

**Full of Wisdom  
Watch Your Mouth  
Discover Church  
Mark Phillips  
July 3, 2022**

*“Whoever rebukes a person will in the end gain favor rather than one who has a flattering tongue.” Proverbs 28:23*

*“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.” James 3:1-2*

1. Watch Out for **Strict Judgment**
2. Small **Things** Have a Big **Impact**

*“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.” James 3:3-6*

- Powerful Horses
- Powerful Ships
- Powerful humans

*“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” Proverbs 18:21*

3. Practice **Taming** Your **Tongue**

*“All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.” James 3:7-12*

4. Pay **Attention** to Who You **Listen** To

*“Consider carefully what you hear,” Mark 4:24*

*“The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”  
Proverbs 12:18*

*“The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.” Proverbs  
15:2*

*“A wicked person listens to deceitful lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.”  
Proverbs 17:4*

#### 5. Don't Be **Deceived**

*“Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their  
tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.” James 1:26*

*“All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not  
even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on  
their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” Romans 3:12-14*

*“For, Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil  
and their lips from deceitful speech.” 1 Peter 3:10*

#### 6. Plan Your **Future**, Adjust to **God**

*“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year  
there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen  
tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.  
Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you  
boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they  
ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.” James 4:13-17*

*“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will  
acknowledge God.’” Romans 14:11*

*“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every  
name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the  
earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”  
Philippians 2:9-11*

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Scripture: *Proverbs 28:23; James 3:1-12; Proverbs 18:21; Mark 4:24; Proverbs 12:18; Proverbs 15:2; Proverbs 17:4; James 1:26; Romans 3:12-14; 1 Peter 3:10; James 4:13-17; Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:9-11*