Shunning Evil Words

Tony Mauck · Psalm 19:14

INTRODUCTION

- We can say all day long that we love God, but if our actions are such that they demonstrate hatred for our brothers in the Lord, then God is saying, you don't love me.
- Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight. O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

1 Gossips and Busybodies

1 Timothy 5:13; Philippians 2:4; James 3:2

- Verse 13, and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.
- That's not the point of Philippians 2 and verse 4. It simply says, take a genuine concern in the circumstances of others.
- If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle or control the whole body as well.
- The thought can get to the lips just that quick. And you want to reach out and sometimes grab those words.

2 Defining Gossip and Slander

3 John 10

- The King James translates the word fluoros as tattlers. That's what gossip does. It's really tattling on someone.
- That's in reference to the devil who is an accuser. He is a slanderer of God's people.
- The idea of being given to finding fault with the demeanor and conduct of others and spreading their innuendos and criticisms to others.

3 How Important Are Our Words?

Proverbs 18:20–21; Proverbs 12:18; Proverbs 25:11

- Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
- There is one who speaks rashly or recklessly like the thrust of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- Like apples of gold in settings of silver, is a word spoken in right circumstances.

4 Why Would People Gossip or Slander Others?

Proverbs 6:14; Proverbs 16:27–28; Proverbs 10:20

- A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate friends.

- Our words are a reflection of what is going on in our hearts.
- At the heart and the root of the problem is either some advancement of self or justification of self.
- And a lot of this has to do with what? Jealousy and envy.

5 Why Are We Saying What We're Saying?

Proverbs 16:28

- Water and words are easy to pour but impossible to recover.
- Here's the issue. Why are we saying what we're saying?
- But there are some words that are true that don't need to be spoken.
- Speak only well of people, and you will not need to whisper.
- If you wouldn't want it to be told to them, then you shouldn't say it.

6 The Secret to the Whole Thing: Humility

Proverbs 10:19; Proverbs 15:28

- Where there are many words, transgression is unavoidable. Proverbs 10 and verse 19. But he who restrains his lips is wise.
- Because the heart of the righteous ponders how to answer.
- Three words. Actually, it's one. Humility.
- There's so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it ill behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us.

THE CHALLENGE

Is there someone in our audience tonight who needs to come into this relationship with God and this relationship of brothers that's designed to help us to go to heaven?

MY NOTES