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## The Proverbs Series

### Tongue Entanglements

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**Proverbs 10:10-21, 31-32** <sup>10</sup>He who winks the eye causes grief, and foolish lips will come to ruin. <sup>11</sup>The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. <sup>12</sup>Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers all transgressions. <sup>13</sup>Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment. <sup>14</sup>The wise store up knowledge, but the mouth of the fool invites destruction. <sup>15</sup>The wealth of the rich man is his fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor. <sup>16</sup>The labor of the righteous leads to life, but the gain of the wicked brings punishment. <sup>17</sup>Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who ignores reproof goes astray. <sup>18</sup>The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool. <sup>19</sup>When words are many, sin is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise. <sup>20</sup>The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked has little worth. <sup>21</sup>The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of judgment.

<sup>31</sup>The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out. <sup>32</sup>The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked is perverse. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage that relate to the issue of our tongues.

- A. Our tongues have great power. V.10-12
- B. Wise words will spare us of so many griefs. V.13-14
- C. Wise instruction keeps us grounded where God wants us to be. V. 17
- D. Authenticity protects us from lying and slandering. V.18
- E. Brevity shows integrity. V.19
- F. Words show the condition of the heart. V.20-21
- G. It is important that our words be fitting to the situation. V.31-32

II. How can we apply these truths to our life?

- A. Bathe difficult conversations with prayer before you have them.
- B. Be on your guard against lying. Lying is not mere false statements.
- C. We must be wary of who we are listening to.
- D. We must aim to have our public reputation and our private reputation match.
- E. Our angry words reveal a need to have healing in our soul.
- F. We must guard our tongues to say edifying and not hurtful words to others.