

WCBC SERMON NOTES - MAY 7, 2017

TOPIC: *The Power of Words!*

TEXT: Proverbs 12:13-22; 18:21

INTRO: The Human Tongue!

I. THE POWER OF WORDS SPOKEN TO PEOPLE:

Note: The tongue, on the one hand, when used appropriately, has the "power of LIFE." It can build and bless:

Prov 10:11 – "The mouth of the righteous is a FOUNTAIN OF LIFE"

Prov 10:21 – "The lips of the righteous NOURISH MANY"

Prov 12:18b – "The tongue of the wise BRINGS HEALING"

Prov 12:25 – "A kind word CHEERS him up"

Prov 15:1 – "A gentle answer TURNS AWAY WRATH"

The tongue, on the other hand, when used inappropriately, has the "power of DEATH." It can destroy:

1. It destroys people – Prov 11:9 – "With his mouth, the godless DESTROYS his neighbour"

2. It pierces the heart – Prov 12:18 – "Reckless words PIERCE like a sword"

3. It causes anger – Prov 15:1b – "...a harsh word STIRS UP ANGER"

- Alex Trebek!

4. It separates friends – Prov 16:28 – "A gossip SEPARATES close friends"

5. It wounds the soul – Prov 18:8 – "The words of a gossip are as WOUNDS"

II. THE POWER OF WORDS SPOKEN ABOUT PEOPLE:

Note: Proverbs 18:21 states that the tongue has both positive (can give "life") and negative (can bring "death") aspects in it. Words negatively spoken about people:

1. Lies – Proverbs 12:22 – "The Lord DETESTS lying lips"

2. Gossip – Prov 16:28 – "A gossip SEPARATES close friends"
Prov 20:19 – "A gossip BETRAYS confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much"

- Patient's Tongue In Place!

III. THE POWER OF WORDS TO THE ONE WHO SPEAKS:

Note: What we say influences US:

Prov 10:19 – "When words are many, SIN IS NOT ABSENT"

"Many words means many mistakes. Less words means less mistakes!" – Chinese Proverb

Prov 12:13 - "An evil man is TRAPPED BY HIS SINFUL TALK"

1. Where Do We Obtain These Wholesome, Wise Words?

A. From our Character – Prov 10:20 – "The tongue of the RIGHTEOUS is choice silver"

B. From our Thoughts – Prov 15:28 – "The HEART (or mind) of the righteous weighs its answers"

Note: Heart & Mind = used interchangeably in the Bible!

"We should think twice before we speak once!"

C. From the LORD – Prov 16:1 – "From the LORD comes the reply of the tongue"

2. How Do We Use These Wholesome, Wise Words?

A. They should be Fitting – Prov 15:23 – "A man finds joy in giving an apt reply – and how good is a timely word"

"Wise men talk because they have SOMETHING TO SAY; fools talk because they have TO SAY SOMETHING!"

– Plato

B. They should be Fair – Prov 16:13 – "Kings take pleasure in honest lips. They value a man who speaks the truth"

C. They should be Few – Prov 17:27 – "A man of knowledge uses words with restraint"

**"Am I better known for using HURTFUL or HELPFUL words?"

CONCLUSION: The Power of Words!

A Mark of True Christian Spirituality & Maturity!

The Power of Words: Franklin Graham's Autobiography!

In Franklin's autobiography, *Rebel With A Cause*, he tells, as a teenager needing some money from Dad, how he rode over to his father's office on his motorcycle, long hair whipping in the wind. When he got there, Billy Graham was in a board meeting – surrounded by important people. But when Dr. Graham learned that his son had arrived, he invited him in, and introduced him to each of the board members. Years later, Franklin wrote: I never forgot that feeling. MY DAD WASN'T ASHAMED OF ME!"

Those deep, accepting words from his Dad changed his life forever! – The "Who's Your Daddy?" Debate

Verse For Today

"The tongue has the power of life and death!" – Prov. 18:21b

Food For Thought

"If you have a soft voice, you don't need a big stick!" – Chinese Proverb

