

"The Word of Life for Fools"
Proverbs 18:20-21 and other passages
August 8, 2021

I. A Fool's Lips Hurt Others

- A. The speech of fools hurts the reputation of others.

Proverbs 10:18 - He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool.

- B. Fools overflow with bad advice.

Proverbs 15:2 - The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

- C. Fools waste the time of the wise with their foolish responses to them.

Proverbs 29:9 - When a wise man has a controversy with a foolish man, the foolish man either rages or laughs, and there is no rest.

II. A Fool's Lips Hurt Himself

- A. A fool's words invite a hostile response.

Proverbs 18:6 - A fool's lips bring strife, and his mouth calls for blows.

- B. A fool's speech often results in legal consequences.

Proverbs 14:3 - In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back, but the lips of the wise will protect them.

- C. A fool's foolish lips can devastate his whole life.

Proverbs 18:7 - A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

Application –

1. We are all fools; thus, we all have spoken foolishly, hurting ourselves and others.
2. Our foolish speech makes us condemnable before the Lord

Matthew 12:36–37 - ³⁶ But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

3. Thankfully, our Savior Jesus is the opposite of the fool and the embodiment of wise and life-giving speech.
 1. Jesus always speaks reliable and true words.

John 8:45–46 - ⁴⁵ But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

2. Christ's words have power to bring spiritual and physical healing. (See Luke 5:18-25)
3. The words of Jesus can literally bring the dead to life.

John 11:43–44a - ⁴³ When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came forth...

4. Wisdom-Incarnate speaks words that grant eternal life.

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

5. As the 2nd Person of the Trinity, Christ's words are the very words of God.

John 1:1–3 - ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

6. Christ's wise and perfect speech is counted as ours by faith.

1 Corinthians 1:30 - But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption...