**Out of the Same Mouth**

**James 1:26-27; 3:8-12**

**4Introduction:**

I. Freedom of religion and speech are great *civil* liberties.

A. It means that our government grants and protects our right to openly believe or say what we please.

B. It does not mean that the same permissions are granted by God.

 II. God has much to say about what we can or cannot believe or say.

A. God tells us what we can and cannot believe and practice in religion.

B. God also tells us what we can and cannot say with his blessing and approval.

III. James shows that the same tongue often, but should not, produce two totally opposite fruits.

**Discussion:**

 **I. Blessing**

A. It can be used to please God - worship, showing adoration, and our commitment.

 1. It can confess our faith in the Christ (Rom. 10:9, 10).

 2. It can worship God (Heb. 13:15) in song, prayer, to teach, and to preach.

 B. It can be used to bless man.

 1. To preach the gospel to him (Rom. 1:15, 16; Mark 16:15-16).

 2. To warn and rebuke him in danger (2 Tim. 4:2-4; Tit. 2:10-13).

 3. Spread comfort and cheer among men (1 Thess. 4:18).

 4. Promote peace between men (Matt. 5:9; 18:15-17).

 **II. Cursing**

A. It can be used to serve the purposes of hell (v. 6).

 1 Profanes the holy name of God and curses.

 2. Promotes false doctrines (2 John 9-11).

 3. Produces sin when overactive (Prov. 10:19).

 B. It can be used to curse man.

 1. Ruins good names by lies, insinuations, and revealed secrets (Prov. 11:13).

 2. Unnecessarily hurts people (Prov. 18:8).

a. “But it is the truth” – yes, but is it necessary? Maybe at times (3 John 9:2; 2 Tim. 4:14, 15).

b. “But I said it to his face!”

 3. Promotes strife (Prov. 26:20) – in nations, families, communities, and churches.

C. It often reveals the true character of its owner (Matt. 12:34-37).

 1. Foul language reveals sinful desires and designs.

2. Constant criticism often reveals envy and insecurity – think pulling another down will lift self-up.

3. “Popping off” or really “telling them” Reveals immaturity (horn blower at stop sign).

4. Murmuring (constant griping) often reveals discontent and ingratitude (Phil. 4:11).

**Conclusion:**

I. We must realize the power of the tongue – for blessing and cursing. Like fire can serve or destroy!

 II. May we realize the need to guard and bridle the tongue (Psa. 141:3).

 III. May we learn when, where, and how to speak to please God and bless man.