

Bridle Your Tongue

“1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. 2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. 4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. 7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? 12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.” (James 3:1-12 KJV)

Apostle James speaks a clear Word to us about our responsibilities toward the tongue. We learn certain lessons from that and as the followings:-

“1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.” (James 3:1 KJV) * Whenever you open your mouth to speak, whether you are aware of it or not, you are teaching the people who are around you, who will be influenced of what you are going to speak. If you are speaking wrong things then you will be hold accountable before God and before men to what you had spoken. Therefore you need to be careful about every Word that will come out from your mouth. * God shall judge you for the wrong things that you had spoken. But when you speak the right things that would teach others God shall reward you for that.

Now those who teach and take the office of the teachers in the church they are more seriously accountable than others and they will be judged more if they will be delivering incorrect information or false teaching.

The Lord add to His church teachers and give to them the gift of teaching to teach God's church and the new disciples of what is goes along the sound teaching. Every teacher receives from God certain teaching according to the need and He is responsible to teach that to the church. Also every teacher should know his limit about what He received from God because every teacher will receive a certain and a specific teaching from the Lord that the church needs in that particular time and place.

Also there are many who speak externally very beautiful words, but as long as these word are not the Word of God they will be judged by that. **We should train ourselves that when we need to speak we need to bring the Scripture with us, that our speech**

should agree with the doctrine and the Scriptures of the Bible. Otherwise, what we then speaking are swollen and boastful words and we will be judged for that!

“2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.” (James 3:2 KJV) In various ways we might cause trouble or offence. But if a person will not sin or do mistake in what he says he is a perfect man and he is able to bridle his whole body. The word used here for **‘bridle’** is **‘Chalinagogeo’**, and the meaning of it is to lead by a bridle, to guide, to bridle, hold in check, or to restrain. And it is also used by James in defining the true religion: ***“26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.”*** (James 1:26 KJV) James made it very clear here that those who cannot control their mouth are ruining their lives and their faith needed to be corrected to avoid falling into the trap of the devil. **Therefore the true followers of Christ should know how to control or bridle their tongues.**

The tongue is connected with the heart and the mind. To bridle or to hold and restrain the tongue it means the heart and the thought of the person is in full control and bridled and paced with the Word of God and the will of God. If a person in what he speaks is not perfect and keep causing error with the opinion he gives and the wrong council he advices then that person religion is in vain.

When we speak and say something wrong, or ought not to say it, then that is sin, and we need to confess that sin and renounce it. The Word of God tells us the followings: ***“9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*** (1 John 1:9 KJV) **We need to verbally renounce what we spoke wrong, considering it as sin, and that is the way that God would forgive us and purify us from all such unrighteousness in the error of our speech.**

“3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.” (James 3:3 KJV) The horse is a big and strong animal, and the way we control it is by putting bridle in his mouth and fix it on his head. That is the way for the horse to obey us. The horse need to be controlled to avoid trouble and damage and harm to others and to the surroundings. **Therefore, in the same way we need to bridle our tongues so we will not be misleading or falling into sins and we will not be causing troubles and harms to others and to the surroundings around us.**

“4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.” (James 3:4 KJV) The same is for the ship. Although they are big in size, and is moved by strong winds, but they are still directed with a small helm or rudder in the direction that the leader of the ship needed to move. **We are also can be influenced greatly and controlled by our tongues of what we like to speak and declare, therefore, we need to bridle and muster our tongues in such a way so that it will not release ill spoken words that cause errors and many troubles to us and to others.**

“5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” (James 3:5 KJV) The tongue is a little size member of the

body, but it boast with great things. It is a small organ but it can contribute and achieve big things whether bad or good. It can have great effect. When the tongue will do bad things and is evil speaking, it is then a small fire that can kindle a big fire around it in our lives and in the lives of the people around us.

“6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.” (James 3:6 KJV) Apostle James defines the tongue here as a fire, and as a world of sin, **“a world of iniquity”**, and shortcomings. Its presence as part of our body members causes defilement to the whole body, and causes the fire to spread to our surroundings, and finally the tongue will be set on fire in hell. **Therefore every one of us should bridle his own tongue to control and protect ourselves not to be judged and end up in hell because of the ill speech of the tongue.**

“7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind.” (James 3:7 KJV) The man had given the power and the authority from God to tame and control every kind of beasts, birds, serpents and the animals in the sea. We are the masters in that field and we are called to bridle the animals. **“28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” (Genesis 1:28 KJV)**

“8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” (James 3:8 KJV) But for the tongue of man no man can tame; the tongue is unruly evil, beyond control and full of deadly poison. Then the question now how the tongue can be tamed? Some people pray and ask God, ‘Lord help me to control my tongue’, or they will pray as such, ‘Lord help me not to speak bad things and not to gossip.’ **You need to understand that God will not control your tongue and will not help you to control it. The Lord had given the ability for each and every human being to control and bridle his own tongue. Therefore the matter is totally is in our hands and in our jurisdiction to do it.**

“9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.” (James 3:9 KJV) We cannot be hypocrites. In one way or in a certain places we speak the correct things, but in other places we replace our speech with corruptible words, or wrong opinion and things that contradict God’s will and God’s plan. For example, when we pray we speak good words with God but when we are angry against certain people bad words would come out from our mouths and that is wrong because those people were created in the image of God. We should avoid cursing men or bullying them because men are created in the image of God.

“10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.” (James 3:10 KJV) We cannot use our mouths to curse others while God had ordained to use our tongues to bless others. Cursing is not only telling lies, or slandering, or speaks bad or blasphemies, but cursing also include the things that we speak which mislead others and bring them away from God. Jesus instructed us to bless those who curse us, **“44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies,**

bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;” (Matthew 5:44 KJV) “28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” (Luke 6:28 KJV)

“11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?” (James 3:11 KJV) Good fountain will bring sweet water, and will not bring both sweet and bitter water. * **Once there is bitterness then there is something wrong in the fountain and that need to be corrected and be cleaned. * We need always to check what is in our hearts and what is in our minds when we notice that we started to speak bad things, or certain bad words or cursing are already coming out from our mouths.**

“12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.” (James 3:12 KJV) When you go to a fig tree you would expect to find figs, and when you go to the vine you expect grapes. It will not be possible for the fig tree to reproduce olives unless there is something wrong in the fig tree. It will also not possible for the vine to reproduce figs unless there is something wrong in the vine. Someone may say, it is still fine if we can get olives instead of figs or figs instead of grapes. But the point here is that you are not getting what you ought to get.

The application of this interpretation is as the following: **There are many who speak nice and good words, but as long as it is not what you intend to listen or hear, then it is like bitter or salty water from a fountain. There are many who hear good opinion but it is not God’s opinion or God’s Word. They are like those who are happy to pick up olives from figs trees and figs from grapes trees; they are glad with the half truth, which ultimately are lies and will turn to be fatal to them. Therefore we should not speak half truth or like to listen and adjust to the half truth for that is not the will of God in our lives.**

Apostle Peter describes false prophets and teachers from the way they speak as we can read here: **“10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. resumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. 11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. 17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.” (2 Peter 2:10-19 KJV)**

Here Apostle Peter described and we can notice three things the way the false teachers speak from their speech and as the following:

1. They are not respectful to authorities: In verse 10 we read this, *“they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities”*; that means they speak in evil way against the authorities that placed over them to care for them. That means they have pride and they don’t respect those over government authorities and such contradict the Scriptures.

2. They speak evil of things they don’t even understand: In verse 12 we read this, *“speak evil of the things that they understand not”*; they don’t have the understanding and the correct inspiration of the Holy Spirit to explain certain things of God, so you find them speak evil against the holy things of God and allow it to be corrupted by the corrupted things of the world. Or they just want to justify themselves therefore they speak wrong things about things that they are even not understood by them and that is their corruption.

3. They are willing to invent things in order to mislead others to serve their purposes: *“18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”* (2 Peter 2:18-19 KJV) They boast and brag and use their tongue to make stories to attract people attention to listen to them and obey them. They are liars; they give false promises to others in order to persuade them with their own ways to seduce them to go and serve their evil purposes and greed.

My Dear and Beloved: *“1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”* (James 3:1 KJV) Apostles James warned the brethren from pretending to be teachers because otherwise they will bear great responsibility and they will be answerable to God if they will fail to do that. * Teaching is not about that you have a speaking skill or your language is good, but it is to bring out from the Scriptures what God is speaking and telling to His church and to His people. * Even to us today, we are warned to control our tongues and are warned to clean our hearts and thoughts from defilements. Few and choice truthful words are more profitable than great swollen words of vanity, *“20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.”* (Proverbs 10:20 KJV) The time for you now to examine yourself and check your religion and see what kind of faith you have. Are you able to bridle your tongue and control it? Are you controlling your mind and your heart? It is a high time for you to develop the self-control that will help you to follow God and do His will, and to control your tongue and bridle it, and utters the very words that He wants you to say and to do.

“11 He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.” (Proverbs 22:11 KJV) Jesus Christ is the King that we delight to be a friend with and that we delight to serve. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. This will take place when our hearts are pure and our minds are clean, and in our lips graceful and precise speech.

Therefore,

- Let us control our tongues and not to speak irrelevant things in irrelevant time.
- Let us avoid unnecessary talk because unnecessary talk will bring sin.
- Let us not to allow corruptive words to proceed out from us like jokes, lies, gossips, boasting slander, accusation, slur, etc.
- Let us speak choice words when we are in need to speak.
- Let us spend more time in prayers meditating on the events around us before we put out our tongues and speak.
- Let us clean our hearts from corrupted thoughts, such slander, gossip, filthiness, murder, immoralities, and others because such things will appear in our tongues.
- Let us bridle our mouths while we are in anger.
- Let us have the discretion to control corrupt communication, filtering them out and not allowing them to come out from our mouths.
- Let us be aware that true followers of Christ should know how to control and bridle their tongues.
- Let us bridle our tongues so we will not be falling into sins and we will not be causing troubles and harms to others and to the surroundings around us. We need to bridle and muster our tongues in such a way so that we will not release ill spoken words that cause errors and many troubles to us and to others.
- Let every one of us bridle his or her own tongue to control it, and protect ourselves, so we will not be judged and end up in hell because of the ill speech of the tongue.
- Let us accept and understand that God will not control our tongues and will not help us to control it. The Lord had given the ability for each and every human being to control and bridle his or her own tongue. Therefore the matter is totally is in our hands and in our jurisdiction to do it.
- Let us refrain from cursing or bullying men who are created in the similitude of God.
- Let us understand that cursing is not only speaking bad or blasphemies, cursing is not only wishing bad to others, but cursing is also in telling lies, and in slandering others, as well as include the things that we speak that will mislead others and bring them away from God.
- Let us not speak half truth or like to listen and adjust to the half truth for that is not the will of God in our lives.
- Let us have the discretion that what are going out to proceed of our mouths should be used to edify others.
- Let us always ask ourselves the following questions before we open our mouth and speak:

Do I need to speak?

What I am going to say?

Do I need to keep silent?

- Let us always weight carefully what we are going to speak, full of God’s grace, declaring His will and plan to the people.

- Let us always be sure that what we speak should be season with salt to bring a difference toward Godliness and righteousness and preserve holiness in the life of the people who hear us.
- Let us train ourselves that when we need to speak we need to bring the Scripture with us, that our speech should agree with the teaching, the doctrine and the Scriptures of the Bible. Otherwise, what we then speaking are swollen and boastful words, and we will be judged for that.
- Let us understand that the tongue is connected with the heart and the mind. To bridle or to hold and restrain the tongue it means the heart and the thoughts of the person should be in full control and to speak what is goes along with the Word of God and the will of God.
- If a person in what he speak is not perfect, and keep causing error with the opinion that he gives and the wrong council he advices, then that person religion is in vain.
- Let us check what is in our hearts and what is in our minds when we notice that we started to speak bad things, or certain bad words or cursing are already coming out from our mouths.
- Let us avoid speaking evil against the authorities that placed over us to care for us,
- Let us avoid speaking and giving our opinion and teach in the area that we don't know or in what the Holy Spirit did not reveal or explain to us. Better to say 'I don't know' or 'Let me go and search', than to mislead others.
- Let us stop to brag and boast to attract the listeners and would ultimately mislead them.
- Let us now come to God in repentance, confessing to Him our sins and renouncing them all so that He will forgive us, cleanse us and purify us.

Let us pray

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word to me that made me understand things in a better way. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.*

Let us confess our sins to the Lord and renounce them. Lord I ask you forgiveness for the following corruptive speech that I uttered _____ . Lord I ask you forgiveness for my anger, pride, self righteousness, boasting, gossips, telling lies, cursing and slander others. Lord forgive me of not reading my Bible well and being busy the Media, News and games. Lord I ask you forgiveness for the following topics that I started to teach but I don't know how to teach and I am not enlightened by the Holy Spirit to teach _____ .

Lord I commit my life to clean my heart and my mind from evil thoughts and to speak with graceful speech that is season with salt so that others who hear will be

edified and built up with the truth. Lord I commit myself to put bridle over my mouth and tongue. I understood that I am accountable for that. Lord sustains me, and let the fruit of the Holy Spirit appear in my life, personality and attitude; Lord give me gentleness, patience and self-control, so I can control my tongue in a better way. Lord I ask you to reveal to me by the Holy Spirit, and from your Word, and through the teachers of the church how to understand so I can teach others, the following subjects: (Ask God what you are longing to understand)_____ . Lord I ask you forgiveness for the sin of cursing others.

Lord provide me all my needs, and give me good health and strength to go on and serve you. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit that I need to go on and serve you with. Lord make me and my speech a good example to others so they will see you through my life and my talk.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sister who committed their lives to what they heard from your Word in this message. Lord I pray for them that you will change their lives and characters to be like you and make them good examples to others to attract them to you in the way they live and in the way they talk. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit; give them the gift of teaching and the gift of evangelism, to reach others, bringing them to you and to disciple them.

Lord I pray for us as a church, Lord help us to evangelize, reaching new people, new cities, new nations with your gospel, and to disciple them with your Word. Lord enable us to start more Bible studies and to plant new congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord take the message and spread it to reach the people who need your Word. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be8 with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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