

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 4

EXTRA READING: Nicene Creed & Canons of Dort, art. 4 & rej. 5 (pg. 107)

SINGING: 308:1-5 – 386:1-4 – 90:5-7 – 141:1-2

THE TONGUE

I. ITS GOD GIVEN PURPOSE II. ITS SIN TWISTED DEFORMITY

III. ITS GRACE REDEEMED CHARACTER

I. ITS GOD GIVEN PURPOSE

A. Words aren't a *human invention* but *God's creation*

1. God's words set the pattern for how to use our words (Gen. 1)
2. God as Creator of language made us 'stewards of words' (Matt12:36-37)

B. Main purpose for our words: *to love God and our neighbor*

1. Examine your 'use of words' in the light of Eph. 4:29

II. ITS SIN TWISTED DEFORMITY

A. Though fallen, God still requires us to manage our words as He intended

1. Eph. 4 gives many directions on positive side of 9th commandment

2. Every instance of *transgression of 9th* is a proper work of the devil

a. false witness: 1 Kings 21:13

b. falsify any man's words: Gen. 3:1-2; Acts 6:11

c. slander (2 Sam. 19:17)

d. backbiting/gossip: Prov. 26:22; Prov. 17:9; Prov. 6:19

e. judging without knowing all facts: John 9:2; Prov. 18:13

f. flattery: Prov. 27:5; 28:23

g. promising too much:

h. breaking confidences: Prov. 11:13

B. How does breaking the 9th bring the *heavy wrath of God* upon us?...

1. He will make us *reap what we sow* (Gal. 6:7-8; Prov. 18:20; 26:27)

III. IT'S GRACE REDEEMED CHARACTER

A. Ye shall know who the man is by the *fruits of his life*

1. Words are *fruits* of what lives within the heart (James 4:1-3)
2. Good words bring many blessings to others: Prov. 10:10; 15:4; 16:24)

B. The 'redemption of our tongue' begins with regeneration of heart

CLOSING OBSERVATIONS

A. "Political correctness" is mostly a refusal to say the truth

1. For a Christian, honest to the truth is not only the best but the only policy
2. There are no degrees in honesty

B. Too little of our words are devoted to sharing spiritually (Malachi 3:16)

C. Let's pray for the fulfillment of Moses's words: *Would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would up His Spirit upon them. (Numb. 11:29)*