

WAYWARD LIPS

By Dr. Hal Webb, Evangelist

“Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips,” Psalm 141: 3

Our body is a wonderful thing made possible by the creative hand of Almighty God. How we use it is a matter of great importance. Since God gave us a will we have the awesome ability to use its parts for the glory of God. This lays a great responsibility upon us for we will one day be judged as to how we invested life and the use of our members. They are many, but let's talk about the lips as mentioned in the Bible. They may be a small body part but they can be devastating when used carelessly.

Sometimes they are used in Gossip. Proverbs 18:8 warns "*the words of a tale bearer are as wounds.*" Behind every church squabble are uncontrolled lips that spew forth jealousy and hatred. Our lips can so very easily cause strife and wound others with our carelessness. These wounds "*go down into the innermost parts of the body,*" Proverbs 26:22. Be careful what you say about others to others. Your words are to be lovingly chosen and better be true because God warns "*Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I cut off, him that hath a high look and a proud heart will not I suffer,*" Psm. 101:5. Are your words kind, true and necessary? Also **Beware of Backbiting!** Gal. 5:15 warns, "*But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.*" Then there is Rom. 1:30 which calls backbiters "*haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters inventors of evil things.*" These are serious warnings. James 4:11 warns that we are *not to speak evil of one another, brethren.* We have no right before God to lower our angry aim at fellow believers. Church business meetings can become a shooting range as the battle of wits can turn to anger. We all have

lots to learn about keeping our speech in the right tone and interest in corporate relationships. We are never to speak evil one of another. **Some Lips are Guilty of Swearing.** The world is plagued with the hatred of man's lips before God. One must be careful of the TV programming we watch for they care very little what comes from their filthy lips. We Christians must try to avoid it and speak out against it. In James 5:12 it says "*above all things my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath, but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.*" "Hell" is a place and "Damm" is what the Lord will do to unrepentant sinners. No profane word should ever form in the lips of a child of God. God commands believers to avoid it in I Tim. 6:20. We are to use our lips to bless and curse not. **Now consider another lip problem called Lying.** The verse Col. 3:9 warns "*lie not one to another, seeing ye have put off the old man with his deeds.*" We need to teach our children not to lie and raise them in the atmosphere of parenting truth. Never let them get away with it or hear it from the family. We live in a world that makes a joke out of truth and the realm of politics is rampant with lies. God says in Psalms 119:163, "*I hate lying.*" Isaiah likened it to rebellion in Isaiah 30:9. What a great Bible warning. When your lips move to lie it is something hated by God. Oh how careful we should be with the speech we allow through our lips. Christians should be known for their honesty and dependability to follow up in what we say. Someday when we stand in judgement before God we will wish we had controlled the words of our mouth. We will gain or suffer loss on the basis of our words as we stand before God. There are at least four more areas of lip movement we need to consider. **Don't Be Guilty of Insincerity!** God warns in Psalm 12:2 & 3 "*They speak vanity every one with his neighbor, with flattering lips and with a double heart do they*

speaking. The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things."

Wow! what a warning to give us the seriousness of insincerity in our words and dealings with those around us. God flat out calls it lying. In Prov. 21:6 it is called "*the getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.*" True believers must not use words for personal gain. Deception is a thing God hates. So mean what you say and say what you mean and be careful of words. There are three more problems of the lip I have discovered in the Bible. Sometimes our lips are **Guilty of Boasting**. Psa. 10:3 says' "*the wicked boasteth of his hearts desire, whom the Lord abhorreth.*" Boasting is wicked and to do so with ones lips angers God. God further states in Psm. 94:4 "*How long shall they utter and speak hard things? And all the workers of iniquity boast themselves.*" Boasting is the opposite to the humility our lives should manifest. In John 7:18 it says, "*He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.*" Humility is a great evidence of our true relationship with God. We all need to remember, "*Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall,*" Proverbs 17:18.

The Lord Further Hates Complaining. In Phil. 2: 4 it says "*Do all things without murmurings and disputings.*" Today's churches have a few whiners and complainers and they seem to relish making trouble. Nothing seems to satisfy them and their criticisms are often whispered and sometimes shouted. In John 6: 43 Jesus said, "*Murmur not among yourselves.*" We are told in the book of Exodus that our murmurings are against the Lord. In the church there will always be differences in opinion but Godly members need to agree and not grumble. Dear pastors and other servants of God are faced with this many times. Gradually one can decide who

will be the most likely to complain over which issue. One would hope that we in this church should not sit in judgement and be always complaining. I found in the Word one more thing God warns our lips should not engage. We are to **Beware Of Idle Words**. "*But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement,*" Matt. 12: 36. What we say with our lips is of great significance in the eyes of God and to those who hear us. A person of knowledge spares words. Psm. 19:14 says "*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight.*" Our words need to be kind, true and necessary. Lets sum up.

Lips are a very necessary part of our anatomy. Some are fat and others are thin and all are important to help get the food in. Some can whistle and others play horns. Baby ones drool and old folks do too.. Some get chapped and others get burned. Some get painted and others make it on their own. They can swell when punched in a fight or stutter and stammer with great delight. A few can snarl and others can even smile. However we treat our lips is an important part of our testimony before mankind around us For their part in speech we have lots to learn. We must control them, realize their potential for good and use them for God. In our morning prayers it is good to ask God to use our lips carefully. As I Thess 4:18 coaches us, "Comfort one another with these words."

If you have not already done so put this verse in your heart and memory.

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, Oh Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psam. 19:14