

October 7, 2012

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Selected Proverbs

“Wisdom with Words – Part Two”

- I. Words for Good or Evil (Prov. 18:21; 10:11; 11:9, 11; 12:18, 25; 13:14; 14:25; 15:4, 23; 16:24, 27-28; 12:13-14, 19; 13:2-3; 14:3; 17:20; 18:7, 20)
- II. Words as Investments
 - A. Foolishly Invested: No Return On Investment (R.O.I.)
 - 1. No R.O.I. when they are spoken by a fool (26:7, 9).
 - 2. No R.O.I. when they are spoken to a fool (15:14; 17:4, 10; 23:9).
 - 3. No R.O.I. when they aren't accompanied by appropriate actions (14:23; 29:19).
 - 4. No R.O.I. when they aren't true (26:2; 24:12; 26:25-26).
 - 5. No R.O.I. unless spoken at the proper time in the proper way (27:14).
 - B. Better Saved than Spoken (10:19; 12:23; 15:28; 17:27; 18:2; 21:23; 29:20)
 - 1. Save your words until you have truly and completely listened (18:13, 15, 17).
 - 2. Save your words until strong emotions pass (12:16; 15:1-2; 17:27; 29:11).
 - 3. Save your words until you carefully consider what to say and how to say it (15:28).
 - C. Forbidden (Illegal) Investments
 - 1. Revealing secrets [confidences] (11:13; 25:9-10).
 - 2. Hasty commitments (6:1-5; 20:25).
 - 3. Words that start fights (20:3).
 - 4. Correcting a fool (23:9; 29:9).
 - 5. Cursing parents (20:20 cf. 30:11).
 - 6. False witness (19:5, 28).
 - 7. Flattery (26:28; 28:23; 29:5).
 - 8. Gossip and slander (18:8; 20:19; 25:23).
 - 9. Lies and deception (4:24; 6:12-13).
 - 10. Boasting in self (25:14; 27:2)
 - D. Invest with Gold
 - 1. Words are golden when _____ directed by God (16:1).
 - 2. Words are golden when they provide _____ and _____ (15:7; 31:26).
 - 3. Words are golden when we proclaim the _____ (13:14; 24:11).
 - 4. Words are golden when we correct the _____ (25:12; 27:5-6; 28:23).
 - 5. Words are golden when we defend the _____ of the afflicted (31:8-9).
 - 6. Words are golden when they meet _____ (12:18, 25; 15:4; 16:24).
- III. Words Spoken Wisely
 - A. _____ is everything! (15:23; 25:11)
 - B. It's _____ you say it! (15:1-2; 16:21, 23; 22:11; 25:15)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the most significant change you made in your use of words since our study last week? What difference did it make in your relationships? What other changes do you need to make this week to be more skillful in your use of words?
2. What is the most significant change you made in “listening” to others since our study last week? What difference did it make in your relationships? What other changes do you need to make this week to be more skillful in the way you listen to God and to others?
3. Define gossip. What are some ways that people gossip? What should we do when we hear others spreading gossip?
4. Define slander. According to Proverbs 16:27-28 what will slander do to friendships? What are some ways that people slander others? What should we do when we hear others spreading slander?
5. Read Prov. 16:1. What in the world does that mean? How would God sovereignly direct our words? What is our responsibility if God is sovereign?
6. How can we insure that our words impart wisdom and instruction to others?
7. What does the word “gospel” mean? What should we do with the gospel? Some would say that they are “living” the gospel so they don’t need to use words. What is wrong with that claim? Are you proclaiming the gospel with words? How? How often?
8. What is your response when someone corrects / rebukes you? How does our response demonstrate wisdom or foolishness in our lives? What is the best response you can think of to a person that rebukes you?
9. Read Prov. 31:8-9. What are some examples of some unfortunate / afflicted / needy people in our culture that need us to speak for them? What are you currently doing about that? What actions should accompany those words?
10. What does the word “tact” mean? Go ahead and Google it! Now share some examples when you were less than tactful as well as some examples when you were tactful. How can a person develop tact in their communications? How does this apply to email, text messages, twitter...?
11. How important is tone, facial expression, and body language in communication? Read Prov. 15:1-2. How are you doing with “gentle” responses to angry people?
12. What one main thing do you need to work on to be more WISE with your WORDS?

[Answers to blanks: Sovereignly; Wisdom; Knowledge; Gospel; Wise; Rights; Needs; Timing; How]