

Introduction (Mal 1:6-8, Ps 50, Rom 12:1, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Is 29:13)

How many of you know what December 18 is? How many of you have ever been given a gift at Christmas that you really did not like, and the person giving it to you probably did not like it when they received it. They regifted it and gave it to you. Well, December 18 is officially known as the National Day of Re-gifting. What is re-gifting? According to Wikipedia, re-gifting refers the means of giving away unwanted gifts as a way of disposing them.

Re-gifting may be a way of disposing of an unwanted gift, but it does not honor the person that you are giving the gift to. For us to honor the person with a gift, it should be something that the other person would be honored to receive. We are in the midst of a series on honor. In my Introduction a couple of weeks ago I gave a brief overview of Malachi. In Malachi 1, God asked a question, “where is My honor? The priests were not offering their best gifts to the Lord. They were offering the blind, lame, and sick animals as sacrifices to the Lord. God said they were despising His name. They were offering the things that they did not want instead of offering their best. They were giving away unwanted gifts as a way of disposing them. It dishonored God. When we give gifts, we should think of the other person, and what can I give that will honor and bless them.

(Mal 1:6-8) “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?” says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Your name?’ {7} You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, ‘How have we defiled You?’ In that you say, ‘The table of the LORD is to be despised.’ {8} But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly?” says the LORD of hosts.”

What kind of gift honors God? What is it that we can present to God that will bless and honor Him? Our primary text today is from Psalm 50. God tells us the kind of gifts that will honor Him. He said, “he who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; and to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God.” We looked at offering sacrifices of thanksgiving two weeks ago. Last week Pastor Bill shared on honoring God’s name. This week, we are looking at honoring God by ordering our ways aright. What does it mean to order our ways aright. The King James says to order our conversations. The actual Hebrew word is derek, which means a well trodden road, path, or way. It speaks of the way we live our lives. It speaks of ordering our way of life. We are to honor God with holy lives.

(Ps 50:23) “He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God.”

In Romans 12:1, Paul urges us to present ourselves as living and holy sacrifices, acceptable to God, which is our spiritual service of worship. What kind of gift is pleasing and acceptable to God? When we present our lives as living and holy sacrifices, He is honored, and He readily accepts these gifts. We know that when we receive Christ, we have received forgiveness, justification, and salvation. We enter into a covenant with God. He took our sins, and He gave us His righteousness. We are holy because of the sacrifice He made. But, God is looking for more than positional righteousness; He is looking for holy lives. Our lives should reflect the holiness of God.

(Rom 12:1) “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

Peter exhorts us to live holy lives. In 1 Peter 1 he said, “but like the Holy One who called you, by holy yourselves in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘you shall be holy, for I am holy.’” Again, the KJV says that we should be holy in all manner of conversation. The Greek word, *anastrophe*, means our conduct and behavior. God is looking for a living and holy lifestyle as the gift that is offered up to Him. This is the present that will honor Him. That is what we will be looking at this morning, Honoring God With A Holy Life.

(1 Pet 1:15-16) “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; {16} because it is written, ‘YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.’”

Two weeks ago we looked at the conclusion of Psalm 50, where God tells us to honor Him with our thanksgiving. We did not address how we are to honor Him by ordering our way. We skipped the preceding verses, Psalms 50:16-21, that contained His reproof. In this passage God reproved the wicked in three specific areas. He begins by asking them, “what right have you to tell of My statutes and to take My covenant in your mouth?” In other words, their lives did not reflect that they were God’s people. Their lives were not distinguishable from the wicked. It was not obvious to all men that they were His disciples. He reproved them for their heart attitude. He reproved them for their actions, and finally God reproved them for their words. God wants us to order our ways so that our lives bring honor and glory to Him. Let’s read our text for this morning.

Honoring God With A Holy Life

1. Honoring God With Our Heart Attitudes
2. Honoring God With Our Actions
3. Honoring God With Our Words

(Psalm 50:16-21) “But to the wicked God says, "What right have you to tell of My statutes and to take My covenant in your mouth? {17} For you hate discipline, and you cast My words behind you. {18} When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you associate with adulterers. {19} You let your mouth loose in evil and your tongue frames deceit. {20} You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. {21} These things you have done and I kept silence; you thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes.”

1. Honoring God With Our Heart Attitudes

The first way that we can honor God is with our heart attitudes. Why do I say heart attitude? I use heart attitude because God said they hated discipline and cast His words behind them. The Hebrew word used for discipline is *musar*, which means correction, reproof, or chastisement. They did not want correction. They did not want to know what they were doing wrong. They did not want to know what they were supposed to do. They were proud and knew better than anyone else. They cast God’s words behind them. They had no reverence for God’s word. To me, this speaks about our heart attitude. **Heart attitudes that honor God welcomes His discipline in their lives.**

(Psalm 50:17) “For you hate discipline, and you cast My words behind you.”

In Isaiah 29:13, the Lord said that “this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for me consists of tradition learned by rote.” The people were honoring God with words of thanksgiving and praise, but it was not genuine. It was not from their heart. **God wants us to honor Him with our words and with sincere lives.**

(Isaiah 29:13) “Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote,”

If our heart attitude is that we want to honor God in every area of our lives, then we would want to inspect every area of our lives and make sure that it lines up with what God wants. If we want to honor God in our marriages, we will want to be the husband or wife that God wants us to be. We will find out what God says about marriage. As a husband, I try to cherish Karen. I try to nourish her with the Word of God. I try to wash her with the water of the word. I try to serve her and lay my life down for her. As the head of the household, I try to protect her. I try to live with her in an understanding way. Where do I find these instructions? I find them in God’s word. I do not cast His words about marriage behind me. Instead, I look intently at His word, as if I was looking into a mirror. I compare my life with what the word tells me about marriage. If God shows me things that do not line up, I confess them as sin, and ask God to help me grow in those areas. I welcome His correction and discipline in my life.

If my heart attitude is to honor God as a parent, then I am going to see what God has to say about parenting. What are my duties as a father, or as a mother? What does it mean to train up a child in the ways of the Lord? What does it mean to teach His commandments to my children when I rise up, sit down, and lay down? Am I doing these things? How effectively am I doing these things? What are the areas that I can improve in? What are things that I can do to improve? I welcome God’s corrections about parenting.

If my heart attitude is to honor God with my wealth, then I will want to find out what God has to say about wealth. I will welcome His input and correction. I will look intently at what the Scriptures teach about handling money. Many people focus on the tithe, but God speaks a lot about money, and not much of it is about tithing. He speaks about saving, borrowing money, loaning money, and giving. We will want to honor God with our finances in every area.

If our heart attitude is to be pleasing to God and to honor Him in every area of our lives, then we will welcome His correction in our lives, and embrace His words, not cast them behind us. God’s correction can come in many ways. First, it can come through a word from the Holy Spirit. Many times He has spoken to me immediately after I have done something. Sometimes, He has spoken to me when I was praying or reading the Word. Sometimes, we get a revelation from the Word of God and we see an area in our lives that does not line up with God’s word. Sometimes a word of correction can come through a spouse, brother or sister in the Lord, a manager at work, or even a pastor on Sunday morning. I had a lady leave the church one time who said that I was always preaching at her. Really, I don’t preach at anyone in particular. I try to look around and not stare at anyone. I try to find out what a passage says, and preach the Word. I try to give applications, but I don’t try to preach at anyone in particular. But, the Holy Spirit may convict you of something during a message that Pastor Bill or I give. God can bring correction to us in many different ways.

In Psalm 32, David spoke about repentance. He said that when he kept silent about his sin, his body wasted away, he groaned all day long, that God's hand was heavy upon him, and his vitality was drained away. I believe that if our attitude is right before God, we will not need a heavy hand upon us. I have always felt that I would rather God whisper a word of correction than strike me with a rod.

(Ps 32:3-4) "When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. {4} For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah."

David exhorts us to pray to God when He can be found. He said, surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach Him. I would rather listen to God when it is drizzling outside than when the storm comes that brings flooding and destruction.

(Ps 32:6) "Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him."

David finishes the Psalm by saying that God will instruct us and teach us in the way that we should go. He will counsel us with His eye upon us. Therefore, we are not to be as a horse or mule which have no understanding, and whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check. God wants us to draw near to Him and receive instruction, correction, and counsel voluntarily. It is better for us to have the right attitude and come before Him. If we want to honor Him with our lives, **we need to be eager to learn His ways and make corrections.**

(Ps 32:8-9) "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. {9} Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you."

Get in the habit of drawing near to God. Get in the habit of spending time in prayer and in God's word. As you read His word, meditate on what you are reading. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and teach you. Ask God to open your eyes that you might behold wonderful things from His law. Ask Him to show you anything in your life that is displeasing to Him. When you humbly draw near to God, He will instruct you and teach you and counsel you with His eye upon you.

2. Honoring God With Our World View and Actions

The second way that we can honor God in our lives is with our world view and subsequent actions. God reproves the wicked saying, "when you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you associate with adulterers." I think that there are two issues that need to be addressed. The first issue is the root of the problem, their world view. The second issue is the actions that they take because of their world views. Good behavior comes from good doctrine. **Good behavior comes from a Biblical world view.** The things that we believe are very important, because our actions will come out of our world view. Asaph said that "when you see a thief, you are pleased with him." They were pleased about sin and evil. They did not rejoice in what is good. They rejoiced in wrong doing.

(Psalm 50:18) "When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, and you associate with adulterers.

The Bible says that we should hate evil and cling to what is good. They did not hate evil; they were pleased with a thief. Their perception of right and wrong was completely wrong. Their world view was perverted.

(Rom 12:9) “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.”

Our world view must come from the Scriptures. The Scriptures need to be the plumb line of what is good and acceptable and perfect. **We must align our thoughts and beliefs to God’s thoughts.** The world tries to squeeze us into its mold, and to align our beliefs with its beliefs. But, the church cannot do that. Paul wrote us and told us not to be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind, so that we can prove the will of God, that which is good, acceptable, and perfect. How do we know what is good and what we should be please about? We know what is good by renewing our minds with the Word of God. We order and align our ways with God’s word. When we have renewed our mind and have experienced spiritual transformation, we can then prove the will of God by doing what is good, acceptable, and perfect.

(Rom 12:2) “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Our world view can be shaped by the people we associate with. Peer pressure can be a very harmful force in our lives, especially to young people. Solomon warned that we need to be careful about who we associate with. He said that the one who walks with the wise will become wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm. When we have our world view shaped by wise and discerning people, we become wise. However, when we associate with fools, and are involved in the things that they are doing, we will suffer harm. Solomon said that we need to acquire God’s wisdom so that we can avoid evil men and women, and stay on the paths of the upright.

(Pr 13:20) “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”

Paul said the same thing in his letter to the Corinthians. He said, “do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals.” If we keep bad company, we will learn their ways. Our morals need to be built on Godly principles, not the ways of the world.

(1 Cor 15:33) “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals.’”

Earlier in his letter, Paul had told the Corinthians not to associate with immoral people. By that, he did not mean the worldly people, but with immoral people in the church. God wants us to reach out to those in the world. Jesus ate with the tax collectors and sinners. But, Jesus was not being influenced by them. Jesus’ world view was based on the Word. He was the Word. Jesus was the One who was influencing others. If we are going to be an influence on those in the world, we must have a firm world view. We cannot be struggling in an area like alcohol and hang around alcoholics. We are not to make any provision for the flesh, so we should avoid compromising situations. Our fellowship and deepest friendships should be with godly people. At the same time we should be cultivating relationships with those outside the church so that we can share the gospel with them.

(1 Cor 5:9-11) “I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; {10} I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. {11} But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.”

Our world view can also shaped by our culture. It is shaped by the things that we read. It is shaped by the music that we listen to. It is shaped by the movies and TV that we watch. We have to be very careful about what we allow into our hearts. Solomon warned us to watch over our hearts with all diligence for from the heart flow the springs of life.

(Pr 4:23) “Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.”

When King Nebuchadnezzar took Daniel and his three friends, he ordered them to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans. They were to be educated for three years. He wanted them to be indoctrinated with their cultural values. The world today is doing the same thing. They have rewritten the history books and introduced all kinds of secularism through the education system. Parents, we must be very careful about our children being squeezed into the mold or conformed to the world through the worldly educational values and media values that they are being bombarded with. We cannot let them get to the point that they accept and are pleased with abortion. We cannot let them get so conformed to the world that they think that homosexuality is a freedom of choice, and that it is acceptable. It is an abomination to God. We cannot let them get so conformed to the world that they accept and embrace living with another person outside a marriage. We cannot let them get so conformed to the world that we think there are no moral absolutes. We have absolutes, and they come from the Word of God. Our actions come from our hearts, so it is critical that we have a Biblical world view.

(Dan 1:4-5b) “....and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. {5} The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.

How do we get this Biblical world view? We must spend time reading God’s word. We need a good reading program so that we have an overall understanding and awareness of God’s principles. For the past couple of years, my personal reading program gets me through the Bible more than two times a year. That helps me have a more comprehensive knowledge of the Scriptures. But, reading is not enough to shape your world view. We must embrace several other ways of renewing our minds with the Word of God.

We must memorize God’s word. Having the word of God stored on our hearts is critical during times of temptation, and other difficult situations. Having the word of God stored on our hearts is extremely helpful in meditation. Having the word of God stored on our hearts is helpful in studying and in teaching God’s word.

We must spend time meditating on God’s word. Meditation is one of the best ways to saturate your mind with God’s word. Meditation gives insights and understanding, and it also brings specific applications for our lives.

We must study God's word. Looking intently at God's word helps us find context, and a greater understanding. When you combine meditation and studying, you have a powerful combination.

We must apply God's word. The Scriptures teach us that those who do God's commandments have great understanding. We gain a fuller understanding as we apply God's word in our lives.

(Ps 111:10) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever."

We have been looking at how to renew our minds and to be transformed. I want to back up for one minute and look at Romans 12:1. Paul urges us to present our lives as living and holy sacrifices. **The key to living a holy life that honors God is to have a renewed mind.** A worldly mind is not going to render a living and holy sacrifice. A renewed and transformed mind will help us offer the Lord a living and holy sacrifice which honors the Lord.

(Rom 12:1) "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

3. Honoring God With Our Words

Honoring God with a holy life starts with an attitude that wants to please God. It starts with an attitude that receives God's counsel and His correction in our lives. We welcome His correction in our lives because we want lives that are pleasing to Him. Second, honoring God with a holy life requires us to have a transformed mind. We must have a Biblical world view. We cannot be pleased with a thief. We cannot align ourselves with adulterers. We need to love the things that God loves and hate the things that God hates. Our thoughts need to be changed so that they are in line with God's thoughts. Third, honoring God with a holy life means that we honor Him with our words. In our passage God reproves the wicked saying, "you let your mouth loose in evil and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son." A person with a loose mouth can do much harm, and it dishonors God. A wicked tongue does not reflect the character and nature of God.

(Ps 50:19-20) "You let your mouth loose in evil and your tongue frames deceit. {20} You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son."

It is no surprise that our words are included in this reproof. James tells us that we all stumble in many ways. He says that if we are able to bridle our tongues, we are able to bridle our entire body as well. All of us have to continually guard the things that we allow out of our mouths.

(James 3:2) "For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well."

The prophet Isaiah had a vision where he saw the Lord. When he came into the presence of a holy God, he declared, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips." Even the prophet Isaiah's words were reckoned unclean in the presence of a holy God.

(Is 6:1-5) “In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.... {3} And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.’... {5} Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.’”

God gives three reproofs about the words of the wicked. First, He said that they let their mouth loose in evil. Second, He said their tongues frame deceit. Third, He said they speak against and slander their brothers. If we are going to honor God with our words, we must be careful about these three areas.

A. Loose Lips

The wicked let their mouth loose in evil. There are no restraints in the things they say. They say whatever is on their mind. They just let loose. Because we all stumble in what we say, James wrote that we need to show restraint. He said that we need to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. In other words, we need to stop and think about what we are going to say before we speak it.

(James 1:19) “This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;”

The Scriptures give us many guidelines about our words. Here are a few quick guidelines. Before I share those with you, I want to address two different methods of guarding our words. The first is an internal guard. Jesus taught that our words come from the heart, and these defile us. If our words originate in our hearts, we must cleanse our hearts so that the things that come out of our hearts are pure. That is why we must renew our minds with the Word of God. We must fill our hearts with the word of God so that the word is on our mind. **Scripture memory and meditation play a significant part in what comes out of our hearts and mouths.**

(Matt 15:18) “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.”

I have been around a number of elderly people over the past thirty years that are suffering from Alzheimer’s disease. Some of the things that come out of their mouths are horrendous. Many of these people never said those kinds of things when they had all their faculties. They used self restraint in their words. When the restraints were lifted because of a disease, they let their mouths loose and whatever was on their heart came out. Because of that, I have asked the Lord to do whatever is necessary now to clean up my heart. I realize that over the years there has been a lot of things that have entered my heart.

There are several things that we must do to have clean hearts. First, we need to confess our sins before the Lord. When we confess our sins, God promises to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Second, we must renew our minds with the Word of God. Third, we must watch over our hearts with all diligence.

(1 John 1:9) “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The second way to keep from sinning with our mouths is to guard what comes out of our mouths. David said in Psalm 39, "I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle..." David guarded his words so that he would not sin.

(Ps 39:1) "I said, "I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle while the wicked are in my presence."

We must guard the words of our mouths. How do we guard our words? There are lots of Scriptures that deal with our tongue or words. In the book of Proverbs, there are 915 verses, and 146 of them deal with the words that we speak. Memorizing and meditating on these Scriptures about the things we say will help us learn to use our tongues wisely. There are a number of other passages that deal with our speech. Ephesians 4:29 is one of my favorite passages. Paul gives us four different ways to guard our words in that passage. These are checkpoints at the guard station.

(Eph 4:29) "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear."

Checkpoint # 1: Wholesome Words

The first checkpoint is whether a word is wholesome or not. The Greek word that is used here is sapos, which means rotten, worthless, bad or corrupt. The King James says, "let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth." The first checkpoint does not allow any rotten, corrupt, or unwholesome communication come out. We simply ask ourselves if what we are about to say is rotten. If it is, we keep our mouths shut. If it passes this test, we go on to the second checkpoint.

(Eph 4:29 KJV) "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

Checkpoint # 2: Edifying Words

The second checkpoint is whether what we are about to say is good for edification. Edification means to be built up. Is what I am saying going to build up others. Our words need to edify, build up, or encourage others. If it does not build up or encourage others, we should muzzle our mouth and keep silent. If it will encourage others, it passes this test. We are ready to look at the third checkpoint.

Checkpoint # 3: Necessary Words

The third checkpoint is necessary words. Paul says, "but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment." Is what I am about to share needed right now? Is it according to the need of the moment? Is it timely? It may need to be shared, but is now the proper time and place to share it? What is the need of the moment? If it is not a timely or needed word, we should keep quiet. If it is a needed word, we are ready to proceed to the fourth checkpoint.

Sometimes we need to speak to a person about a situation. However, this may not be the right place or time. There may be others around that may see or hear what is going on. Some conversations need privacy. We may need to schedule a time where things can be discussed in private. For example, Jesus

said in Matthew 18:15 that if our brother sins, go and reprove him in private. If there are people around, this is not the right time. It is not according to the need of the moment. We must find a time where it can be done in private. I also like to bathe meetings like this with prayer. I like to make sure that I am in the Spirit, and have God's attitude and perspective.

(Matt 18:15) ""And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."

Checkpoint # 4: Gracious Words

Our fourth and final checkpoint is whether our words give grace to those who hear. Is what I am about to say gracious or is it going to give grace to others? The dictionary defines gracious as pleasantly kind, benevolent, and courteous. It defines favor as something done or granted out of goodwill, rather than from justice or for remuneration; a kind act, friendly or well-disposed regard; goodwill; excessive kindness or unfair partiality. A person who speaks graciously is going to have lots of goodwill in his words. He is going to speak kindly and friendly. He will show well-disposed regard for others and unfortunate situations. We need to ask ourselves if what we are going to share is gracious or going to give grace to others.

This fourth checkpoint is very important in evangelism. Gracious words are like salt; they cause people to be thirsty. Gracious words make the other person want to hear more, opening the door for more conversation. Paul exhorts us in Colossians 4 to let our speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that we will know how to respond to each person. Many unbelievers have an image of God has judgmental and harsh. By seasoning our speech with God's grace in our lives and for all people, we can create more thirst in them for the things of God.

(Col 4:6) "Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person."

B. Deceitful Words

The second area of speech that God reprovved the wicked for is framing deceit. The wicked were not speaking truth; they were lying and deceiving one another. **We must honor God in our conversations by speaking truth to one another.** In the New Testament, Paul tells us to speak truth to one another in love. The Greek word for truth is aletheia, which means nothing hidden or concealed. In other words, there is no deceit or falsehood in what is being shared. As Christians, we must lay aside all falsehood and speak truth to people.

(Ps 50:19) "You let your mouth loose in evil and your tongue frames deceit."

(Eph 4:25) "Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another."

I worked for a man once who was not a believer. One day a sheriff's car pulled up to the building, and out of his office window he could see the deputy get out and come towards the front door of our office. He quickly came to my office and told me to tell the deputy that he was not there. He told me to lie to the officer. I went to the front door and greeted the deputy. He asked for the owner by name,

and I simply asked him if there was something that I could help him with. He gave me a letter to give to the owner, and went on his way. I was not going to lie to the officer. If we want to honor God in our speech, we must speak truth.

C. Slanderous Words

The third area of their words that the Lord addresses is slander. He said that they sat and spoke against their brother, and slandered their own mother's son. The Hebrew word is *dophi*, which means to push over. Both the KJV and NASB translate this as slander. Slander means to bring defamation to someone. If something is said that tears down their reputation, it is slander. **We must build up others with our words.**

(Ps 50:20) "You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son."

In the New Testament, Paul instructs us to let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from us. In context, Paul is saying that slander and these other things grieve the Holy Spirit. In Psalm 15, David talks about who can abide or dwell in the Lord's tent, meaning who can dwell in the presence of the Lord. The answer and overall theme of the chapter is integrity. David gives a number of different areas of integrity, including slander. He said, "he does not slander with his tongue..." If we want to walk in the Spirit and want a greater presence of the Holy Spirit, we must not slander others. We must honor God and honor others with our words.

(Eph 4:31) "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice."

(Ps 15:3) "He does not slander with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend;"

Solomon said that one who spreads slander is a fool. He says that a slanderer separates intimate friends. Slander will ruin a marriage, the most intimate of friends. Slander will separate people in the church. Few things will cause more disunity than slander. King Solomon makes a real strong statement in Proverbs 20:19. He says that we are not to associate with a gossip.

(Pr 10:18) "He who conceals hatred has lying lips, And he who spreads slander is a fool."

(Pr 16:28) "A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends."

(Pr 20:19) "He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with a gossip."

Conclusion

This morning, we have looked at honoring God with holy lives. It begins with a heart attitude that wants to please and honor God. This attitude welcomes God's reproofs in our lives because we know that they are intended to help us become more like Jesus. Reproofs are part of the transforming process. Perhaps this morning, you have never surrendered your life to Christ. You have never made Him your Lord and Master. You have never given your heart to Christ.

This morning, we want to give you an opportunity to give your heart to God. In Romans 10, Paul wrote that if we believe in our heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, we will be saved. There are two simple requirements. First, we must believe that Jesus came and died for our sins, and was raised up from the dead. Second, we must confess Him to be our Lord. That means that we make Him the Lord and Ruler of our lives. The people that God addressed in Psalm 50 had never made Him their Lord. They were religious, and offered sacrifices, but not from the heart. They gave Him lip service. A life that honors God starts with giving Him our hearts. If this is your desire this morning, I am going to ask you to come forward. Today is the day of salvation for you. Today marks a new start in life, the beginning of a life that honors God. That is pretty exciting. If that is you, please come forward. We want to pray with you this morning.

For others this morning, the Holy Spirit may have been speaking to you about developing a Biblical world view. You recognize that you need to spend more time reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on God's word. You realize that you need to be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you can present to God a living and holy sacrifice. There may be some areas of your life that do not reflect the holiness of God. It could be your actions. It could be your words. You know that there are some things going on that are not pleasing to the Lord. If you would like to repent, and receive prayer for a renewed mind this morning, let us pray with you.

Still others this morning, are struggling with a physical ailment. We believe that God wants you to prosper and be in good health. We believe that He has commanded us to preach the gospel, and heal the sick. We want to pray for you and trust God to touch you this morning. When healed people stop, turn back, and give thanks to God for what He has done, it brings glory and honor to Him.

If you would like to receive Christ, or to receive prayers for any area, please come forward.

Let's pray.

Introduction (Mal 1:6-8, Ps 50, Rom 12:1, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Is 29:13)

1. Honoring God With Our Heart Attitudes

- Heart attitudes that honor God welcomes His _____ in their lives. (Ps 50:17)
- God wants us to honor Him with our words and with sincere _____ . (Is 29:13)
- We need to be _____ to learn His ways and make corrections. (Ps 32)

2. Honoring God With Our World View and Actions

- Good _____ comes from a Biblical world view. (Ps 50:18, Rom 12:9, Ps 111:10)
- We must _____ our thoughts and beliefs to God's thoughts. (Rom 12:2)
- Our world view can be shaped by the people we _____ with. (Pr 13:20, 1 Cor 15:33, 5:9-11)
- Our world view can also shaped by our _____. (Pr 4:23, Dan 1:4-5b)
- The key to living a holy life that honors God is to have a _____ mind. (Rom 12:1)

3. Honoring God With Our Words (Ps 50:19-20, James 3:2, Is 6:1-5)

A. Loose Lips (James 1:19)

- Scripture _____ and _____ play a significant part in what comes out of our hearts and mouths. (Matt 15:18, 1 John 1:9)
- We must _____ the words of our mouths. (Ps 39:1)

Checkpoint # 1: _____ Words (Eph 4:29)

Checkpoint # 2: _____ Words (Eph 4:29)

Checkpoint # 3: _____ Words (Eph 4:29, Matt 18:15)

Checkpoint # 4: _____ Words (Eph 4:29, Col 4:6)

B. Deceitful Words

- We must honor God in our conversations by speaking _____ to one another. (Ps 50:19, Eph 4:25)

C. Slanderous Words

- We must _____ others with our words. (Ps 50:20, Eph 4:31, Ps 15:3, Pr 10:18, 16:28, 20:19)

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