

# Proverbs: Wisdom for Living

*Sticks and Stones...*

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Proverbs 18:21** The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

## Why are my words so important?

### My words **direct** where I go...

**James 3:3** We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth.

**James 3:4** And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong.

### My words can **destroy**...

**Proverbs 11:9** The loose tongue of the godless spreads destruction; the common sense of the godly preserves them. (Message)

**Proverbs 13:3** Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.

**Proverbs 16:28** A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

**Proverbs 17:9** Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.

**Proverbs 18:8** Rumors are dainty morsels that sink deep into one's heart.

### My words **display** who I am...

**James 3:9-10** Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

**Proverbs 10:20** The words of the godly are like sterling silver; the heart of a fool is worthless.

**Proverbs 12:18** Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.

#### *When my words are motivated by Satan they display:*

Bitter Envy & Selfish Ambition

Earthly Concerns & Desires

Unspiritual Thoughts & Ideas

Disorder & Evil

#### *When my words are motivated by God and his wisdom they display:*

Mercy, Peace, Love & Consideration for others

Submission, Sincerity & Righteousness

## How Can I MANAGE My Words?

- **GET a new heart**

**Psalm 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

**Colossians 3:15a** And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.

- **ASK GOD for help every day**

**Psalm 139:23-24** Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

- **THINK before you speak**

**James 1:19** Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

**Proverbs 26:20** Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.

- **ASK before you speak**

"Is what I want to say true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?"