

5. We hurt others when we simply talk too much -
10:19, 11:12-13

IV. ONLY GOD CAN HELP US USE THE GIFT
OF
SPEECH FOR HIS GLORY - Ps. 141:3,
Prov. 16:1, 23

There is a great lesson to learn here: if we
devote
our hearts to serious study of the Bible, even
when
sharing the truth with others, God will teach us
more of His truth (18:21, 10:11).



Tonight's Message:

Lesson 21

A Matter Of Life And Death
2019

November 20,

INTRODUCTION: Proverbs 18:21

A judge can speak a few words and a person is either free or sentenced to prison. A cynical professor can speak and shatter the faith of a young person. It is said that for every word Hitler wrote in his book Mein Kamp, 125 lives were lost in World War II. It is no wonder that James compared the tongue to a _____ poison and a dangerous fire (James 3:5-8).

Tonight, we will learn four truths from Proverbs about the tongue.

I. SPEECH IS AN AWESOME GIFT FROM GOD - 16:11

Language is not a cultural artifact — it is a distinct piece of the biological makeup of our brains. When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them the ability to speak with each other and to communicate with God Himself. The Garden of Eden was a place of _____ with God and man. Wise words are compared to gold and silver (10:20, 25:11-12). Our words ought to be _____, beautiful and

A. Words Are Like Refreshing Water - 18:4

B. Righteous And Rightly-Spoken Words Are
_____ -Giving - 15:4

The words of Jesus were healthy, wholesome words that brought healing to men. The Christian who recognizes how awesome the gift of speech is, will not abuse it, but rather use it for the _____ of God.

II. SPEECH CAN BE USED TO DO GOOD

1. Words can bring peace instead of war - 15:1, vs. 18

“If there is hatred and war in the heart, then our words become destructive missiles instead of healing medicine.”

2. Our words can help _____ those who have _____ fallen into sin - 25:12, 28:23

It isn't easy to reprove those who are wrong, but if we _____ have the right spirit, people will respond.

People will _____ not care how much you know until they know how _____ much you _____.

3. Our words can instruct the ignorant - 15:7, 16:21

While there are many good and right things we can _____ learn here on earth, the greatest thing we can learn _____ and share is God's Word (4:7).

The British Royal Navy has a regulation that reads:

“No officer shall speak discouragingly to another officer in the discharge of his duties.” We need to practice this same principle in our homes and in our church. Be a Barnabas, a “son of encouragement”. One famous pastor said, “If I had to do it all over again, I would preach more to the broken hearts: Jesus came to heal the broken-hearted.”

III. SPEECH CAN BE USED TO DO EVIL

1. We hurt others by lying - 12:19, 22

When the words of our leaders cannot be trusted, our society falls apart— contracts are useless, promises are vain, the judicial system becomes a farce. It is a basic rule of life that the ears hear what the heart _____; so beware of people who have an appetite for lies and gossip (24:26, 27:6). Honesty is not only the best policy, it is the only _____ policy.

2. We hurt others by gossiping - Lev. 19:16, 11:13

People who _____ on gossip only crave more, and the only remedy is for them to develop an appetite for God's truth (2:10).

3. We hurt others by insincere flattery - 29:5, 26:8

Someone once said that “A man who pats you on the _____ back is only trying to locate a soft spot to stick the knife _____ in.”