

Proverbs 10

1 The Proverbs of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother. 2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, But righteousness delivers from death. 3 The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked. 4 He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. 5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame. 6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked. 7 The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot. 8 The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall. 9 He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known. 10 He who winks with the eye causes trouble, But a prating fool will fall. 11 The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked. 12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins. 13 Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, But a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding. 14 Wise people store up knowledge, But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction. 15 The rich man's wealth is his strong city; The destruction of the poor is their poverty. 16 The labor of the righteous leads to life, The wages of the wicked to sin. 17 He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray. 18 Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool. 19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise. 20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; The heart of the wicked is worth little. 21 The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of wisdom. 22 The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it. 23 To do evil is like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom. 24 The fear of the wicked will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted. 25 When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous has an everlasting foundation. 26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, So is the lazy man to those who send him. 27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened. 28 The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish. 29 The way of the LORD is strength for the upright, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity. 30 The righteous will never be removed, But the wicked will not inhabit the earth. 31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out. 32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

One of the themes in this chapter is the use of our tongue. Look at what Solomon says about how we use

our tongues. Let's start with the improper use of our tongues.

1. Violence covers the mouth of the wicked.
2. The mouth of the wicked is near destruction.
3. Whoever spreads slander is a fool.
4. In the multitude of words, sin is not lacking.
5. The perverse tongue will be cut off.
6. The mouth of the wicked knows what is perverse.

Our mouth can cause so much damage. Everyone has experienced the destructive nature of a perverse tongue. Chances are you've been on both sides of the table. You have caused others great harm by your hateful comments or your inability to keep from spreading gossip. We all need to commit to stop using our tongue to damage other people.

Next, notice the positive ways we can use our tongues.

1. The mouth of the righteous is a well of life.
2. Wisdom is found on the lips of one who has understanding.
3. He who restrains his lips is wise.
4. The tongue of the righteous is choice silver.
5. The lips of the righteous feed many.
6. The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom.
7. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable.

The wise person knows when to keep his mouth shut! We discussed yesterday that we need to avoid giving advice or instruction to a fool. It takes a smart man to know when to bite his tongue. Congressman Wilson learned that lesson just a few days ago.

The wise person not only knows when to talk and when to "restrain his lips," he also knows what to say and how to say it. This person has just the right comment at just the right time. He exercises discretion and knows "what is acceptable."

God has a lot to say about how we use our tongue. Use your tongue for good today and not evil.