

溪邊的樹

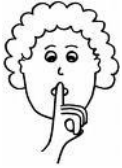
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勒住舌頭

雅各書三 1~18

感謝主，聖靈奇妙的帶領是顯然可見的。最近教會好幾處的團契、都不約而同地查讀了（或正在讀）雅各書。雅各書中有許多重點：憑信心求智慧；在試煉中忍受試探；信心必然有行為，不然就是死的；勒住舌頭…等等。而每次讀到雅各書三 1~18 時，心中自然會生發愧疚警惕之情。特別年歲日增，回顧以往，想到自己言語常有錯失，要能說合宜的話、作完全人，是何等不容易的事！

雅各書三章講到舌頭與智慧，因為智慧與勒住舌頭有關。要勒住我們的舌頭是很難的，但如果不勒住舌頭，往往就成了愚昧的人，可見制服舌頭是得著智慧的一條道路。這智慧，雅各書一 5 說，「…應當求…神，主就必賜給他。」叫我們曉得怎樣用我們的舌頭，說合宜的話，不說不該說的話：是非謊言、嘲諷誹謗、埋怨怪責、誇大吹捧、阿諛奉承、髒話大話…等等。說話之前我們要先問問自己，我想說的話是真實的嗎？是必須的嗎？是善意的嗎？

一 19 雅各又說，「你們各人要快快的聽，慢慢的說，慢慢的動怒。」我們如果管制舌頭，肯約束自己不說、或慢慢的說，就不容易動怒或激起人的怒氣了。

雅三 3~12，雅各針對舌頭用了許多比喻：像馬的嚼環、船舵、能延展燒著大樹林的野火、罪惡的世界、來自地獄的火、無人能制服的禽獸活物、不止息的惡物、害死人的毒氣、各從其類的果樹、發出甜苦（鹹）兩樣水的泉源…。都是爲了要說明舌頭的威力、和舌頭的難以制服。

三 6，雅各把沒有被制服的舌頭所可能造成的傷害、與烈火相比。舌頭的惡毒是從地獄來的，它能污穢全身，也能把生命的輪子點起來，使人一直活在地獄般的火湖中（啓二十 15），甚至在有些自稱爲基督徒的人中，也是如此。沒有被制服的舌頭的貽害，常常不是我們可以想像得到的。撒旦利用人的舌頭來離間人心，使人彼此仇視。閒話謠言一旦出口，便難以遏止，後果可以非常嚴重。願意我們都記得：話一出口好像火一樣，是人無法控制或逆轉的，要想想它可能造成的傷害。

現今，在末世的教會、也難免有面臨詭詐的心思、和罪惡的舌頭的危機。這危機主要源自三 14 所說的「心裏懷著苦毒的嫉妒和紛爭…自誇…說謊抵擋真道」。結果，教會——基督的身體、羔羊的新婦受到了玷污，變成了爭權奪利、相咬相吞的所在。不僅發不出應有的亮光，反而有漸漸被撒旦吞喫、擄掠的危險。

既然看見舌頭是如此的罪惡，我們被揀選、蒙召為神子民、為神兒女的信徒們，應該懷著敬畏神的心，時常思想並寶貝神的話語，讓主耶穌真正成為我們的主、我們的王。求主保守我們的心，不圖謀惡念，使我們的舌不犯罪作惡。叫我們多說造就人的話，把福音帶給人，領人歸主、蒙恩得救。

求聖靈不斷提醒我們，省察自己、控制自己的言語，儘量減少話語會帶來的傷害。萬一我們受到冒犯時，不要忘記神的愛，就不會以仇恨的態度來回應；受到批評、遭受猛烈攻擊時，求聖靈管制并醫治我們的傷害，而不反唇相譏。

有時候我們會說頌讚的詞句，討神喜悅；可是同時卻又言語苦毒，咒詛傷人。甜、苦本不同，偏偏出自同一個口裏。舌頭，其實是人性全然的真實寫照。我們以神的形像受造，但卻因犯罪而墮落。感謝神的憐憫和大愛，在聖靈中重生了我們，又以聖靈潔淨我們，不斷裏裏外外地改變我們，并賜給我們來自祂的自制能力，學著來說出神所喜悅的話語。

三 13~18 雅各說到，有智慧有見識的人，當在智慧的溫柔上顯出他的善行來。比照上下文看，這裏智慧的溫柔指的是在話語上有節制（箴十 19）。這樣的溫柔也就是十七節所說的溫良柔順，與十四節懷著苦毒的嫉妒和紛爭，自誇並說謊抵擋真道相對。

智慧必會帶給人和平與良善，使得他不會被試探去煽風點火、傳播謠言、製造矛盾和衝突。反而有謹慎、安慰的言詞，和恩惠、慈愛的話語，是和平的種子。這樣使人和睦的人，是神所眷愛的（太五 9）。

反觀嫉妒，是從比較而生；而苦毒是由忌妒而出，都是由魔鬼激發出來的好強爭勝

。我們如果要想從這種破壞性的競爭中得到釋放，就必須尋求神的智慧來引導。

三 13 雅各先提有智慧，後提有見識。如果沒有智慧，我們就無法有見識。正如保羅在以弗所一 17 的禱告，他先為信徒求神賜下智慧的靈，而這智慧是啓示在我們最深處的靈裡。

三 17 說到「從上頭來的智慧」，「從上頭來」的意思，就是從神來的。凡從神臨到我們的一切，都摸著我們的靈。約翰四 24，「神是個靈（或無個字），所以拜他的必須用心靈和誠實拜他。」同樣的，神接觸我們的時候，也是在我們的靈裏。所以，從上頭、從神來的智慧，必然是臨到在我們的靈裏。我們必須在靈裡警醒，順著靈的帶領，纔能得著智慧。

從上頭來的智慧又是滿有憐憫和善果，沒有偏見，沒有假冒。沒有偏見，就不會偏袒什麼人。沒有假冒，就是誠實、可信、可靠、全無假冒偽善。這些美德都是從上頭來的智慧，願我們多多思念、多多為此禱告。因為智慧就是基督自己（林前一 30），只要我們常藉著禱告在靈裡接觸主，基督就會成為我們的智慧。

勒住舌頭的功課是一生一世的事，我們需要神的恩典，聖靈的管束，好叫我們靈裏能一直謹守，每日更新，操練制服自己的舌頭。讓基督真正成為我們的智慧！

Bridle the Tongue (James 3:1-18)



It happened that various fellowship groups chose to study the Book of James at the same time. This can only be the leading of the Spirit in the church. This book emphasizes a number of important points:

Seeking wisdom by faith, persevering over trials, having faith with good deeds, bridling the tongue....., etc. Every time when we read James 3:1-18, one could not help but feel ashamed and warned. Looking back, we find how we failed to say proper words. It is a very hard lesson!

James 3 talks about the tongue and wisdom. To bridle the tongue is very difficult. If we do not, we become a fool. Therefore, to control the tongue is a way to wisdom. We need to ask God, and He will give us this wisdom (1:5). Then we know what to say, and what not to say: the lie, blame, boasting, flattering, filthy words and envy..... etc. Before we speak, one should ask if this word is true, or necessary, or with good intent.

James 1:19 says, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." If we control our tongue, and be slow to speak or not to speak at all, then we will not become angry or cause others to be angry. 3:3-12 uses many analogies to the tongue: the bits in the horse mouth, the rudder of the ship, the wild fire of a forest, an evil world, the fire from hell, a restless evil full of deadly poison, the spring with both bitter and sweet waters..... All explains the power of the tongue that cannot be tamed.

James 3:6 compares the damage of an untamed tongue to that from fire. The evil of tongue is from the hell. It causes the body to become evil. It lights up the wheel of life so that one lives as if in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15). Even among the Christians, many are just like that. The damage caused by the tongue is hard to imagine. The devil uses the tongue to separate us, to hate each other. Idle words cannot be retrieved but hurt people. May we remember that the words go out like fire. No one can turn it back or control its damages.

The church in the last days faces a crisis of such evil thought and sinful tongue. It mainly

originates from the jealousy and boasting and lie of 3:14 that resist the truth. The result is a spotted bride of the Lamb. The church becomes a place of strife and division. Not only it fails to shine, but faces the danger of being devoured by the devil.

Since the tongue is so sinful, we the chosen of God should fear God and often meditate upon the Word of God. May the Lord Jesus be truly our Lord and our King. May the Lord keep our hearts, not to harbor evil, so our tongue will not sin. Instead, we speak words of edification, and pass on the message of the gospel to others for salvation.

May the Spirit remind us constantly to examine ourselves and to control our words, so that the damage of our words is minimized. Even when offended, we ourselves remember God's love and will not respond in hatred. When being criticized harshly, we will not fight back but be controlled and healed by the Spirit.

Sometimes we praise God to please Him, but at the same time we curse man with evil words. The sweet and the bitter come out of the same mouth. Tongue is such a reflection of man's nature. Being made in God's own image, we fell and sinned. Thank God for His mercy and great love to give us new birth in the Spirit, to sanctify us and change us, and to give us the power of self-control to speak only that pleases Him.

James 3:13-18 says that a man with wisdom and understanding ought to show his good deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom. By context, this humility clearly indicates the control of speech (Prov. 10:19). It is the considering and submissive spirit of verse 17, in opposite to the evil envy and selfish ambition that harbor bitterness, mentioned in verse 14.

Wisdom brings peace and goodness, so a man will not be tempted to spread rumors, or to cause conflict and contradiction. He will act carefully with comforting words, words of grace and love and peace. Such will be the peace-makers blessed by God (Mt. 5:9).

When we compare ourselves with others, there will be envy and evil, both from the devil himself. To be delivered from such destructive competition, we need to seek for the guidance from God's wisdom. 3:13 mentions first wisdom, then understanding. Without wisdom we will never have understanding. Paul prayed in Eph. 1:17 for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to be given to us. So this wisdom is given in the very depth of our Spirit.

James 3:17 speaks of the wisdom from above, indicating that of God. Every aspect of the divine things will touch our spirit, for God is Spirit (John 4:24). When God touches us, it is in the spirit. Therefore, the wisdom from above is bestowed in our spirit. Only be sober in the Spirit and be obedient to the Spirit can we receive such wisdom.

The wisdom from above is full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. Being impartial, we will not show favoritism. Being sincere, we will be honest, faithful and have no false pretence. These virtues are from the wisdom of above. May we meditate on them and pray for ourselves. Wisdom is Christ Himself (1 Cor 1:10). When we have constant fellowship with the Lord, He will become our wisdom.

To tame the tongue is the lesson for a life time. We need the grace of God and the control from the Spirit, so that we may be kept in the Spirit and renewed daily. May we be disciplined to bridle our tongue so Christ truly becomes our wisdom!

25th

感謝與代禱

1. 感謝主的保守和帶領，多用途建築物工程的進度非常順利，估計明年初可以開始使用。求神帶領我們怎樣在建造過程中，並建築完成後，用這建築物來榮耀我們的神。
2. 請繼續記念在 Sanford 服事飛行員的福音聚會。求聖靈繼續作工，尋找、拯救失喪的靈魂。
3. 請為在感恩節舉行的二十五週年紀念退修會禱告，求神賜下豐富的話語，指明教會前面的方向，以配合神永遠的旨意。
4. 董守昌弟兄車禍後仍然昏迷，請弟兄姊妹懇切代禱，將弟兄完全仰望在主的恩手中。

Prayer And Thanksgiving



1. Thank God for His protection and guidance. The construction work of the multi-purpose building is ahead of schedule and is expected to finish by early next year. May God's Name be glorified both during and after the construction.
2. Please continue to remember the Gospel meeting at Sanford serving the pilot trainees. May the Spirit continue working to seek and save the lost souls.
3. Please pray for the Thanksgiving retreat which commemorates the church's 25th anniversary. May God give us the direction on how to fit in to His eternal purpose.
4. Brother John Dong is still in a coma after an auto accident. Please pray diligently for our brother and lift him up unto the gracious hand of our Lord.