

The Tongue

- *“Sticks and Stones can break my bones but words will never hurt me.”*
- But they did hurt.
- like a sharp razor; Ps 52:2 a serpent 140:3

The Tongue

- Your tongue devises **destruction**, like a **sharp razor**, O worker of deceit. 4 You love all words that **devour**, O deceitful tongue Ps 52:2, 4
- Hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers, from the tumult of those who do iniquity, 3 Who have **sharpened their tongue like a sword**. They aimed bitter speech as their **arrow**, Ps. 64:2-3;
- They sharpen their tongues **as a serpent**; **poison of a viper** is under their lips.; 140:3

The Tongue

- *“Sticks and Stones can break my bones but words will never hurt me.”*
- But they did hurt...
- And they still do:
- *“Angry words lightly spoken,*
- *Bitter thoughts rashly stirred,*
- *Brightest links of life broken” (#394).*
- Cutting remarks, gossip, taunting, sarcasm

The Tongue

- *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise. 20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver Pr 10:19-20*
- *He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. 28 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive. Pr 17:27-28*
- *23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles. 20 Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Pr 21:23; 29:20*

The Tongue – A Fire

- *See how great a forest a little fire kindles!
6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. James 3:5-7*

The Tongue is a Fire Jas 3:6

- A very comprehensive statement!
- More we read more impressive.
- A powerful member.
- For Good
- But Terrible in its force for evil.
- Not Like a Fire – It is Fire!
- What is Fire?

What is Fire?

- Fire is the visible effect of the process of combustion – a special type of chemical reaction
- A process in which one or more substances are changed into different substances..
- It occurs between oxygen in the air and some sort of fuel.
- The products from the chemical reaction are completely different from the starting material.

The Tongue is a Fire Jas 3:6

- Fire changes unstable things – makes energy.
- Wood, coal, capable of change through fire.
- After fire only ash and smoke remain.



The Tongue is a Fire Jas 3:6

- *Emotions are like wood & paper - unstable*
- Love to hate, peace to strife and bitterness.
- sow discord between brethren
- Slander and whispering destroy friendships
- All that is left is dust, ashes and bitterness.
- *“Angry words lightly spoken,*
- *Bitter thoughts rashly stirred,*
- *Brightest links of life broken” (#394).*

The Tongue

- *18 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, 19 Is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, "I was only joking!"*
- *20 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. 21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife. 22 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body. Pr. 26:20-21*

The Tongue

- *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Pr. 18:21*

The World of Iniquity in our Members

- All woe in our world came through the tongue.
- Satan used it to create the fire of lust and deception— led to the murder(Jn. 8:44) of Adam and Eve – the destruction of our home in Eden.
- People deceive, tempt, seduce, and provoke.
- Through the tongue people sow discord with slander, gossip, and lies.
- Often these fires smolder in the emotions, slowly eating away the good and leaving behind the ashes of vengeance or the emptiness of bitter despair. Sometimes they explode in blind rage that sweeps away all in its path.