

# Proverbs - The Tongue

**That troublesome tongue** Consider the following proverbs which deal with the use of the tongue. What lesson does each teach us about our speech?

- 10:20-21 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth. The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.
- 12:18-19 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.
- 15:4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.
- 16:24 Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.
- 18:20-21 From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.
- 10:19 When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.
- 17:28 Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.
- 10:31-32 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.
- 11:11 By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.
- 12:6-7 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them. The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.

- 12:13-14 An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble. From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.
- 13:2-3 From the fruit of his mouth a man eats what is good, but the desire of the treacherous is for violence. Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.
- 15:1-2 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.
- 15:7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.
- 15:28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.
- 17:9 Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.
- 17:20 A man of crooked heart does not discover good, and one with a dishonest tongue falls into calamity.
- 18:2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.
- 21:23 Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.
- 18:6-8 A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul. The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.
- 26:20 For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.
- 26:28 A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin.