



The Amazing Power of Our Speech

A Study in the Book of Proverbs

- 1) The problem: our tongues can eternally scar both us and others
 - a) Uttering deceitful flattery (20:17; 28:23)
 - b) Through gossip & slander (6:12-14; 10:18; 18:7-8; 20:19)
 - c) Through arguments & angry words (22:24-25; 29:22)
 - d) By boasting & course jesting (14:3; 25:14)
 - e) Through verbosity—speaking much but saying little (10:19)
- 2) The solution: we can use our tongues to edify others & glorify Christ
 - a) By giving wise counsel & sound advice (10:32; 15:7, 22; 20:18)
 - b) By reproving, rebuking, & exhorting (15:5, 10, 31-32; 27:6; 28:23; cf. 2 Tim 4:2)
 - c) Through words of encouragement (15:23, 30; 16:24)
 - d) Through teaching truth (10:11, 20-21; 11:30; 18:4, 21; 24:11-12)
 - e) Through wholesome humor (15:13, 15)
 - 3) Those troubled in heart need tongues of encouragement
 - a) Sorrow is often hidden by laughter (14:13)
 - b) Those deceived see joy in those who are free (12:20)
 - c) Those weighed down by anxiety are put at peace by those with a good word (12:25)
 - d) Those backslidden are restored by those satisfied in Christ (14:14)
 - e) Listen & watch carefully in order to counsel properly (16:23-24)
 - 4) Application
 - a) Think before you speak
 - b) Listen more than you talk
 - c) List ways you plan to use your tongue for good
 - d) Improve your humor