

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612

NEWS & EVENTS – August 2023

Phone... (919) 787-1910
E-mail: office@mabc.org
Web Page: www.mabc.org

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

Have you ever said something you immediately regretted? And you hear the words as you speak like a fire hose out of control, gushing and spewing all over the place? To justify ourselves we may take the position that we're only speaking our mind. And everyone has a right to do that, right? Consider that the Word of God declares that the power of life and death lie in the words we speak. God's Word declares that *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. (Prov 18:21)* The key to unlock the interpretation of this passage is to understand that the enemy mimics the Most High God in everything He does and then spoils the outcome. Sin in the natural man can speak words that uncontrollably flow out of our minds and poison the environment (*relationships*) like a downstream discharge of harmful chemicals into life giving waters. When God spoke in the beginning...it was so... and it was good. His Word set the standard for life by the Creator of Life. Then sin contaminated the human genome, and it manifested in the first human born under the dominion of sin. Consider the conversation Cain had with the Creator. He is called into account by the Lord God to check himself...to see why he is angry...to define what he desires...and consider one of the best laid traps in Satan's arsenal of destruction. The words we speak in our natural spiritual condition are potentially destructive and devastating forces. Spoken words can masquerade our desire for power. We belittle others to exalt ourselves. Sin wants power. God said it. Cain heard it. We know it. Death and Life are surely in the power of the tongue. Sinful humanity is continuously fulfilling a desire to tear down rather than build up. It is like aligning our will with the will which opposes the will of God. Nasty words that hurt relationships are natural. We don't have to try hard to hurt. We need help speaking words that help. When the Lord changes our nature, it seems that the first measurable change is in our language. Not only changing the words we use, but in the way we speak them. Our words have power. The Word of God empowers Life. Consider how God helps us become helpers and not hurters.

3 Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips. 4 Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice deeds of wickedness with men who do iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies. (Psalm 141:3-4)

God is the One who guards the gate. He is the One who sets a guard over my mouth. If the Psalmist is David, it would be good to know when this Psalm was lived out...not when it was recorded in Scripture, but what season of life might he had been passing through. Was it in his younger days when the son of Jesse came from the sheepfold to confront the Philistine Nephilim who struck fear in the hearts of Israel as he slandered the Name of the Most High God? Or was it when he was relentlessly pursued by a powerful and envious king until he was like a deer panting for the water brooks? Or possibly when he was betrayed by forces from those among his closest associates? Or even familial relationships when he allowed sin to go unchecked, or ignored his own lustful desires that led to lies, treachery, betrayal, and murder? The issue is not *speaking our mind* as much as it is the *revealing of the heart*. We can train ourselves to think better *after* we have a change of heart. It is desperately wicked and beyond repair. Unless there is an intervention of our natural inclination to sin, life only gets worse. King Jesus declared that out of the mouth the heart will speak. For the believer in Christ, when we lapse back into speaking death, it becomes easier to think about evil desires and practice deeds of wickedness with men who continually live the way of life that leads to death. When we associate with men of such low degree, we lose perspective of living the life of noble birth as children of The King. Without the Lord setting a guard over my mouth, and keeping watch over my lips, I can act as lost as I used to be. The natural man loves the right to *speak his mind*, and to pursue his right to die, but the Word of God offers a different desire to consider. Only the Spirit of God teaches us how to help, rather than hurt, with our words. When I was younger, I would hear my elders telling me to *mind how you speak*. To think about how I spoke.

When we have the Mind of Christ it's much easier to speak our hearts with His mind.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam

(If you are unable to attend Mt. Olivet's 11 AM Sunday worship service in person, can go to website www.mabc.org and click on "Worship Services" for live streaming or prior messages.)