

## **God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 13**

### **Speaking in Reference to God: Knowing When Not to Speak (part two)**

#### **Review**

Speaking in Reference to God

- Know the Impact of Your Words – “Death & life are in the power of the tongue”
- Know The Origin of Your Words – “Out of the heart, the mouth speaks”
- Speech That benefits the Audience – “The tongue of the wise brings healing”
- Knowing When Not to Speak (part one) – “...He who restrains his lips is wise”

#### When Keeping Silent Might Keep You From Sinning

Proverbs 10:8... The wise of heart will receive commands, but a babbling fool will be ruined.

& Prov 10:19... When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

1. What does it mean to babble?
2. When are we tempted to do this?
3. Consider Prov 10:19... How is it that “transgression is unavoidable when there are many words”?

#### When it's Ready, Fire, Aim

Proverbs 18:2... A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind.

& Prov 18:13 He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.

& Prov 29:20... Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

4. What's wrong with giving an answer before hearing?
5. What are some other ways we might be tempted to be hasty with our words?

#### **Speaking in Reference to God: Knowing When Not to Speak (part two)**

#### When Repeating is Not Redeeming

**Proverbs 17:9...** He who conceals a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

**& Prov 20:19...** He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with a gossip.

**& Prov 18:8, 26:22...** The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down to the innermost parts of the body.

1. Consider Proverbs 17:9... When is right to “conceal a transgression”?

#### **Read Psalm 32:1**

2. What does David have in mind when he uses the word “covered”?
  - a. On what basis does the Lord “cover” or “conceal” our sin?

## Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

3. What does Jeremiah mean in Jeremiah 31:34 when he says that God will “remember their sins no more”?
  - a. Is it possible for God to forget our sins?
  - b. How does this help us understand what forgiveness is?
  - c. What are we doing when we hold something against someone that we’ve “forgiven” them for?
  - d. How is this related to Paul’s words to us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 “keep no record of wrongs”?
    - i. How are we tempted to “keep a record of wrongs”?
4. Consider Proverbs 17:9... When is wrong to not “conceal a transgression”?

## When The Timing is Terrible

**Proverbs 27:14...** He who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning, it will be reckoned a curse to him.

**Proverbs 25:20...** Like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar on soda, is he who sings songs to a troubled heart.

5. What’s wrong with a blessing early in the morning?
6. What’s wrong with singing songs to a heavy heart?
7. Is this principle applicable to addressing sin or bringing correction?

## Reflection:

8. Can you identify ways you tend to speak too soon? Confess this and ask the Lord for patience and self-control.
9. Can you identify ways you tend to say too much or “babble”? Is sin (pride, arrogance, covering shame) present when you do so?
10. How can you grow in avoiding gossip in your speech, as well as redirecting it in the speech of others?
11. Are you tempted to bring up matters that you have forgiven someone for? Remember your promise to remember it no more.