

The Heart and the Mouth (Part 1)

Proverbs 10:6-9

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Introduction 1

Proverbs 10:6-14

6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

7 The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot.

8 The wise in heart will receive commands, but a prating fool will fall.

9 He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.

10 He who winks with the eye causes trouble, but a prating fool will fall.

11 The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

12 Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.

13 Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

14 Wise people store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

- Proverbs **10:6-14** is a cluster (as in cluster of grapes)
 - How?
 - **6b** and **11b** are the same
 - **8b** and **10b** are the same
 - Word “mouth” used in **6b, 11, 14b**
 - Words associated with “mouth”: “prating” (**8b, 10b**), “lips” (**13a**)
- There is a structure in those 9 verses
 - 4 verses each side with **verse 10** in the middle
 - Verse 10 is a transition (or janus) that looks back and forward
 - **10a** look forward to 11-14
 - **10b** looks back to 6-9

Solomon focuses on the mouth area which is speech or communication. What Solomon is doing is that he is showing us that the heart affects our speech and it affects our whole being (**6-9**) and how it affects others (**11-14**).

Introduction 2

The heart is the center of our intellect. It is our thinking, attitude, and emotions. It is actually our whole being. Our heart is bound to something, and according to Scripture, the heart is either bound to God or to sin. As we have studied before in Proverbs, there are only two ways of life: wisdom or folly; righteousness or unrighteousness, life or death, etc. Jesus and James tell us that the heart affects even our speech.

James 3:9-10a *With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10a* Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.

Matthew 15:18 *But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'*

Evil comes from the heart. Solomon tells us the effects of a heart that fears God and the heart that continues to reject God and His word.

Proverbs 10:6-9 *Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. 7 The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot.*

- Present effect of the heart (6)
 - The righteous
 - Who are the righteous?

Genesis 15:6 *And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

- This is a person who fears God and trusts God at His word
- This is a person saved through faith by grace alone
- This is an obedient person
- Blessings
 - Are on their heads
 - Praise and honor
 - Solomon is talking about the acts of the righteous bring about blessings

Job 29:11-17 *When the ear heard, then it blessed me, and when the eye saw, then it approved me; 12 Because I delivered the poor who cried out, the fatherless and the one who had no helper. 13 The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. 14 I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. 15 I was eyes to the blind, and I was feet to the lame. 16 I was a father to the poor, and I searched out the case that I did not know. 17 I broke the fangs of the wicked, and plucked the victim from his teeth.*

- Job was a righteous man
- He did things for others
- Job feared God and loved his neighbor
- In turn, these people praised him and blessed him
 - Both by God and men

Job 1:8 *Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"*

- The wicked

Proverbs 10:6 (NASB) *Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.*

- NASB translates this verse better
- This is a person opposite of a God-fearing man
- He conceals violence with his mouth
- What does this mean?

Psalms 55:20-21 He has put forth his hands against those who were at peace with him; he has broken his covenant. **21** The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords.

Matthew 22:15-17 Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap Him in His words. **16** They sent their disciples to Him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know You are a man of integrity and that You teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because You pay no attention to who they are. **17** Tell us then, what is Your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

- This is a person who flatters with the intent to destroy
- He hides his true intentions
- He acts with the devil and murders (**John 8:44**)
- How are the two lines related to each other in contrast?
 - The righteous man does things that are right
 - He builds relationships
 - He thinks of others above himself
 - The wicked man does things for himself
 - He destroys relationships
- The future effects (7)
 - The righteous
 - The memory will be a blessing
 - Their acts and their presence (after their death) will be a blessing
 - God will continue to bless after death!
 - The wicked
 - Rot = fade away and decay
 - Stench
 - Example: has anyone named their child Jezebel or Judas?

8 *The wise in heart will receive commands, but a prating fool will fall.*

- The wise in heart
 - This is a person who fears God
 - He receives commands
 - This is very important because a child of God will receive commands (not perfectly though)
 - This is a regenerate heart
 - Holy Spirit enables us to receive His commands
 - Will stand firm (opposite of a fool falling down)
- The prating fool
 - Chattering or babbling
 - Talks without listening
 - Does not listen to God's word
 - Will fall
 - Be defeated

9 *He who walks with integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will become known.*

- Personal integrity

Psalms 86:11 *Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.*

- It is always God's way, the only one way
- This person is what he says he is
- He acts on what he says
- He does what God says
- He walks securely
 - If a person knows God and fears Him
 - If a person loves God and His ways
 - If a person loves His people
 - Then he will not be sinning

Romans 13:8, 10 *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

- Perverted ways
 - Crooked ways
 - This is a person who goes all ways except God's way
 - He does not know where he is going or why or how
 - No hope of future for this man
 - Will become known
 - God knows the heart

Proverbs 21:2 *Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts.*

- God will expose his thoughts

Numbers 32:23 *But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.*

- God does not excuse ignorance

Proverbs 24:12 *If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? Will He not repay each person according to what he has done?*

Coram Deo

Proverbs 10:1 *A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.*

There are two paths: fearing God and not fearing God. The effects of fearing God is that you will be blessed both by God and men in the present and in the future. You will listen and learn from God. You will be secure in that you will not sin. This is an immense blessing. However, by not fearing God, you will be ruined. Your name will be destroyed. You will be exposed as wicked. The destination is separation from God.

Salvation is only possible for those who trust in the Perfect Man: Christ Jesus—God who dwelt among us as a man.