

## “DO NOT LET YOUR MOUTH CAUSE YOUR FLESH TO SIN”

**JAMES 3:1-12**

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Ecclesiastes 5.1-7 teaches us to be careful with our words lest we speak words that are meaningless.
2. In the New Testament, we are reminded to use our words to say things that are meaningful. [READ JAMES 3.1-12]

### I. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

- A. There are two emphatic declarations.
  1. **JAMES 3.1:** *“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers”* Why? (Matt. 28.19; 1 Tim. 4.6)
  2. **JAMES 3.2:** *“If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man”* Who? (Heb. 4.15; 12.23; James 3.8)
- B. There are two illustrations.
  1. **JAMES 3.3:** *“Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.”*
  2. **JAMES 3.4:** *“Look also at ships”*
- C. There are two comparisons.
  1. **JAMES 3.5,6:** *“The tongue is a fire.”* (cf. Eph. 4.15)
  2. **JAMES 3.7,8:** *“It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison”*
- D. There are two directions.
  1. **JAMES 3.9:** *“With it we bless our God and Father”*
  2. **JAMES 3.9:** *“With it we curse men”*
  3. **JAMES 3.10-12:** *“these things ought not to be so.”*

### II. WORDS THAT ARE MEANINGFUL

- A. Words spoken in prayer.
  1. **JAMES 5.13:** *“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray”* (cf. James 1.5)
  2. The Bible gives us four kinds of prayers. (1 Tim. 2.1)
- B. Words spoken in praise.
  1. **JAMES 5.13:** *“Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”*
  2. Psalms refer to songs of praise. (cf. Heb. 13.15)

**CONCLUSION:** Are your words meaningful? (Ecc. 5.6)

**NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**APRIL 30, 2023**

**2424 McCARRAN ST.**

**NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031**

**(702) 642-3141**

**WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM**

## NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030

Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: [Pruittle@gmail.com](mailto:Pruittle@gmail.com)

Be sure to watch us live at [www.nlvchurchofchrist.com](http://www.nlvchurchofchrist.com)

Facebook: Northside Church of Christ Las Vegas

*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

**April 30, 2023**

---

### MEETING TIMES:

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**

**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM**

---

### THREE TRUTHS OF SIN

Sin is defined as breaking the laws of God (1 John 3.4). Sometimes people sin out of ignorance not being aware of God’s prohibitions. Sometimes people sin willfully knowing full well that they are violating God’s commands. Many have a misconception of sin. Consider three truths regarding sin.

1. **SIN IN INDIVIDUAL.** Everyone is held accountable for their own sin (Ezek. 18.20). Many things are inherited from our parents. Sin is not one of them. Sometime we wish we can take on the sins of our loved ones, so they don’t have to suffer the consequences of their actions (Rom. 9.1-3). However, sin is individual.

2. **SIN IS AVOIDABLE.** Everyone sins, but sin does not have to be an inevitability. We sin because of the choices we make. John wrote what he did, *“so that you may not sin”* (1 John 2.1). James tells us that we are blessed if we endure temptations (James 1.12). That means that temptation can be endured.

3. **SIN IS CONSISTENT.** It does not matter if it is murder or a little white lie. All sin has the same consequence. All sin results in spiritual death (Rom. 6.23).

What is the solution for sin? **ROMANS 8:1:** *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”* In Christ, we are saved from sin and no longer face eternal condemnation. CLP

## “DO NOT LET YOUR MOUTH CAUSE YOUR FLESH TO SIN”

### ECCLESIASTES 5:6

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Our words have consequences. (James 3.5; Prov. 18.21)
2. In Ecclesiastes 5, we are alerted to the fact that God hears what we say and will judge us by our words.
3. Our words can be classified as either meaningless or meaningful. What kind of speech do you use?

#### I. WORDS THAT ARE RASH

- A. **ECCLESIASTES 5.2:** *“Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.”*
1. Rash (tebahel): The Hebrew word carries the idea of rushing into something without thinking. (Prov. 28.22)
  2. Hasty (yemaher): This is a word that expresses one who is impulsive. (Mark 8.32; 14.29)
- B. **JAMES 1.19:** *“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”*

#### II. WORDS THAT ARE MANY

- A. **ECCLESIASTES 5.2:** *“Therefore let your words be few.”*
1. Why should we limit what we say? *“For God is in heaven and you are on earth.”*
  2. God is in heaven listening to what we say and will judge our words. (Ecc. 5.7; Matt. 12.37)
- B. **ECCLESIASTES 5.3:** *“And a fool’s voice is known by his*

#### III. WORDS THAT LACK INTEGRITY

- A. **ECCLESIASTES 5.4,5:** *“When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it”* Do what you say you’re going to do.
1. **ECCLESIASTES 5.4:** *“For he has no pleasure in fools.”*
  2. **ECCLESIASTES 5.6:** *“Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin.”* To break a promise is to sin.
- B. We are to be imitators of God.
1. God does not lie. (Titus 1.2; Num. 23.19)
  2. Jesus did not lie. (John 14.6)
  3. The Holy Spirit did not lie. (John 14.17)
  4. Paul did not lie. (Gal. 1.20)
  5. We are not to lie. (Rev. 21.8)

**CONCLUSION:** Our words are powerful. (Ecc. 5.6; 1 Cor. 1.18)

## PRACTICING MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness has become a popular and trending practice in our culture. It is touted as the cure for many of the changes we want to make. It is the solution for breaking bad habits and developing new and lasting habits. But what is mindfulness, and how helpful can it be to practice mindfulness?

Mindfulness is the practice of being present and aware. The idea is to be tuned into how you feel, what you think, and what you do. Many of our undesirable practices stem from a lack of awareness. We do not even realize we are doing it. It might help to become aware of what you eat to get your diet under control. It might help to think about what you say and how it might affect others instead of blurting out the first thing that comes to mind. When you are mindful, you are paying attention. If you can become aware of your behavior, you can then begin to change it.

Did you know that the Bible teaches us to practice mindfulness? There are some things that you and I are expected to keep in the forefront of our minds. Failing to be aware of certain things can put our salvation in jeopardy. There are individuals who are not mindful of their own spiritual condition. Jesus warned that *“he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going”* (John 12.35). Maybe that’s why we are told in Hebrews 2.1 to *“give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.”* We need to practice mindfulness in reference to the revealed will of God. Without being mindful of what the Bible says, we walk in darkness not even realizing that we are lost.

We are also to be mindful of the suffering of others. The apostle Paul wrote to his protégé that he was *“mindful of your tears”* (2 Tim. 1.4). Timothy was suffering for the cause of Christ. Paul wrote this letter to encourage him to keep preaching by telling him that he was aware of his suffering and experienced the same suffering himself (2 Tim. 1.8). Suffering can cause us to feel alone. Knowing that others are mindful of our suffering can ease those feelings.

We are to be mindful of the teachings of scripture. Brethren were being persuaded by false teachings concerning the coming of Christ. Peter responded by encouraging the brethren to *“be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior”* (2 Pet. 3.2). It can be easy to be *“carried about by every wind of doctrine”* (Eph. 4.14). The one who keeps the scriptures in the forefront of their mind will not be lead astray.

Practicing mindfulness is not a new concept. The Bible has always taught us to *“set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth”* (Col. 3.2).