



.001.tiff

IN A MULTITUDE OF WORDS, SIN IS UNAVOIDABLE,
BUT HE WHO RESTRAINS HIS LIPS IS WISE.
—PROVERBS 10:19

.002.tiff

¹NOT MANY OF YOU SHOULD BECOME TEACHERS, MY BROTHERS,
FOR YOU KNOW THAT WE WHO TEACH WILL BE JUDGED WITH
GREATER STRICTNESS. ²FOR WE ALL STUMBLE IN MANY WAYS.
AND IF ANYONE DOES NOT STUMBLE IN WHAT HE SAYS,
HE IS A PERFECT MAN, ABLE ALSO TO BRIDLE HIS WHOLE BODY.
³IF WE PUT BITS INTO THE MOUTHS OF HORSES SO THAT THEY
OBEY US, WE GUIDE THEIR WHOLE BODIES AS WELL. ⁴LOOK AT THE
SHIPS ALSO: THOUGH THEY ARE SO LARGE AND ARE DRIVEN BY
STRONG WINDS, THEY ARE GUIDED BY A VERY SMALL RUDDER
WHEREVER THE WILL OF THE PILOT DIRECTS. ⁵SO ALSO THE TONGUE
IS A SMALL MEMBER, YET IT BOASTS OF GREAT THINGS.
HOW GREAT A FOREST IS SET ABLAZE BY SUCH A SMALL FIRE!
⁶AND THE TONGUE IS A FIRE, A WORLD OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

.003.tiff

THE TONGUE IS SET AMONG OUR MEMBERS, STAINING THE
WHOLE BODY, SETTING ON FIRE THE ENTIRE COURSE OF LIFE,
AND SET ON FIRE BY HELL. ⁷FOR EVERY KIND OF BEAST AND BIRD,
OF REPTILE AND SEA CREATURE, CAN BE TAMED AND HAS BEEN
TAMED BY MANKIND, ⁸BUT NO HUMAN BEING CAN TAME THE
TONGUE. IT IS A RESTLESS EVIL, FULL OF DEADLY POISON. ⁹WITH IT
WE BLESS OUR LORD AND FATHER, AND WITH IT WE CURSE PEOPLE
WHO ARE MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD. ¹⁰FROM THE SAME MOUTH
COME BLESSING AND CURSING. MY BROTHERS, THESE THINGS
OUGHT NOT TO BE SO. ¹¹DOES A SPRING POUR FORTH FROM THE
SAME OPENING BOTH FRESH AND SALT WATER? ¹²CAN A FIG TREE,
MY BROTHERS, BEAR OLIVES, OR A GRAPEVINE PRODUCE FIGS?
NEITHER CAN A SALT POND YIELD FRESH WATER. —JAMES 3:1-12

.004.tiff



I. CONSIDER THE POWER OF THE TONGUE (JAMES 3:1-5)

.005.tiff

³⁶I TELL YOU, ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT PEOPLE WILL GIVE ACCOUNT FOR EVERY CARELESS WORD THEY SPEAK,
³⁷FOR BY YOUR WORDS YOU WILL BE JUSTIFIED, AND BY YOUR WORDS YOU WILL BE CONDEMNED. —MATTHEW 12:36-37

.006.tiff

¹⁹KNOW THIS, MY BELOVED BROTHERS: LET EVERY PERSON BE QUICK TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK, SLOW TO ANGER... ²⁶IF ANYONE THINKS HE IS RELIGIOUS AND DOES NOT BRIDLE HIS TONGUE BUT DECEIVES HIS HEART, THIS PERSON'S RELIGION IS WORTHLESS. —JAMES 1:19, 26

SO SPEAK AND SO ACT AS THOSE WHO ARE TO BE JUDGED UNDER THE LAW OF LIBERTY. —JAMES 2:12

NO HUMAN BEING CAN TAME THE TONGUE. IT IS A RESTLESS EVIL, FULL OF DEADLY POISON. —JAMES 3:8

DO NOT SPEAK EVIL AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, BROTHERS. THE ONE WHO SPEAKS AGAINST A BROTHER OR JUDGES HIS BROTHER, SPEAKS EVIL AGAINST THE LAW AND JUDGES THE LAW. BUT IF YOU JUDGE THE LAW, YOU ARE NOT A DOER OF THE LAW BUT A JUDGE. —JAMES 4:11

BUT ABOVE ALL, MY BROTHERS, DO NOT SWEAR, EITHER BY HEAVEN OR BY EARTH OR BY ANY OTHER OATH, BUT LET YOUR "YES" BE YES AND YOUR "NO" BE NO, SO THAT YOU MAY NOT FALL UNDER CONDEMNATION. —JAMES 5:12

.007.tiff

THREE SIMILES FOR THE TONGUE

1. BIT
USED TO TAME A HORSE

2. RUDDER
USED TO DIRECT A SHIP

3. SPARK
USED TO START A FIRE

.008.tiff

“THE TONGUE IS THE WORLD’S SMALLEST
YET GREATEST TROUBLEMAKER.”

.009.tiff

WHOEVER RESTRAINS HIS WORDS HAS KNOWLEDGE,
AND HE WHO HAS A COOL SPIRIT IS A MAN
OF UNDERSTANDING. —PROVERBS 17:27

.010.tiff



2. CONTEMPLATE THE POISON OF THE TONGUE
(JAMES 3:6-8)

.011.tiff



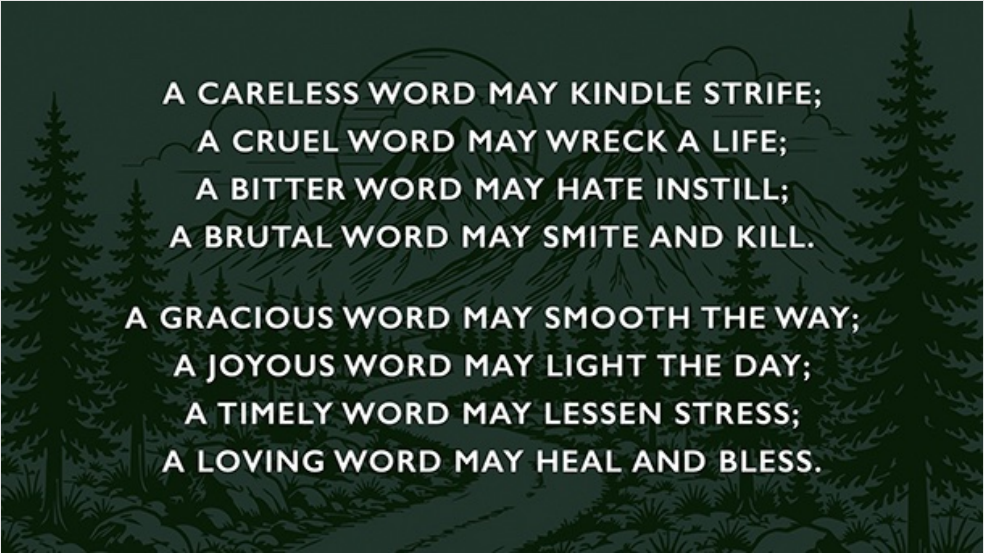
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DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE,
AND THOSE WHO LOVE IT WILL EAT ITS FRUITS.
—PROVERBS 18:21

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A CARELESS WORD MAY KINDLE STRIFE;
A CRUEL WORD MAY WRECK A LIFE;
A BITTER WORD MAY HATE INSTILL;
A BRUTAL WORD MAY SMITE AND KILL.

A GRACIOUS WORD MAY SMOOTH THE WAY;
A JOYOUS WORD MAY LIGHT THE DAY;
A TIMELY WORD MAY LESSEN STRESS;
A LOVING WORD MAY HEAL AND BLESS.

.014.tiff

CRITICISM

THERE IS ONE WHOSE RASH WORDS ARE LIKE SWORD THRUSTS,
BUT THE TONGUE OF THE WISE BRINGS HEALING. —PROVERBS 12:18
A GENTLE TONGUE IS A TREE OF LIFE, BUT PERVERSENESS IN IT
BREAKS THE SPIRIT. —PROVERBS 15:4

*"YOU CAN SAY SOMETHING IN TEN SECONDS
YOU CAN'T TAKE BACK IN TEN YEARS."*

GOSSIP

A GOSSIP BETRAYS A CONFIDENCE, BUT A TRUSTWORTHY PERSON
KEEPS A SECRET. —PROVERBS 11:13 (NIV)
A DISHONEST MAN SPREADS STRIFE, AND A WHISPERER SEPARATES
CLOSE FRIENDS. —PROVERBS 16:28

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FLATTERY

A MAN WHO FLATTERS HIS NEIGHBOR SPREADS A NET FOR HIS FEET.
—PROVERBS 29:5

FAITHFUL ARE THE WOUNDS OF A FRIEND; PROFUSE ARE THE KISSES
OF AN ENEMY. —PROVERBS 27:6

LYING

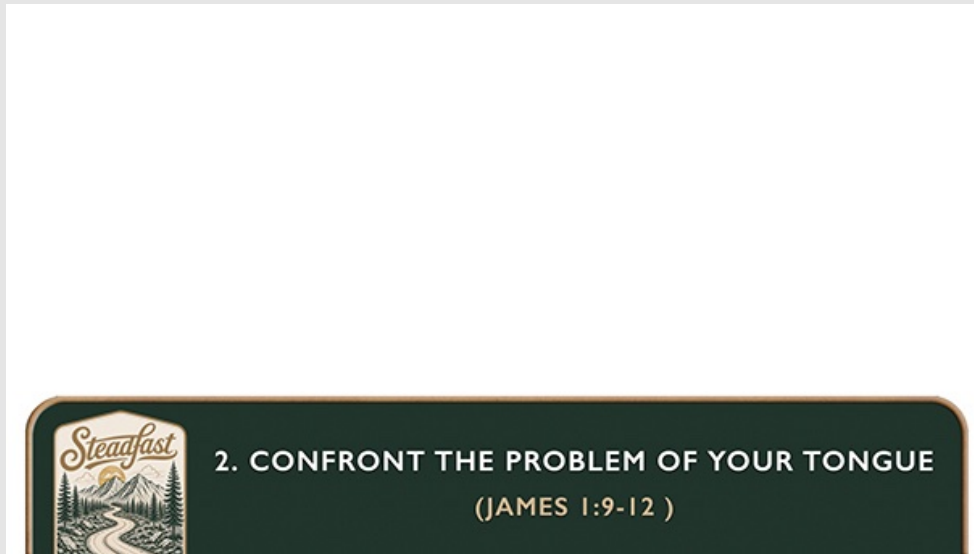
LYING LIPS ARE AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD, BUT THOSE WHO
ACT FAITHFULLY ARE HIS DELIGHT. —PROVERBS 12:22

A FALSE WITNESS WHO BREATHES OUT LIES, AND ONE WHO
SOWS DISCORD AMONG BROTHERS. —PROVERBS 6:19

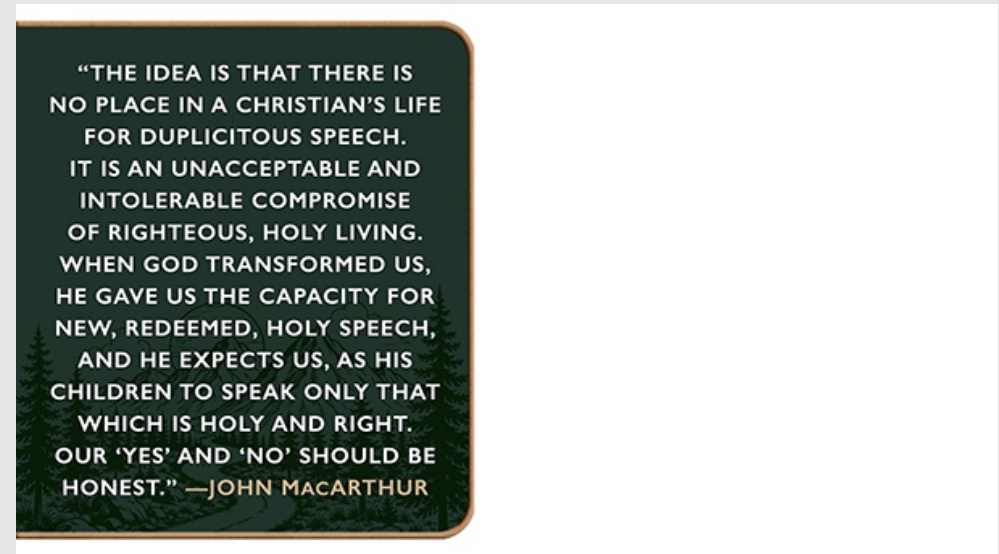
BOASTING

LET ANOTHER PRAISE YOU, AND NOT YOUR OWN MOUTH;
A STRANGER, AND NOT YOUR OWN LIPS. —PROVERBS 27:2

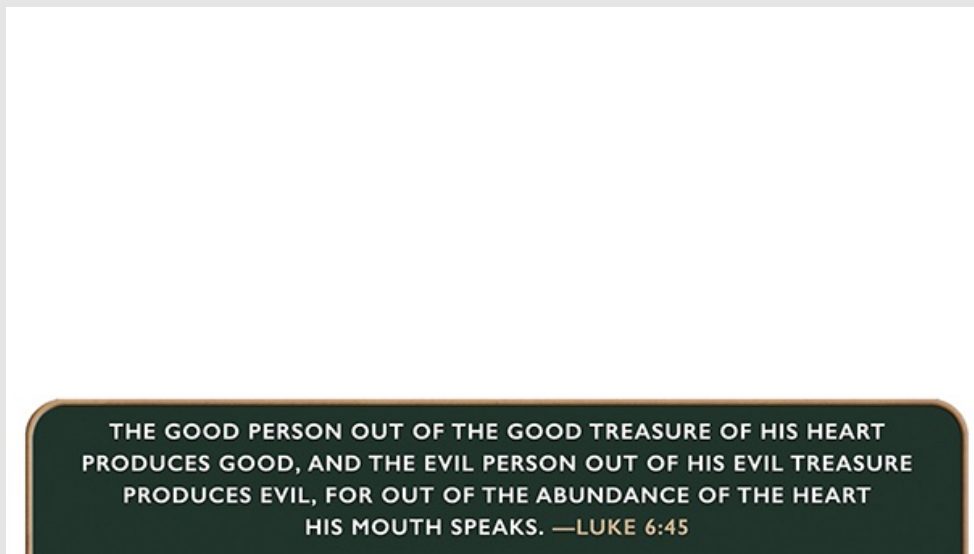
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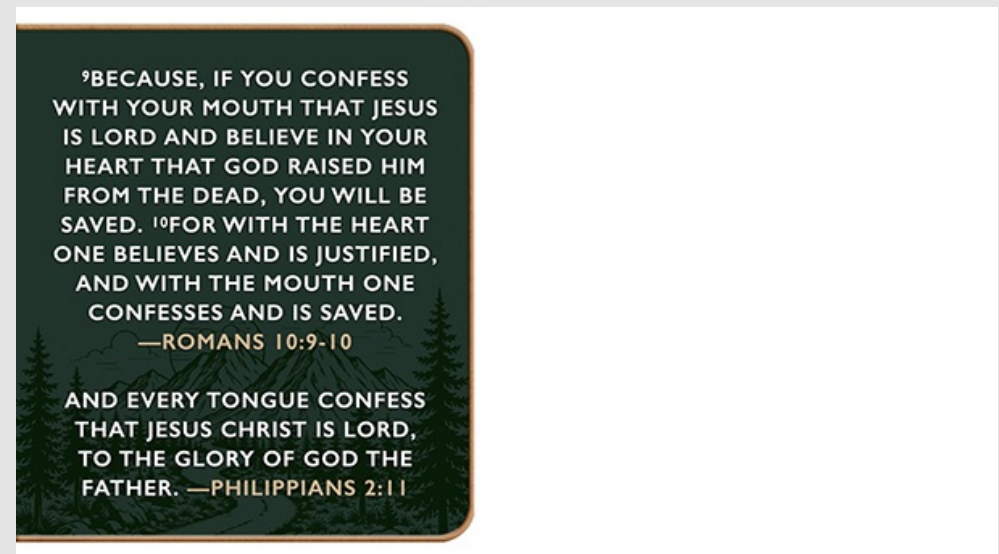
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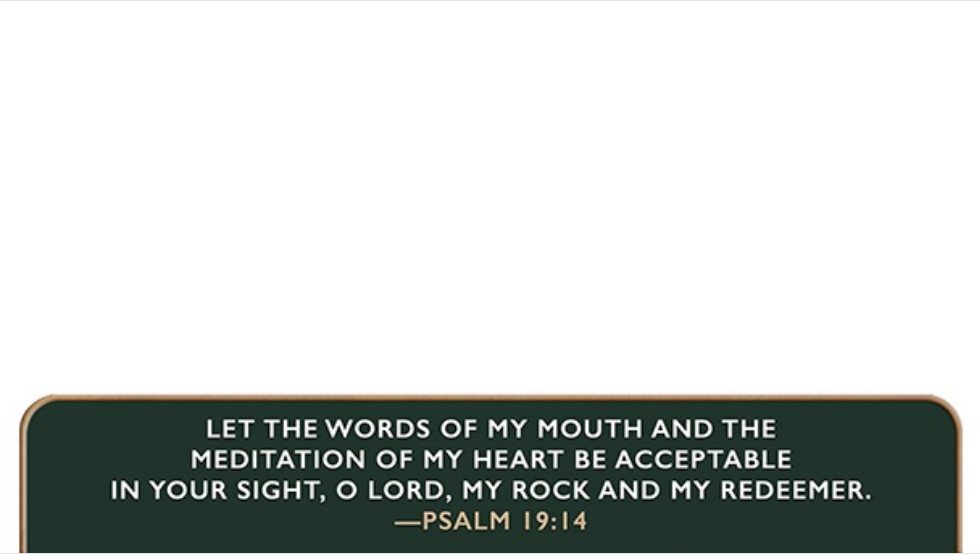
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LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH AND THE
MEDITATION OF MY HEART BE ACCEPTABLE
IN YOUR SIGHT, O LORD, MY ROCK AND MY REDEEMER.
—PSALM 19:14

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