

Let Us Speak Properly  
(Proverbs 10:19)

Introduction:

1. In our lesson we are examining a number of passages that deal with "speaking properly."
2. This is a subject we need to study occasionally because many people today have a serious problem with speaking improperly.
3. Let us begin by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. PROVERBS 10:19 STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING PROPERLY
  - 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 wanting.
  - B. The latter part of this verse mentions one who "*refrains*" [restrains, 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 speaking properly.
- II. THE SCRIPTURES CLEARLY CONDEMN THE PRACTICE OF SPEAKING IMPROPERLY
  - 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. GREAT BLESSINGS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SPEAKING PROPERLY
  - A. (Proverbs 13:3a) One who "*keeps*" [guards] his mouth keeps his life.
  - B. (Proverbs 17:27-28) Wisdom is associated with speaking properly.
  - C. (1 Peter 3:10) Those who speak properly will enjoy long life and see good days.
- IV. INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL HELP US SPEAK PROPERLY
  - 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. Speaking properly 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 speak properly with the Lord's help (Psalm 39:1).
    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).

Conclusion:

1. God has blessed us with the ability to speak.
2. Let us use this blessing in a way that pleases Him.