

Life, Death and the Tongue

11/30/14

Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
And those who love it will eat its fruit.
Proverbs 18:21

"Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

³⁴ "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

³⁵ "The good man out of *his* good treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of *his* evil treasure brings forth what is evil.

³⁶ "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.

³⁷ "For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned." Matthew 12:33

If anyone thinks himself to be religious,
and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart,
this man's religion is worthless.
James 1:26

The Big Idea: The Tongue must be Bridled

James 3:1 Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.

² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

Three Reasons why:

1. The tongue directs our lives

³ Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

⁴ Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

2. The tongue is a fire

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.

3. The tongue can't be tamed

⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed by the human race.

⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison.

⁹ With it we bless *our* Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

¹¹ Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*?

¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Neither *can* salt water produce fresh.