

## James 3; Lord's Day 43

### LOVING, SPEAKING, AND CONFESSING THE TRUTH

- I. The idea.
  - A. God speaks, i.e., communicates perfectly within Himself and to His creatures, especially His children.
    - 1. He created man in His image: able to know and speak the truth and able to communicate thoughts.
    - 2. The power of speech is very great (as a rudder to a ship, James 3:4,5). It can comfort or confuse; build up or destroy.
    - 3. Truth is not just facts, but also a moral-ethical tone because He who is Truth is also Love.
  - B. Sin ruined communication and the ability to use the tongue for good.
  - C. Grace restores the ability to know and speak the truth in love, but we still have the nature to lie.
- II. The violations of this command.
  - A. Natural man holds the truth under in unrighteousness, so it is distorted and perverted (Rom. 1:18; 3:13,14).
  - B. The most frequent lie is about ourselves, denying specific sins (1 John 1:10) and "forgetting" our sinfulness (James 1:24).
  - C. Sometimes we lie directly, but more often it is a poisonous half-truth (distort the truth) or cowardly silence.
  - D. Gossip is speaking the truth unnecessarily.
  - E. Every violation of this commandment is most serious: (Prov. 12:22; 6:16-19; 19:5,9; 21:28; Psalm 15:-3; Rev. 21:8).
- III. This command sets before the redeemed the duty to express our gratitude by speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15,16).
  - A. The speaking God enables His children to be truth speakers, graciously giving us the Spirit of truth.
  - B. Because a part of God's glory is that He is truth, the glory of believers is that we know the truth, speak and live it.
  - C. We speak the truth about ourselves.
  - D. We speak the truth with and about our neighbor, seeking their spiritual good.