

## A Lying Tongue, James 1:22-27

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

### PART ONE OF SERMON

It seems that in all areas of our society we run into the lying crowd. It has gotten so widespread that you don't dare buy even the simplest item without doing extensive research, for most of the time the people selling the product will misrepresent it.

Telephone solicitors are a prime example of this. They are a nemesis to our society as far as I am concerned. They prey upon the people, promising them all kinds of great bargains, only to deliver deception and lies.

You have all have been bothered by these kinds of phone calls. Usually just as you sit down for supper. They talk to you as if you have an obligation to listen and try to keep you on the phone to listen to their spiels. Their sole aim is to sell you something you don't need or want.

As a matter of information, did you know that the greatest majority of people who make these calls are in prison? They are people who are adept at running the con games and lying to everyone. The Companies who are behind the calls have contracts with various prisons and pay the prisoners a percentage of the items they sell. The prison, the company and the prisoners make money from the deception and the public gets left out.

I know there was recently a law passed where a person can get his name on a "**Do Not Call List**" and they are not supposed to call his number. But one federal judge has already ruled this list unconstitutional and it is being referred to the Supreme Court for final resolution. Don't be surprised if it is ruled in favor of the charlatans.

This is the world's way. It should not be so in the Church Of Jesus Christ, but I'm afraid that the world's way has invaded us to such a degree that many who profess to be Christians take a lot of liberty with the truth in many cases.

It is a sad day indeed when we can't trust our fellow church members, and in some instances even our pastors, for many seem to be a little loose with passing on the facts without a little embellishment. .

Our text is plain, is it not? It states very explicitly that if you consistently cannot control your tongue, do not profess that you are a Christian, for you are NOT! **Carl Graham didn't say this, The Lord said it in His Word.**

You and I both know that in today's Christian world it is sometimes difficult to know when one has crossed over the line between spiritual and non-spiritual, for there is so much world in the church that we sometimes can't tell where one stops and the other begins.

It is also a fact that we humans like to run our tongues. This is a natural, inherent quality of mankind. We just like to talk. But like all other things God has given us here on earth, it can be used for good or evil depending on what our predisposition is. If we have a good heart, it will be good. If we have an evil heart, it will be evil.

Since we all like to talk, the natural question is, **"Just how do we know when we have crossed over the line?"**

The best way to know is to always look for the biblical answer. What does God's Word say about whatever we are expressing. Is it the truth, or is it a lie?

Most times we don't even have to go that far, for we know when we are doing harm to God's Church and His people.

We know the difference between a straight out lie and the truth.

We know the difference between a partial lie and the whole truth.

We know when we tell a partial truth to make a point that is different from the whole truth.

Children learn all these tricks at a very early age, and some people just simply don't grow out of them, and they take these bad childish habits on into adulthood with them never knowing the difference.

I know that some of this sounds complicated, but it is really not too complex to know when we are using our gift of speech wrongly. I actually think most people know instinctively, but with some the urge to talk is too great to curb, and often times they don't even know that they are gossiping for they look on this strictly as entertainment.

We need to evaluate our speech and our habits of spreading what we hear.

We need to know if what we are doing is harmful or merely passing on information.

We need to look deeply into our own hearts and make sure that our motives are right every time we speak about a situation that involves others.

Perhaps a simple test will help us better understand our motives.

### **1. Question Number one: Are you continually running down your fellow Christian?**

If you are, you are not obeying God's command to love one another. He didn't qualify that remark. He commanded us to love all Christians and only by that testimony will the world know that we are Christian.

In fact, if one is continually running other Christians down, he or she is not a Christian at all and this is confirmed by God's own Words.

Your Christian obligation to these people who are always running others down is to not listen to them because by doing so you are participating in their gossip. You are also obligated to tell them if they have a legitimate complaint to go to the one that they feel have done them wrong.

If this doesn't correct the perceived problem, then go to the Deacon Board. This is God's way and it must be the way of the church.

### **Question Number 2. Do you find fault with everybody except your own little social group?**

I know that sometimes that we could do some things better than others are doing it, but it is their job. And like any job there are numerous ways of accomplishing them.

People who are always criticizing the way other Christians do their chores have a serious problem with their own self esteem, and have not taken God's Word seriously enough to understand what He meant when He said, "**Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.**"

I might add that the ones who criticize the most are upset the most when they get criticized. The Bible says that the person who constantly runs down another to try and build his or her own self up is not of God, but is in reality of Satan.

**Question number 3. Do you criticize people in the church just because they do not act as you think they should? I am now talking now of spiritual things. Your own perceived idea of Christian behavior.**

This is the problem Jesus had when He walked the earth. The religious leaders of that day couldn't understand why Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, and yet had not asked their opinion on how to conduct Himself. After all they were the religious experts.

I have noticed that the closer people get to the Savior, the less they are concerned about how other people act, and focus on their own shortcomings. They are able to see as other people are, they once were.

We all were ungodly once, and if it had not been for the understanding of some kindly saint of God, we might still be. We need to help people who don't understand; not destroy them.

People who are always finding fault with others are not controlling their tongues and according to the Bible, are not saved.

And I might add that if a person is gossiping to you about someone, you can be assured that he or she is gossiping to someone else about you. You see gossipers don't care who they talk about. They just want to destroy.

**Question Number four. When you visit a neighbor or friend, what is the subject of your conversation?**

Do you talk about the Lord Jesus and the Bible or do you skin the preacher? God does not endorse preacher bashing.

**Now a certain amount of talking about the preacher is not gossip, it is entertainment.** When does it cross the line? When it does harm to God's servant, and affects the church that Jesus founded.

The preacher is human just like you are, but with a different calling. However, he is held to a different standard, and rightly so, but just keep in mind that he has as much right to talk about you as you have of him. However, neither has a right to try and destroy one another.

By the way the preacher can tell if you have been making derogatory remarks about him. When he talks to you, you act guilty as if he knows exactly what you have said. Don't be surprised if he does for evil words have a way of making the rounds rapidly.

Also let me caution you not to say bad things about the preacher around your children, for they have a unique way of letting people know what they think. You see children take it to heart when a grown up says derogatory words about someone. They tend to shun that person and act very uncomfortable around them.

## PART TWO OF SERMON

The tongue is probably humankind's greatest enemy, and it is used by Satan more than any other human instrument in existence. God is so adamant about the misuse of the tongue that put it in His most hated list three times.

**Here it is in Proverbs 6:16-19, "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him:**

1—a proud look

**2—a lying tongue**

3—hands that shed innocent blood

4—a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations

5—feet that be swift to run to mischief

**6—a false witness that speaketh lies,**

**7—and HE THAT SOWETH DISCORD AMONG BRETHREN!" (Prov. 6:16-19).**

This is strong language for a loving God to use, but He wants to make a strong point when He says He hates something, and even goes so far to call it an abomination, which means that He has extreme disgust and hatred or loathes a particular thing. This is how He feels about the unruly tongue.

The third chapter of James makes this so plain that even a child can understand it. It reads, **"If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. The tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. The tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be!"**

There are thousands of professing Christians today, **AND I EMPHASIZE PROFESSING CHRISTIANS**, who are talking their way right into hell! If a person's tongue runs wild, if he or she cannot control it, if he or she cannot refrain from condemning his or her fellowman — he or she is DECEIVED.

Oliver Green tells this story. He said that he visited a dying girl in the hospital. She had taken poison. Why did she take it? She said: **"One of my in-laws told my husband that she saw me with another man. My husband came home, cursed me and left me. There is nothing more for me in this life — I am innocent of the**

**accusation, but I cannot face life without my husband, so this is the only thing for me.”**

Oliver said that as he stood by the bed of that dying girl, he looked at her swollen tongue and parched lips, her eyes, which once had sparkled but now were dull and weary. A lying tongue, an ungodly talebearer had struck her down with a tongue driven by the fires of hell and filled with the poison of the asp!

I tell you, my friend, I would hate to be in the shoes of the person who lied about that girl when God calls him to judgment!

There are innocent people behind bars in the penitentiaries of our land because of lying tongues and talebearers.

There are people in their graves, and probably people in hell because of lying tongues.

But I doubt if a lying tongue ever sent anyone to heaven.

## **CONCLUSION**

What about you this morning? Are you talking yourself into hell? The Bible is clear, you cannot go to heaven with an unbridled tongue. You may have religion — but it is vain, and vanity will not enter the pearly gates.

It is perfectly clear by God’s own Words, **“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue ... *this man’s religion is vain.*”**

I want you to look deep in your own soul today. If you are guilty of an unbridled tongue, you had better get it straight with the Lord for somehow your salvation didn’t take.

You have been deceived and are doing a great disservice to the Lord’s work by claiming to be a Christian. He offers you His forgiveness and salvation if you will only confess your sins to Him and accept His gift of eternal life.

Some of you may be what the Bible calls backsliders. This simply means that you have been saved, but have drifted away from the Christian way of life. You may have unknowingly been a participant in the evil quest to run down God’s church. In doing so you have become an unwitting agent of Satan, and are hurting God’s work.

Paul writes about some of these kinds of Christians and he tells us that many are seriously sick and some have even died. You see, God will not let His children continually work against Him and His church. Don’t ever mistake His patience with you as a sign that He doesn’t care. Instead, think of His patience as longsuffering and concern, but this won’t last forever.

God pleads, **NO! HE DEMANDS**, that you get it right today for tomorrow may be the day He calls it all to a halt.

What I want for this church is the best we have to offer to God, and in turn He can give His best to us, but He does not function in an atmosphere where even one person wants his way over what he knows God wants.

Give your heart to the Lord, make His ways your ways, and I'll promise you the greatest church experience you have ever witnessed in your lifetime.

Won't you come as we sing the Hymn of invitation?

[SERMONS INDEX](#)

[HOME](#)