:48: For to whomever much is given, of him shall be much required

X) We are held to stricter judgment because of the **importance** of the message

The message of the gospel must be communicated faithfully

Dt 12:32 Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

- I) It is not to be altered **in any way**, but presented accurately
2 Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing **the word of truth**
THE FACT IS
- II) Today, many teachers are aware that **this generation** gets bored easily
This spurs them to make the message **entertaining** in order to retain an **audience**
- III) They cater to the goats and starve the sheep
- IV) The church isn't an audience: it is the ekklesia, the called out ones of God
Moody: The bible wasn't given for our **information**, but for our **transformation**
BECAUSE THIS IS TRUE
- V) The purpose of teaching God's word is to equip believers to serve God and others
- VI) Some teachers **skip** certain portions or **over emphasize** other portions
By doing this we are trying to appeal to people and failing to actually teach
Ac 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare to you **the whole counsel** of God
JAMES CONTINUES
- VII) V2 For **we all stumble** in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word he is a **Teacher** have more opportunity to speak about God and His kingdom
- VIII) We have more opportunity to stumble in word, misrepresenting God to His people
It is estimated that between 7,500 and 9,000 words are spoken in an hour
Pr 10:19 In the **multitude of words** sin is not lacking but he who restrains his lips is wise
- IX) Because this is true the teacher must be careful to teach **accurately**
He is not to teach the latest wind of doctrine or the latest popular ideas, but truth
- X) Those who fail to teach the Bible accurately are spiritually dangerous
When necessary they are to be identified, **warning believers** to avoid them
Ro 16:17-18 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.
- XI) V2 If anyone does not stumble **in word**, he is a perfect man able to bridle the whole
Being careful and accurate in speech reveals spiritual maturity

- I) Disciplined speech reveals self control, because your speech reveals your heart
People who freak out at the slightest provocation reveal a lack of self discipline
- II) If you are disciplined in your speech your whole way of life will also be disciplined
This comes under the command to be **doers of the word**, not hearers only
You actually live out what you say you really believe
- III) V3-4 Indeed we put bits in **horses' mouths** that they may obey us and we turn their
Both the horse and ship are examples of things needing to be controlled
COMPARISON
- IV) Things with life (**horse**) or things without life (**ship**) are both controlled by a master
- V) V5 Even so the tongue is a little member and **boasts** great things. See how great a
Like a small flame kindling **dry grass**, our words can destroy
APPLICATION
- VI) Many teachers are **great** and **stirring speakers**, and can stir the emotions
THE PROBLEM
- VII) If the people stirred are untaught, or taught incorrectly, it is harmful
Human nature does not require much prompting to erupt in response
This is shown in riots and protests
- VIII) This is why teachers must be careful to teach the bible accurately
I have heard **excellent communicators** as they have stirred their audience but
have taught error, or have been theatrical but the message is incorrect
- IX) A true teacher is open to learning, and correction, when necessary
Ac 18:24-26 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent
man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in
the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the
things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak
boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and
explained to him the way of God more **accurately**.
- X) V6 And the tongue **is a fire**, a world of iniquity (unrighteousness of heart and life)
An unguarded tongue inflames and destroys instead of bringing healing
Pr 12:18 Speaking rashly is **like a piercing sword**, but the tongue of the wise
brings healing

- I) Your words can be like a knife, or like a surgeon's scalpel
Knives can wound but scalpels can bring healing
Cutting away and removing something that is unhealthy, even deadly
- II) The tongue (speech) can be used to reveal as well as to ignite evil passions
This is what happened to Jesus
Mt 27:20-21 But the chief priests and elders **persuaded the multitudes** that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"
- III) Without the power of the Spirit, they revealed the evil of their own hearts
- IV) V7-8 For every kind of beast and bird of reptile and creature of the sea is tamed
The fierceness of wild beasts, the swiftness of birds, the poison of serpents and the enormous strength of whales can all be controlled
- V) The tongue is ungovernable and there is no power in man to keep it under control
We can tame animals that are savage, but cannot tame our speech
Instead of bringing peace and community, we can use our speech to destroy
- VI) The tongue (speech) reveals what is in our hearts
Pr 4:23 Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it flow spring the issue of life
- VII) We can be quick to speak and quick to get angry when provoked
This is why we need a new nature and the Spirit to control our words
Ps 141:3 **Set a guard**, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch at the door of my lips
- VIII) It takes the power of the Spirit to give us self control and patience with others
Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
- IX) V9 With it **we bless our God** and Father and with it **we curse men** who have been
The tongue can bless God or curse men who were created in **God's image**
Similitude: Image or likeness; severely impaired, but not wiped out completely
- X) Through our speech, our genuine religious beliefs are revealed
This is why we are careful about how we speak, and what we say

I) Eph 5:3-4 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking which are out of place but rather thanksgiving

II) V10 Out of the **same mouth** proceed blessing and **cursing**. My brethren these **Blessing** speaks of flowery speech or praise to God

Ps 71:6 By You I have been sustained from my birth; You are He who took me from my mother's womb; my praise is continually **of You**

Ps 145:21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, And all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever

III) Notice that James speaks of cursing

I have heard some say that Peter cursed and swore, **using profanity**

Mt 26:74 He began to curse and swear, saying I do not know the Man!

IV) To **curse** speaks of Peter calling down curses, upon himself

To **Swear** speaks of taking an oath, calling God as his witness

V) Jesus actually taught us not to do this

Mt 5:34-37 I tell you, **do not swear an oath** at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

NEITHER SPEAKS OF PROFANITY

VI) **Cursing** speaks of calling for divine punishment upon someone for their evil

Ps 109:9-11 Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. Let his children continually be vagabonds, and beg; let them seek their bread also from desolate places. Let the creditor seize all that he has, and let strangers plunder his labor

V17 **As he loved cursing**, so let it come to him; as he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from

VII) James is saying that we can't bless God and at the same time, curse people

The way we use our speech reveals the inner person

Pr 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it

I) V11 Does a **spring** send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?
Use your words to promote life, love and wholeness
Jn 6:63 The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.
Pr 16:24 Pleasant words are like a honecomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones

II) V12 Can a **fig tree** my brethren bear olives or a **grapevine** bear figs?
A mouth that spews words of no profit while speaking praise is false
The source of the words is the heart and if the heart is corrupt so are the words

APPLICATION

III) **False teachers** will never give God's pure words because **their source** is polluted
Their words are filled with error and can only produce bad fruit
Mt 7:17-19 Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

IV) A **genuine teacher** of the word rightly divides it, and encourages believers to live it
He teaches the whole counsel of God, and encourages believers to maturity

V) He does this because he is aware of the war that we are in
2 Ti 4:3-4 **Preach the word**; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.