

Keeping Ourselves Unspotted from the World

(Lesson 3)

Introduction:

1. An important part of "*pure and undefiled religion before God*" is "keeping ourselves unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).
2. One key to keeping ourselves unspotted from the world is "controlling our speech."
3. Let us begin our study of this subject by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE SCRIPTURES STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTROLLING OUR SPEECH
 - A. One passage is Proverbs 10:19.
 1. The first part of this verse mentions "*the multitude of words.*"
 - a. This refers to an uncontrolled tongue.
 - b. Where an uncontrolled tongue exists, sin is unavoidable.
 2. The latter part of this verse mentions one who "*refrains*" [restrains, controls] his lips.
 - a. One who "refrains his lips" is said to be "*wise.*"
 - b. Not only is such a person wise, but he will also avoid the sins associated with a multitude of words.
 - B. By making this contrast in Proverbs 10:19, Solomon stressed the importance of controlling our speech.
- II. THE SCRIPTURES CLEARLY CONDEMN UNCONTROLLED SPEECH
 - A. (Proverbs 8:13b) The Lord hates a "*froward*" [perverted] mouth.
 - B. (Proverbs 13:3b) "Destruction" is in store for a person who opens wide his lips.
 - C. (Matthew 12:36-37) We will be judged by our words.
 1. We will give an account of the words that we speak.
 2. We will either be justified or condemned by our words.
 - D. (James 1:26) Religion that is accompanied by an unbridled tongue is "*vain.*"
 - E. Examples of sinful speech: backbiting, blasphemy, cursing, gossip, lying, railing, slander, whispering, being a busybody, etc.
- III. THE SCRIPTURES ASSOCIATE GREAT BLESSINGS WITH CONTROLLED SPEECH
 - A. (Proverbs 13:3a) One who "*keeps*" [guards] his mouth keeps his life.
 - B. (Proverbs 17:27-28) Wisdom is associated with controlled speech.
 - C. (1 Peter 3:10) Those who control their speech will enjoy long life and see good days.
- IV. THE SCRIPTURES CONTAIN INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL HELP US CONTROL OUR SPEECH
 - A. We might conclude from James 3:5-8 that we cannot control our speech.
 1. This cannot be right 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 remember that God is aware of the things we say (Psalm 139:4).
 2. Let us listen to the Lord's instructions (Psalm 34:13).
 3. Let us determine to control our speech with the Lord's help (Psalm 39:1).
 4. Let us 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).