

IMAGO DEI – The Mouth of God

February 4-5, 2023

“What a startling revelation it would be if a tape recording could be played of all that every church member has said about his fellow members in one week!” – **Alan Redpath**

“**gossip**” = Greek *psithuristes* - “whisperer, secret slanderer, backbiter”

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NIV) – “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God”.

“We obviously stand at the brink of a great mystery and our understanding of it can only be minimal” – **Colin Kruse**

Psalms 19:10-14 (NIV) – “They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer”.

Proverbs 16:18 (NIV) – “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall”.

Matthew 12:34-37 (ESV) - “You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned”.

James 3:1 (NIV) – “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly”.

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Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 (NIV) - “Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few”.

James 3:9-12 (NKJV) – “With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus, no spring yields both salt water and fresh”.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) – “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen”.

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV) – “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved”.

“There is one deathbed conversion in the Bible, so that no one would despair; but only one, so that no one would presume” – **David Guzik**

Matthew 4:1-4 (NIV) – Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread”. Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’”.

Psalms 104:1-3a (NIV) – “Praise the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. The Lord wraps Himself in light as with a garment; He stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of His upper chambers on their waters”.