

C&C: Death and Life are in the Power of the Tongue

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

James 3:3-12

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.

The tongue defiles the whole body even as Jesus said, “And Jesus said, **Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.**” (Mt 15:16-20) The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, and sets on fire the course of nature as itself is a fire, as what you say in an instant can change everything. The Apostle James likens the tongue as being 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.

It is our responsibility to do our best to control what we say by applying the Word of God. However it is impossible for us to tame the tongue and we will make mistakes. Repent to those you have spoken against and repent to God.

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.

Matthew 12:36-37

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Every word you speak whether by yourself or with others, whether spoken recklessly or carefully thought out and spoken you will give account.

Proverbs 18:19-21

19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

20 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Your words again will set on fire the course of nature. When a brother is offended “their contentions are like the bars of a castle.” They are not easily won over again as you have hurt and offended them. “A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.” (Pro 12:14) “A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence. He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.” (Pro 13:2-3)

The saying sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me is a lie! The Apostle James tells us that the tongue “is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” Your words can inflict life long suffering on people, cause fights, separate friends and families, and even cause people to lose control from your provocations to even commit murder. “He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.”

James 1:19-22

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Proverbs 11:13

13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

Galatians 5:15

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

1 Peter 3:10-12

10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Proverbs 20:19

19 He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

Proverbs 18:6-8

6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Words can absolutely hurt you and those around you! Are you a gossip? “The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.” Do you spend your time listening to gossip? Do you refrain your tongue from evil? Do you keep your lips from beguiling others? What kind of conversation do you partake of? Are you one who reveals secrets? Or are you of a faithful spirit, one who conceals the matter?

If we want to see good days we need to follow after the Words of Jesus.

John 12:46-50

46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

If the words that Jesus spoke are going to judge us in the last day then it is of the utmost importance to know what he taught as well as his disciples since Jesus also gave them the Words of life that we are to live by. It is of the utmost importance that the children of God, who are the ambassadors of Christ, to sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man who asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

1 Peter 3:15

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Are you ready to give an answer to every person that asks you a reason of the hope of Jesus Christ that we have within with meekness and fear?

2 Timothy 2:14-16

14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

If we are going to be able to give an answer to every person that asks us a reason of the hope of Jesus Christ that we have within us with meekness and fear, then we must study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, correctly interpreting the word of truth. We must know the word of God and be able to correctly interpret it. This not only for our own selves but for all of those who are in need of the truth.

2 Timothy 2:23-26

23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Our goal is to be equipped and ready to teach at any moment with patience and love. In meekness instructing those who oppose themselves. It is God that gives them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; but it is you that has the word of life to instruct them with.

We are equipped by the fivefold ministry that God gave to us so that we could learn the words of God that we might be able to know and understand for our own selves as well as to be ready and able to instruct those who desire to know of the hope that is within us which is Jesus Christ the hope of glory!

Ephesians 4:7-16

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Jesus Christ gave gifts unto men. The Gift of Eternal Life, The Gift of the Holy Ghost, The nine Gifts of the Holy Ghost, The Gift of restoration of Sonship through Adoption, The Gift of Grace, The Gift of Righteousness, and also the Gift of the Five Fold Ministry.

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

The five fold ministry is to equip the saints with the knowledge of the truth that we might share them with others and fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ to go and teach all nations with the correct understanding of what we are teaching the people.

The five fold ministry is suppose to equip us with the correct understanding so that we can come together in the unity of the faith of which means there wouldn't be any more Christian divisions because the one faith of how to be correctly born again is given to us as the Apostle Peter instructed us saying, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38) The five fold ministry is suppose to teach you of the knowledge of the Son of God with the correct interpretation so that we are not deceived about who Jesus the Son of God is. "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." (1 Jn 5:20)

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Once we have this knowledge of the truth we are to be "speaking the truth in love". We will give account of every word spoken and death and life are in the power of the tongue.

Ephesians 4:29-30

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Our words should have life in them. There shouldn't be corrupt communications proceeding out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. We are to be edifying with our conversations and ministering grace unto the hearers of our words that they may learn of Jesus Christ and be encouraged, uplifted, edified, and shown the only right and correct way for them to escape the wrath of God that is to come.

Colossians 4:5-6

5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.
6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Walking with wisdom toward them that are without requires that you first have this wisdom yourself. Then let your speech be with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man! Again we need to be well equipped and learned in the gospel teaching of Jesus Christ so that we may be ready to give an answer to every person that asks us.

James 1:5-7

5 If of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

You will know if you have the wisdom that is from God.

James 3:17-18

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Godly wisdom “is first pure”! Is holy producing righteousness, uprightness, and virtue within those who possess it. Then peaceable! Godly wisdom is peaceable! “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.” (Rm 14:19) “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:” (Heb 12:14) Godly wisdom is gentle, mild, moderate! Godly wisdom is easy to be intreated, persuaded, and compliant! As long as it fully aligns up with the scriptures! Godly wisdom is full of mercy! “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” (Eph 4:32) Godly wisdom is full of good fruits! “Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.” (Phil 1:11) Godly wisdom is without partiality! “But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.” (James 2:9) Godly wisdom is without hypocrisy! “**And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?**” (Lk 6:46)

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

“**Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.**” (Mt 5:9)

2 Peter 1:1-12

1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. The Apostle Peter speaking to those “that have obtained like precious faith” “through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” tells us that we have been given “exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature”! “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.” (Eph 5:30) The Apostle Peter then goes on to give us instructions on how we can be sure that we are neither “barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” and that “if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”!

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

Even as we “have obtained like precious faith” we are to give “all diligence” to “add to your faith virtue”! Diligent being with speed, eagerness, and in all earnestness! We are to add to our “like precious faith” virtue! Virtue being moral excellence and uprightness! And to this virtue knowledge! Knowledge of the Word of God!

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

And to this knowledge of the Word of God temperance! Temperance being self control! And to self control patience! “But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” (James 1:4) And to this patience godliness! The attributes of being Godly! “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” (1 Jn 2:6)

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

And to these Godly attributes brotherly kindness! Brotherly kindness being brotherly love! “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:” (1 Peter 1:22) And to this brotherly love charity! Charity being a love for all mankind! “Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Rm 13:10)

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

1 Peter 4:8-11

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

We are to have fervent love among ourselves! We are to be good stewards of the manifold grace of God!

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth:

Are you looking to perfect your love?

John 14:21-24

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

1 John 2:3-6

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.