

## Wisdom & Words

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Intro... The Football Bus

**Proverbs 10:20-21** *“20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth. 21 The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.”*

The Bible has a lot to say about our tongue and the words that come from it. Simply put, words matter... a lot

### Our Words Matter... to Others

- Words have power... **Gen. 1:3, 26**  
*“3 And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. 26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”*
- Words give or take away life... **Pro. 18:21** *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”*
- Words cheer up... **Pro. 12:25**  
*“Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.”*
- Words turn away or stir up wrath... **Pro. 15:1** *“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”*
- Words feed or starve... **v.21**

“You are not wise unless you fully grasp the power of *words*. Words *pierce like swords* — they get into your heart and soul. When you say a hurtful word, you can never make things as if it had never been uttered. It’s like the wound of a sword.... Sticks and stones can only break our bones, but words can be soul destroying.” (Tim Keller, *God’s Wisdom for Navigating Life*, p. 170)

“Words can wound but also heal. The tongue can be soothing and *a tree of life*. Words are like fruit or food for us; we need them to live. Most of us can remember, years later, the words from a passage or a teacher, that ‘turned on a light,’ or that implanted new ideas that we never forgot.” (Tim Keller, *God’s Wisdom for Navigating Life*, p.171)

Can you remember words of encouragement someone gave you? What about nasty words that cut deep and hurt you?

## Our Words Matter... to God

1. They are a window into our very heart (v.20)

**Matt. 12:34b-35** “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.” (Luke 6:45 says the same)

**James 1:26** “If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.”

**Jeremiah 17:9** “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick”

Our words come from our heart and show us something about our heart but also affect our heart

2. We will give an account for them

**Matt. 12: 36-37** “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

**Romans 10:9-10** “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

3. God commands us to watch over them

**Eph. 4:29** “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”

**Eph. 5:4** “Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.”

## Closing Thoughts

### A Warning from James

**James 3: 3-12** “3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

## **LCC YTH**

*Wisdom – Part 4 | MS*

*Stephen Mackey*

*How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.*

### A Prayer to God

**Ps. 19:14** *“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”*

**Ps. 141:3** *“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips! 4 Do not let my heart incline to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their delicacies!”*

Let us ask for help in this area and be a community marked by our speech!