

The Care of the Tongue

Gary McDade

Bible references to the tongue appear 165 times in the King James Bible. Perhaps one of the most chilling of statements about the power of the tongue comes from the lips of our Savior as recorded in Matthew 12:34-37 where he said, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 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."

A humorous sign in a place of business describes an all too common truth about the tongue. It reads, "If you cannot think of anything good to say about someone else, then pull up a chair and sit down here beside me!"

Brent Smith, who is the preacher for the Trenton Church of Christ, included in his weekly church bulletin the following piece about the tongue.

The Tongue

"The boneless tongue, so small and weak, can crush and kill," declared the Greek.

The Persian proverb wisely saith, "A lengthy tongue, an early death."

Sometimes it takes this form instead: "Don't let your tongue cut off your head."

While Arab sages this impart: "The tongue's great storehouse is the heart."

From Hebrew wit, the maxim's sprung: "Though feet should slip, don't let the tongue."

A verse from Scripture crowns the whole: "Who keeps the tongue doth keep his soul." [Proverbs 21:23]. (*The Harvester*, 36:6).