

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

A teaching bulletin produced and provided by FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 3 ♦ Issue 5 ♦ January 30, 2022

TONGUES OF PROVERBS

Larry R. Ping II

Proverbs is a grand book of wisdom! It takes its readers on a knowledge-building journey. One topic it covers extensively is the tongue. Notice with me the different tongues of Proverbs.

1) A Lying Tongue. A “lying tongue” is one of the seven abominations listed in Proverbs 6:16-19. It is something in which people of God should have no interest. Solomon further adds “*Lying lips are abomination to the Lord*” (Prov. 12:22). May we each speak the truth, nothing more and nothing less.

2) A Flattering Tongue. Solomon warned young men, “*To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman*” (Prov. 6:24). Flattery is often used with ulterior motives. In fact, Solomon warns his readers about this very situation four other times (Prov. 2:16; 5:3; 7:5; Eccl. 7:26). Some flattery is deserved in the case of a job

well-done. It should be recalled, however, “*Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips*” (Prov. 7:2).

3) A Just Tongue. The wise man authored, “*The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth*” (Prov. 10:20). Christians are to be fair in every way, including the way we talk with others and about them. Sometimes fair means praising our brethren and friends (Prov. 27:21). At other times it may mean correction. Paul mentioned, “*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted*” (Gal. 6:1). This takes a just, fair, and equitable tongue.

4) A Froward Tongue. This sort of tongue is “perverse” in the way it behaves. The Bible abundantly warns about misusing the tongue in this way. Solomon

uttered, “*The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out*” (Prov. 10:31). The Psalmist said, “*Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous*” (Psa. 31:18). The Son of God spoke on this subject too. He said, “*But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned*” (Matt. 12:36-37). May we always know “*the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison*” (Jam. 3:8). Be sure your tongue is not perverse.

5) A Wise Tongue. David’s son wrote, “*There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health*” (Prov. 12:18). This is a skillful and intelligent tongue. It is experienced. It has worked through many conversations. It has, in the past, made mistakes,

TONGUES OF PROVERBS

Larry R. Ping II

and learned from them. Paul mentioned in Colossians 4:6, *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”* As with anything, time and experience helps. Be sure your tongue is wise and practiced.

6) A Wholesome

Tongue. The Good Book says, *“A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit”* (Prov. 15:4). Wholesome in this place indicates soundness, or that which is medicinally good. In other words, our language should be that which is healthy, that which builds up, that which is pure and that which heals. The wise man additionally says, *“Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones”* (Prov. 16:24). The New Testament warns, *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”* (Eph. 4:29). What of your speech? Does it help, and build up? Does it spur others to do good? Be sure it does!

7) An Answering

Tongue. The book of wisdom iterates, *“The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD”* (Prov. 16:1). Life is filled with questions. Take notice of the eunuch who asked Philip what amounted to very basic questions (Acts 8:31-34). We must be ready to answer others’ questions, and ensure our answers arise from God’s Word. Peter commanded, *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”* (I Pet. 3:15). We must adopt the attitude of Cornelius who said, *“Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God”* (Acts 10:33). May there be more Peters in the Lord’s Church who are willing to teach God’s Word, and may there be more Cornelius’ in the Lord’s Church who are willing to ask only for God’s Word.

8) A Powerful Tongue.

The Holy Spirit breathed, *“Death and life are in the*

power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (Prov. 18:21). Oh, how often we forget the immense power of this little member of our body. With it we can make others happy, sad, or mad. With it we can save or doom ourselves. It is *“with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Rom. 10:10). Be sure you wield this power wisely and effectively.

9) A Kept Tongue.

Solomon cautioned, *“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles”* (Prov. 21:23). Sometimes, the best tongue to use is the silent one. Often, the very best thing to do is to say nothing at all. Notice these other alerts. *“In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise”* (Prov. 10:19). David said, *“I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me”* (Psa. 39:1). Be not he that *“openeth wide his lips”* to *“destruction”* (Prov. 13:3). Be measured with what you say and how you say it. Know when it is best to say nothing at all.

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288

Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com

Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm