

**JUNE 24, 2007**

**JAMES CHAPTER 3**

**Verses 1-12**

Your **words** matter, all the time.

When your **tongue** is brought under control, the rest of your **life** will be as well.

The only way to have a tongue that consistently speaks rightly is to have a **heart** that is consistently right with God.

**Ephesians 4:29**

*Unwholesome talk means talk when the **words** themselves are wrong.*

- 1) Taking the **Lord's name** in vain
- 2) Words that even our **corrupt** society has deemed as foul
- 3) When we **trivialize** the terrible or the precious

*Unwholesome talk means talk where the **spirit** of the words is wrong.*

- 1) The words themselves are untarnished, but their **usage** is vicious and loveless
- 2) Even **truth** can be unwholesome when the spirit behind it is wrong (slander, gossip, revenge)

Paul doesn't tell us what to say, he tells us **why** to say it.  
"...that it may give **grace** to those who hear."

**Verses 13-18**

Your relationship to God is revealed in the kind of **wisdom** you live out.

**1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

The context of what Paul is talking about in verse 9 is **unbelievers**, man by himself, not being able to know what salvation is like, what God's **truth** is like.

Man's methods can't discover God's wisdom because God reveals it through **His Spirit**.

True wisdom comes **from** God **through** a relationship **into** your life.

*How can we grow in true wisdom?*

- 1) **Desire** it. Proverbs 4:7-8  
Do I really believe that God's way is best?
- 2) **Study** it. Psalm 19:7  
Devote yourself to studying and knowing the Word.
- 3) **Ask** for it. James 1:5
- 4) Think often of your **death**. Psalm 90:12  
"O how cleansing it is to ponder the kind of life we would like to look back on when we come to die." – John Piper

**Acts 4:8-13**

When people listen to your **words**,  
When people look at your **wisdom**,  
Do people conclude that you have been with **Jesus**?