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Precepts for the Prudent Use of our Tongue



There are many practical insights found in the universal epistles of the New Testament. The whole book of James talks about **A Belief that Behaves** (ie. good Christian conduct after being saved). Chapter 3:1-12 warns us that our tongue can be a powerful weapon for good or evil speech, and it must be controlled and sanctified to show that we have been saved as we have turned away from spiritual darkness into the light of salvation. Prov 10:11 says "*The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.*"

There is an old Arab proverb which says,

"Of your **Unspoken** words, you are a **Master**;
of your **Spoken** words, you are a **Servant**;
of your **Written** words, you are a **Slave**."

We relate to one another through our actions, words and body language and now with modern technology through our handphones, WhatsApp, mass and social media (Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok) and emails. The Interpersonal communication (include electronic means) through the verbal means among Christians and even non-believers is an important aspect of social life. **Words can heal and it can hurt; it can be a blessing to the souls or a curse to the hearers. Beware of using unedifying**

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

Proverbs 18:21



words with an evil intent. Prov 10:13 says, "*In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.*"

James in chapter 3:2-8 talks about the great destructive power of the tongue (verses 5 and 6 compared the tongue to fire!) Note the seven great

iniquities that the tongue can commit that we need to be wary of:

- a) Flattery, as opposed to honest and measured commendation for the deserving before God.
- b) **Beware of modern-day worldly deception. Do not prevaricate from the truth and do not be presumptuous and pretend to know when we do not. Let your yea be yea, your nay be nay.**
- c) Do not be given to slander. Do not speak evil of others with malevolent intent or make suggestive remarks to undermine others.
- d) **Be careful of gossip, back-biting, murmuring, tale-bearing. Be very careful about what you pass around by word of mouth or even through other forms of electronic communication.** It may come back to haunt you one day.
- e) Beware of unedifying complaints. Negative criticism like the children of Israel entering the Promised Land who murmured against God's given manna and were consumed by fire (Num 11:1-11).
- f) Be careful not to use threats and verbal abuse; Eph 6:4 added, parents do not provoke your children unto anger with harsh or sarcastic words.
- g) **Do not engage in unedifying debate that adds up to nothing with words of anger or malice.**



The Edifying Use of Our Tongue

James in chapter 3:9-12 talks about the uses and privileges of a well-ordered tongue. They are:

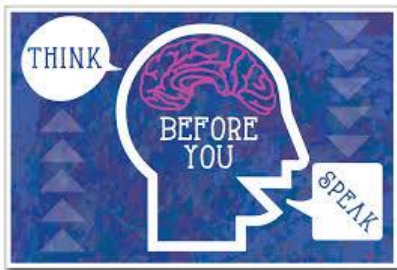
- a) To be used in **Thanksgiving** to God in prayer
- b) **Worship** and **Praise** (singing) of God when we sing hymns and read His Word
- c) **Encouragement** and **Edification** when we encourage and exhort one another.
- d) **Praying** for one with others believing God for His mercies and grace.
- e) **Witnessing, Teaching** and **Preaching** of the Word when we share the gospel of Christ with others.
- f) Words of **Consolation** and Solace/Comfort when we strengthen one another in times of bereavement or distress
- g) 1Peter 13:15 says, *'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.'* **Always be Ready to Give an Answer of the Hope** that is in us with our lips to unbelievers.

Application and Reflection

James 3:13-18 says,

'Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 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. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.'

True biblical wisdom is not only what we know but who we really are inside and what we say to others as well. For every word that we are about to say, there should be 4 sentinels or rules that should govern our speech before we let it out of our mouths:



Consider the following:

1. **Sagacity** (Is it wise to say it at all and to whom?)
2. **Charity** (Is it said out of love or hatred with an evil intent?)
3. **Verity** (Is it true or it is just a conjecture?)
4. **Necessity** (Must I say it, and must it be now?)

We should always watch the Extent, Content and Intent of our speech. Paul in Colossians 4:6 says, *"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."* Every organ of our body is to be sanctified by the Lord as Romans 6:19 says, *'I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.'* Ask the Lord to cleanse and purge us from all our sins.

Conclusion

Col 4:6 says, *'Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.'* Finally, we are all vulnerable to sin through our lips daily. There is a Chinese idiom which says that words once spoken, the best galloping horse cannot bring it back. We need to pray and ask God for guidance and for wisdom to discipline ourselves as we let the Holy Spirit control our tongue. If you are a non-believer, first of all, **you need to believe and accept Jesus as your personal Saviour and Lord and confess and repent of our sins, then you can have edifying and wholesome speech by the power of the Holy Spirit that is acceptable to God.**

Jack Sin



***Outreach at All Saints' Home
(Tampines)***

Sunday 8 Sep 2024, 3pm

*Come and share God's Love and
the Message of Hope in Christ to
the residents and staff!*



*"...how that so labouring ye ought to
support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is
more blessed to give than to receive."*

Acts 20:35

Register with Dn Yue Kay (hp: 97450311) by 1 Sep.

A Burden for the Vast Harvest Fields

Sound the glorious gospel truths abroad;
Carry the Word of our Risen Lord;
Sing of His mercies and His grace;
Tell of His pardon to a sinful race.

Comforts resigned, and pleasures all
Forsaken, to heed the Master's call.
Finding real purpose and joy in life,
Amidst a world of terror and strife.

All praise to God who opens the door
To depraved, weak and penitent poor;
Rescuing sinners with gladdened sound,
Proclaiming liberty to lost sheep found.

Lord of the reapers, hear our plea,
While the harvest fields are ripe for Thee!
Thine is the Love through the night,
That those believing Christ shall have Light!

- Jack Sin -





Fellowship in Christ with Simon (left) & Anthony (below).



Annual Congregation Meeting & Lunch Fellowship.



Sunday School Class - Christian Apologetics by Pastor.

Sunday School Class – Book of Ezra by Dr Kwong Leen





DR RON NELLER

The Importance of *GENESIS* to the Church Today

SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH

14 Sept 2024 Sat 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Hear the good news that the biblical account of origins is not only historically accurate but makes better sense of the evidence.

Please Whatsapp Dn Paul Tan at
Mobile 97314733 by 9 Sept.

GENESIS is a foundational book that reveals the history of Creation-Fall-Redemption.

Did God use evolution over billions of years in his Creation?

How does evolution and old earth ages undermine this Genesis history and the gospel message?

What is the biblical timeline?

What is the philosophy behind evolution?

Noah's global flood is evidenced by abundant geologic, geomorphic, landscape and fossil evidence

How can biblical creation sharpen your evangelism?



SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH
160 Paya Lebar Road, #04-06, Orion@ Paya Lebar, S409022

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The Importance of *GENESIS* to the Church Today

SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH

14 Sept 2024 Sat 5:00pm – 6:30pm

SPEAKER'S BIODATA

DR RON NELLER holds a B.A. (Hons) and a Ph.D., both in fluvial geomorphology. He has held lecturing and research positions at the University of New England (Australia), Griffith University, the University of Sunshine Coast (Queensland), the University of Queensland, Turku University (Finland), and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (People's Republic of China). He has also initiated and directed a research institute in environmental sustainability and established two research stations in natural resource management.

While in these positions Ron undertook landscape studies in Australia, China, Finland, Peru, The Pacific Islands, and Libya. He held numerous government advisory positions with the Queensland Government and the Federal Government of Australia in natural heritage management as well as working with international agencies such as the OECD. Ron stepped down from university involvement in 2008 to launch a consultancy business.

Ron was an occasional church goer through parts of his life, but only gave his life to Christ in his early 50s. Although Ron was not a Christian in his earlier years, he was also not a supporter of geological evolution. His research suggested otherwise. Indeed, it was only upon becoming a Christian that his data (derived from decades of research on landscape change) finally started to make sense. He then commenced to speak at local churches about this journey to the acceptance of the Bible's history regarding origins and the Flood of Noah, and faith in Christ.

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Memory Verse

Exod 18:20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***The Wisdom of Collected & United Service [Exodus 18:12-27]***", the study on the "***Book of Exodus – Supernatural Guidance in the Wilderness of Life***."
3. Next Sunday, Pastor will preach on "***Relevance of the Moral Laws [Exodus 20:1-17]***".
4. Sunday School classes after the worship service are as follows:
 - Christian Apologetics (Pastor)
 - Studies in Ezra (Dr Kwong Leen)
5. **Training Workshop** on "***Biblical Precepts & Practice of Personal Evangelism***" on **Sun 8 Sep 2024 at 11.45am – 1pm**.
6. Outreach to **All Saints Home (Tampines)** on **Sun 8 Sep 2024 at 3pm**. Register with Dn Yue Kay by 1 Sep (hp: 97450311)
7. A special Creation Ministries seminar on "***The Importance of Genesis to the Church Today***" by **Dr Ron Neller** will be held in our church on **Sat 14 Sep 2024, 5pm**. All are welcome. Register with Dn Paul Tan by 9sep.
8. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Old Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
9. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
10. Pray for:
 - Medical: Anthony [lung cancer: narrowing airways], Samuel Wong [multiple health conditions], Aunty Chwee Lian [hip fracture], Daniel Phang [high blood pressure], Kin Hoong [monitoring of heart and lungs pressure].
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.