

Let Our Words Be Acceptable to God

(Psalm 19:14)

Introduction:

1. As David concluded Psalm 19 he made a request that involved his words.
2. He wanted his words to be acceptable in God's sight.
3. Our lesson is based on David's request -- "let our words be acceptable to God."

Discussion:

- I. FOR OUR WORDS TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD WE MUST PAY ATTENTION TO THE "QUANTITY" OF OUR WORDS (Proverbs 10:19)
 - A. The first part of this verse mentions "*the multitude of words.*"
 1. This refers to an uncontrolled tongue.
 2. Where an uncontrolled tongue exists, sin will not be far away.
 - B. The latter part of this verse mentions one who "*refrains*" [controls] his lips.
 1. One who "refrains his lips" is said to be "*wise.*"
 2. Not only is such a person wise, but he will also avoid the sins associated with a multitude of words.
 - C. By making this contrast in Proverbs 10:19, Solomon stressed the importance of paying attention to the "quantity" of our words.
- II. FOR OUR WORDS TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD WE MUST PAY ATTENTION TO THE "QUALITY" OF OUR WORDS
 - A. On the negative side, the Scriptures condemn uncontrolled speech.
 1. (Proverbs 8:13b) The Lord hates a "*froward*" [perverted] mouth.
 2. (Proverbs 13:3b) A person who opens his lips wide is headed for destruction.
 3. (James 1:26) Religion that is accompanied by an unbridled tongue is "*vain.*"
 4. Examples of sinful speech: blasphemy, cursing, gossip, lying, railing, slander, murmuring, etc.
 - B. On the positive side, the Scriptures show that special blessings are associated with controlled speech.
 1. (Proverbs 13:3a) One who "*keeps*" [guards] his mouth keeps his life.
 2. (Proverbs 17:27-28) Wisdom is associated with controlled speech.
 3. A special comparison is made in Proverbs 25:11.
 4. (1 Peter 3:10) Those who control their speech will enjoy long life and see good days.
 - C. The Lord requires His people to pay attention to the "quality" as well as the "quantity" of our words.
 - D. Let us turn our attention to some . . .

III. INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL HELP US TO SPEAK WORDS THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

- A. We might conclude from James 3:5-8 that we cannot control our speech.
 - 1. This cannot be true because James 3:2 teaches that it can be done.
 - 2. The point being made is that no one else can control your speech.
 - 3. Controlling speech is a personal matter -- only the individual can do it, with the Lord's help.
- B. Suggestions:
 - 1. Let us heed the Lord's admonitions such as the one given in Psalm 34:13.
 - 2. Let us determine to control our speech with the Lord's help (Psalm 39:1).
 - 3. Let us remember that God is aware of the things we say (Psalm 139:4).
 - 4. Let us learn to differentiate between times to speak and times to be silent (Ecclesiastes 3:7).
 - 5. Let us keep the right things in our hearts (Matthew 12:34-35).
 - 6. Let us practice the instructions given in Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6.

Conclusion:

- 1. It has been said that the way we begin each day is very important.
- 2. An excellent way to begin each day is with the uplifting statement found in Psalm 118:24.
- 3. A good 2nd statement to make each morning is found in Psalm 19:14.
- 4. If we will take heed to the passages we have studied, our words will be acceptable to God.