

## Malachi Men Proverbs Lesson 3 Speech

**How did God create the universe?** (Gen 1:3-26) God Spoke

**How did Christ still storms, remove demons, restore life?** (Lk 8:24, 29, 54-55) Christ spoke (God's Word is all powerful)

**How are followers of Christ saved and forgiven?** (Ro 10:9-10, 1 Jn 1:9)

- Through confession (spoken word)

**How are men judged by God?** (Mt 12:35-37) According to their words

**What was the problem in Eden?** (Gen 2:16-17, 3:1, 3:4-5)

- Adam & Eve chose between two truth claims (God's & Satan's)

**How important is truth to God?** (Jn 8:32 & 44, 14:6, 17:17, 18:37; Titus 1:1-2)

- God is truth – Jesus came to bear witness to the truth – believers speak truth

**What are some impacts of man's speech?** (Prov 11:11, 12:18, 12:25, 15:1, 15:18, 18:21, 25:18, 25:25, 26:28)

- Build up/tear down, heal/harm, cheer/depress, calm/anger, life/death

**What are the consequences of scoffing?** (Prov 3:34, 14:6, 21:11, 29:8)

- Scorned by God, punished, has no wisdom, starts contention

**What are the consequences of lying?** (Prov 19:5, 19:9, 20:17, 21:6)

- Punishment, perishing, death

**What are the consequences of slander?** (Prov 10:18, 11:13, 16:28, 18:8)

- Become a fool, unfaithful, separate friends, pollute the heart

**What are the characteristics of persuasive speech?** (Prov 15:1, 25:15)

- Gentleness, patience & truthfulness increase persuasiveness

**How can you develop the speech that God desires?** Prov 2:6, 8:6-9, 8:13, 10:19, 14:7, 14:29, 17:14, 17:27-28, 19:11, 20:3, 20:19, 21:23, 22:24-25, 25:9-12, 26:20, 28:13, 29:11; Eph 4:29)

- Confess your sins
- Listen to and learn from God (study & obey God's Word)
- Hate evil speech, develop a "fear of the Lord" (awe, respect, reverence)
- Stop speaking foolishly – speak what is needed, helpful, and gracious
- Don't gossip & don't associate with gossips, avoid evil associations
- Restrain your speech (be a man of few words)
- Choose words wisely (wise words are precious)

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## Homework:

- **Memorize** Proverbs 18:21 (658) “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”
  - Remember that:
    - Your words reflect your heart
    - Your words affect others for good or for evil
    - Your words bring personal consequences
  
- **Read** Ephesians 4:29 (1148) and answer the following questions:
  - Is your speech usually necessary, helpful, and graceful?
  - What are the consequences of your speech? (are they what you want?)
  - What is your motivation when speaking? (to honor God or honor self?)
  - Do you wish to allow God to change your speech?
  
- **Read** James 3:5-18 (1184) and consider the following:
  - What is the source of the evil spoken by the tongue?
  - If man cannot tame his tongue (vs. 8), then who can?
  - What is the source of a righteous tongue?
  - People are known by their speech. How do you want to be known?
  
- **Read** one chapter of Proverbs each day (i.e. chapter 5 on the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month)
  
- **Practice** the following:
  - Pause before speaking
  - If you are tempted to become angry then pray silently for the proper words and to be guided by the Holy Spirit
  - Consider what your heart motive is before speaking
  - Speak only what is necessary, helpful, and graceful
  - Be a model of godly speech to those around you
  - Determine to only speak the truth (become known as a truthful person)
  
- **Consider** the most important people in your life and make a list of the following:
  - How can you encourage them to do what is right?
  - What are their strengths? (How can you compliment them?)
  - Is there anything you would like to thank them for?
  - Is there anything you need to ask their forgiveness for?
  - What are their weaknesses? (How can you help them?)