

Let Us Keep Ourselves Pure When We Speak  
(1 Timothy 5:22)

Introduction:

1. In this verse we are given the responsibility of "keeping ourselves pure."
2. This morning we made some general observations about keeping pure.
3. This evening we are addressing a specific activity -- "let us keep ourselves pure when we speak."

Discussion:

- I. TO KEEP OURSELVES PURE WHEN WE SPEAK, 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. He will also avoid the sins associated with a multitude of words.
  - C. By making this contrast in Proverbs 10:19, Solomon emphasized the importance of paying attention to the "quantity" of our words.
- II. TO KEEP OURSELVES PURE WHEN WE SPEAK, WE MUST ALSO 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.*"
  - B. Positively, the Scriptures associate special blessings 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) Speaking correctly leads to long life and 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 CORRECTLY
  - A. Let us heed the Lord's admonitions such as the one given in Psalm 34:13.
  - B. Let us determine to control our speech with the Lord's help (Psalm 39:1).
  - C. Let us remember that God is aware of the things we say (Psalm 139:4).
  - D. Let us learn to differentiate between times to speak and times to be silent (Ecclesiastes 3:7).
  - E. Let us keep the right things in our hearts (Matthew 12:34-35).
  - F. Let us practice the instructions given in Ephesians 4:29 and Colossians 4:6.

Conclusion:

1. We have covered a number of passages that relate to our speech.
2. They contain negative as well as positive guidelines.
3. By following these guidelines we will keep ourselves pure when we speak.