



**WATCH YOUR MOUTH!**

JAMES 3:1-12

***OUR WORDS MATTER!***

STICKS

+

STONES

## Matthew 12:36- 37

- *“And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak they shall render an account for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”*
- ***Words and deeds are objective observable evidence of a person’s spiritual condition.***

**John MacArthur**

# HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THE BIBLE?

**R**eason

**E**xperience

**S**cripture

**T**radition

**Scripture upon Scripture**



Let my

words

BE A LIFE-GIVING FOUNTAIN.

Proverbs 10:11

**Proverbs 10:11a, , “the mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life.”**

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# **I. The Preparation of the Heart for Wholesome Communication. Romans 13:11-14**

**V<sup>11</sup> Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.**

**WAKE-UP!**

# **The Preparation of the Heart for Wholesome Communication.**

- **<sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.**

**GET-UP!**

# **The Preparation of the Heart for Wholesome Communication.**

**<sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.**

**DRESS-UP!**



## **II. The Power of Words Give Life or Death**

**Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it**

- **Dutiful teacher/preacher’s works and words – v1**
- ***Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.***

## The Tongue Directs – vv2-5

- ***<sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.***
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# The Tongue Destroys – vv6-8

- ***How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> 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,<sup>[a]</sup> and set on fire by hell.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.***

# The Duality of the tongue: Destroys and Delights – vv9-12

- ***<sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers,<sup>[c]</sup> these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.***

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### III. The Six Biblical Principles to Handle the Power of Words to Glorify God.

#### 1. Spirit-led Speech – I Corinthians 2:12-13

- *<sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.<sup>[a]</sup>*

## 2. Slow in Speech – James 1:19

- ***Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;***

### 3. Salty Seasoned Speech – Colossians 4:6

- ***Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.***



## 4. Sunset Speech – Ephesians 4:26-27

- ***Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil.***

## **5. Sweet Speech – Ephesians 4:29-32**

- ***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. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.***

## 6. Sincere Speech – Proverbs 27:6a

- ***Faithful are the wounds of a friend;***

# **The Takeaway: Are my words a fountain of life?**

- ***Words and deeds are objective observable evidence of a person's spiritual condition.***

**John MacArthur**