

“

**SET A GUARD,**  
*O Lord, over my mouth*  
**KEEP WATCH OVER**  
*the door of my lips*

Psalm 141:3

”

VBS

20

16

Day 5

*The Ultimate Use of the Tongue*



calvary chapel of philadelphia

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

# The Ultimate Use of the Tongue

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

**Objective** To present the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ clearly to every student, and to encourage them to praise the Lord with their lips and to share the good news with others.

## Key Verses

Romans 10:8-17—Main teaching passage

Luke 15:7, 10

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Matthew 5:14-16

## Memory Verse - Romans 10:9

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

## Hook

Before class starts, tell one student privately some good news: you are all going to receive hot dogs at lunch today! At the beginning of class, ask the students if they know the good news about lunch today. Did your volunteer share the good news?

When we hear good news, it is natural for us to tell someone about it. Today, we will be looking at the ultimate good news. This good news is something that we must first believe and then tell everyone about.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

In Romans 10, Paul presents us with a two-part argument. First he tells us quite emphatically that salvation is available to anyone who calls on the Lord. Second he asks us, if *we* have believed on the Lord, how can we then keep that wonderful knowledge to ourselves? We know the truth and it is now imperative upon us to share it with others. Paul starts verse 9 with a famous verse, “If you confess with your mouth *AND* believe in your heart... you will be saved.” Paul says that confession is not simply enough. There must be heart belief. In the Bible, “the heart” is the very essence of who you are. It is the core of your very person. Paul is saying that in the very center of everything you are, you must believe. You must have a very real, life-changing, new person-creating belief. What we are to believe in is very simply put as well: “You must confess the *Lord* Jesus, and believe in the heart that God has raised Him from the dead.” Paul is requiring us to declare out loud that Jesus has become *LORD* of our lives, to give ourselves over to His authority, and to submit our lives to Him. We are to believe that He lived a sinless life, died on a cross to pay the penalty of our sin, and was raised from the dead, conquering sin and death for all time.

Paul then shares that it doesn’t matter who you are (vv.11-13); salvation is available to you. But then he changes tact. Paul now gives the believer a charge. If you have believed, what will you now do? Will you keep this vital information hidden like a lamp under a basket (Matthew 5:15), or will you share it with others who have not yet heard? Paul will tell us that the unsaved world cannot call on the name of someone that they have never believed in. They cannot believe in someone that they have never heard of, and they can only hear about Jesus if someone is bold enough to speak to them about Him. He finishes with the famous verse, “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Paul tells us in Romans 10:8-17 that the ultimate use of the tongue is to confess that Jesus is Lord, and then to share that vital knowledge with others, so that they can be saved too!

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK

Throughout this whole week we have been looking at the power of the tongue. We have seen that we can use our tongues to build people up, to encourage them, and to bless them, or we can tear people down by insulting, gossiping, and lying about them. We have read about being honest, thankful, and careful with our words. However, the Bible tells us that there are some ways that we can use our tongues that are even better than those.

Luke 15 tells us that there is actually something that we can do with our tongues that makes all of heaven throw a giant party and start to celebrate. It says, “there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” The word repent means to recognize that you have sinned against God and decide to turn away from that sin and turn towards doing right. In Romans 10, Paul describes it a little differently. He says that if you “confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.” Both Paul and Luke tell us that the absolute best thing we can ever use our tongues for, the very best thing we can ever say is “Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life.” Declaring that Jesus is our King is an incredibly powerful and special thing. First, Paul tells us that when we tell the world that we belong to Jesus, provided that we truly believe in our hearts that He lived, died on a cross for our sin (according to the Scriptures) and rose from the grave

# LOOK (Continued)

(1 Cor 15:3-4), that we will be saved from our sin and live forever with God in Heaven. Not only do we receive the assurance of eternity in glory, but we also receive something else very special. We receive the Holy Spirit, who comes and lives inside of us.

The Holy Spirit promises to help us to overcome sin and temptation, so all of those things we have been talking about this week, lying vs. telling the truth, complaining vs. thankfulness, gossiping vs. encouraging, the Holy Spirit will help us to do. So when we commit our lives to Jesus, He forgives our sin, gifts us with eternity in Heaven, and helps us to live righteous lives for Him here on Earth while we wait for Him to come back. Paul also tells us that this is true for everyone in the whole world. Every single person who is alive, whether they are in the United States or China, or anywhere else, whether they are young or old, boy or girl, can accept Jesus as their Lord and be saved.

There is only one problem. Some people in the world have never heard about Jesus Christ. There are people in all around the world who don't know that Jesus died for their sins and that they can be forgiven if they surrender to Him. There are people in our own neighborhoods who don't really know about Jesus. They might have heard His name, but they have never truly known what He did for them and how He wants to set them free.

The other most amazing, wonderful use of our tongues, is telling other people about Jesus. We have learned this incredible truth about who He is, and about how much He loves us. Are we going to keep that a secret for ourselves, or are we going to share that knowledge with the world?

In Matthew 5:14-16 says this, "'You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.'"

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

# TOOK

Present the Gospel clearly to the students. Give them an opportunity to respond, and record the names of any who commit their lives to the Lord for the first time.

Ask the students to brainstorm some ways that they can share the love of Jesus with the people in their neighborhood or at their school.

As a class, memorize Romans 10:9.

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for sending His only son so that whosoever believes in Him can have everlasting life. Ask Him for the strength and courage to stand boldly for Him, and to boldly share the truth with others.

**Parent Question:** What are some ways that we can share the love of Jesus with the people in our neighborhood?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Romans 10 by David Guzik

### 3. (9-13) How God's righteousness is gained by faith.

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

a. **If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved:** God's righteousness is not gained by works (as Paul made plain in [Romans 10:4-8](#)). Instead, we gain it by *confessing* and *believing* in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

b. **Confess with your mouth:** Confession has the idea of *agreeing with*. When we **confess ... the Lord Jesus**, we agree with what God said about Jesus, and with what Jesus said about Himself. It means we recognize that Jesus is God, that He is the Messiah, and that His work on the cross is the only way of salvation for mankind.

i. **Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus:** We can never forget all that it meant to say that Jesus Christ is **Lord**. "If a man called Jesus *kurios* he was ranking him with the Emperor and with God; he was giving him the supreme place in his life; he was pledging him implicit obedience and reverent worship." (Barclay)

ii. Wuest, quoting Robertson on **Jesus Christ is Lord**: "No Jew would do this who had not really trusted Christ, for *Kurios* in the LXX is used of God. No Gentile would do it who had not ceased worshipping the emperor as *Kurios*. The word *Kurios* was and is the touchstone of faith."

c. We must also **believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead**. Some wonder why Paul does not mention the cross or the crucifixion in this passage. But when Paul emphasizes the need to believe **that God has raised him from the dead**, it is not that we believe the resurrection as *opposed* to the cross, but as *encompassing* the work of Jesus on the cross.

d. **Believe in your heart:** Mere intellectual agreement with the facts of the cross and the resurrection is not enough. You must **believe in your heart**; and even that belief is not enough with accompanying action: **confess with your mouth**.

i. "We believe everything which the Lord Jesus has taught, but we must go a step further, and trust him. It is not even enough to believe in him, as being the Son of God, and the anointed of the Lord; but we must believe on him ... The faith that saves is not believing certain truths, nor even believing that Jesus is a Savior; but it is resting on him, depending on him, lying with all your weight on Christ as the foundation of your hope. Believe that he can save you; believe that he will save you; at any rate leave the whole matter of your salvation with him in unquestioning confidence. Depend upon him without fear as to your present and eternal salvation. This is the faith which saves the soul." (Spurgeon)

e. **For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation:** These two together (belief and confession) result in **righteousness** and **salvation**. We should not ignore how scandalously simple this is (**whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved**) and

what an affront this is to every attempt of the flesh to be justified, or any attempt to find salvation based on national or ethnic foundation.

i. Both Jew and Greek were quick to give some credit to national or ethnic origin, as if being saved were a matter of being born into the right family. But Paul makes it clear: **There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.**

f. **For the Scripture says:** "Paul, in saying here, 'For the Scripture saith,' is referring, I think, to the general sense of Scripture, rather than to any one passage. There are several texts from which it may be gathered that believers shall not be put to shame." (Spurgeon)

g. **All who call upon Him:** Again, note the emphasis on *human responsibility*. From [Romans 9](#) alone we might think that salvation is God's doing alone, but from [Romans 10](#) we might think that salvation is man's doing alone - together we see the matter from each perspective.

4. (14-15) The necessity of the preaching of the gospel.

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

a. **How shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?** Paul rightly observes that it all goes back to the preaching of the gospel, and preachers must be **sent** - both by God and the Christian community at large.

b. **How shall they hear without a preacher?** Conceivably, God could have chosen any means for the message of salvation to come, such as angelic messengers or directly working without a human preacher. Nevertheless God's "normal" way of bringing people to Jesus Christ is through the preaching of the gospel.

c. No wonder those who **preach the gospel of peace** have **beautiful feet** - they partner with God for the salvation of men. The **feet** speak of activity, motion, and progress, and those who are active and moving in the work of preaching the gospel have **beautiful feet**!

d. Obviously, the salvation Isaiah prophesied about could not be salvation through works or the law. To say "You can be right before God if you work hard enough" is not a gospel of **peace**, and that message does not bring **glad tidings of good news**.