

Refrigerator Notes 20 September 2015
A Hasty Tongue
Matthew 5:13-16, James 3:1-13

1. Our first scripture for the morning reminds us that we are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.
2. Yet, we also are reminded by James, that our tongues can be a powerful vessel, used for the purpose to destroy, as well as the purpose to bless others.
3. We who have been called (Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and other Church leaders) have an obligation to the body of Christ.
4. That obligation is to be the teachers of the Word of God.
5. The Scripture raises several interesting points. How can you teach what you don't know? Teachers of the church will be held to a higher accountability than those who have not been called to be teachers. That the words we speak should be measured (slow to speak), with humility and dignity.
6. Our conversations should not be laced with obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking, anger, rage malice, slander, etc. but rather with thanksgiving.
7. The words we speak should be a reflection of biblical teachings and we should have shown ourselves approved to be teachers in the church.
8. There is an old idiom that says, "We must engage the brain before we speak" and we should not rely upon others (our listeners) to check the scriptures with regard to our exegesis of the God's text.
9. If we have miss spoken, we should be quick to ask for forgiveness.
10. The three most important messages of the text are. That our tongue cannot be bridle or tamed, 2nd, others cannot make us miss-speak to lead others astray, and 3rd, the tongue can be like a fire (spark) and if you are not careful, can burn your temple down.
11. DPC, one of the problems that your pastor encounters is that your reputation perceives us, yet, DPC suffers harsh and unloving criticisms, about the good people who worship at DPC, because of the actions of a few people who continue to tear others down (behind their backs) as oppose to lifting them up!
12. Straight Talk, No Chaser – by author Steve Harvey – to paraphrase, "because you believe you are right does not make you right" – we lack humbleness and humility DPC and our tongues betray our actions and hearts. We are mixing salt water with fresh water, that cannot be (lukewarm people).
13. I suggested ("Don't speak for the pastor") and since the church has called a pastor, that the people of God are to follow the pastor, the shepherd does not follow the sheep.
14. Lastly, our tongues are out of control, because we lack wisdom. earthly wisdom is false wisdom and heavenly wisdom fosters healthy relationships and peace among the body of Christ.
15. I closed by saying, "Be careful when you say, "God knows my heart," because God also knows the evil in your heart as well.