

October 9th, 2016 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman
Chapter 2 – Badman’s Wicked Behaviour In Childhood - Part 4 (pages 24-26)

We're reading about the traps and snares of the adversary (satan) in the life of Mr. Badman when he was still just a young boy. This week has focused on his desire to swear, use God's name in vain and as a young boy, counted it an honour, to somehow make him feel invisible, bold and full of power; as the book says; "*it was as natural to him as eating and drinking and sleeping*". It doesn't sound like a lot has changed since 1660 when this book was written by John Bunyan does it!

I'd like to share an article from the Baptist Press they did in 2010 regarding the increase of profanity in the media, television in particular. One can only imagine what the stats are today in 2016. "*LOS ANGELES(BP) - Four months after an appeals court struck down the Federal Communications Commission's broadcast standards, a new study shows that profanity on broadcast television has risen nearly 70 percent in the past five years.*" In other words, there had been legislation on the use of profanity, but it was challenged and was struck down. It goes on to say; "*The statistics and examples in this study demonstrate that, freed of regulation in the wake of the Second Circuit Court's of the FCC's powers of enforcement,*" *the study said, "Hollywood's 'creative' personnel and their TV network distribution outlets have deliberately unleashed literally unparalleled levels of profanity and graphic language upon the public - the most egregious of it in a timeslot in which children are most likely to be in the audience."* "*A 69% increase in scripted profanity on pre-planned, filmed entertainment is not equivalent to a couple of slips of the tongue during live events,*" *the study said. "The statistics above demonstrate the use of such language by the networks is both deliberate and persuasive."*

I'd like to give you a few definitions:

Swear - make a solemn statement or promise undertaking to do something or affirming that something is the case - synonyms are promise, vow and pledge; use offensive language, especially as an expression of anger - synonyms are curse, blaspheme and utter profanities.

Profanity - blasphemous or obscene language - synonyms are swear word, obscenity or four-letter word; a swear word or profanities; irreligious or irreverent behaviour life - synonyms are sacrilege and ungodliness.

Curse - as a noun is a solemn utterance intended to invoke a supernatural power to inflict harm or punishment on someone or something - synonyms are hex or jinx; an offensive word or phrase used to express anger or annoyance - synonyms are obscenity, profanity and blasphemy. As a verb it is to invoke or use a curse against or utter offensive words in anger or annoyance.

A Christian might say that it's impossible to not curse; you stub your toe, bang your head on the cupboard door, or a motorist cuts you off - the list is long which could invoke your swearing - but the Bible is very clear about its consequences. Swearing is like any other temptation that the devil throws at you, but the Bible says in **I Corinthians 10:13**; "*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*" You **do** have power to resist swearing and cursing in Jesus name. He gives you the power and shows you how to keep your mouth closed, he gives you an escape route. **Romans 12:14** says; "*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*" It goes on to say in **vs.19**; "*...vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.*" What is your witness and testimony to those who don't know Jesus if you talk like them? **Ephesians 4:29**; "*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*" You're words are not falling on deaf ears. If you're around the water cooler at work and people are cursing up a storm, just excuse yourself or if you say anything, let it be seasoned with grace. Be bold in letting those around you know that swearing isn't a part of who you are as a Christian. In the midst of any kind of persecution you may face or situations that will arise in your life today, bless the people who mean evil toward you and allow God to repay them. Paul the Apostle is very clear when he says in **Romans 6:13**; "*And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.*" Nothing is new under the sun and even as the early Christians were admonished to hold their tongue, likewise are we, no matter what colour, creed or ethnicity we are.

Mr. Attentive says something that is so true "*I am persuaded that many think, as you say, that to swear is a thing that marks their bravado, and that it is the best way for a man when he desires to put authority or terror into his words, and stuffs them full of sinful swear words.*" It marks their 'bravado'! Actually that is the farthest from the truth if they could

only see it. Neither does it give them more authority or clout although it may make you feel intimidated and fearful of consequences. But those are the tactics of the devil as it says that God has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind! David says in **Psalm 109:17-19**; "*As he loved cursing, so let it come to him; as he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from him. As he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment, so let it enter his body like water, and like oil into his bones. Let it be to him like the garment which covers him, and for a belt with which he girds himself continually.*" Who and what you curse will come back onto you, and even penetrate your body to your bones and God's blessings will be far from you! Can you envision someone getting dressed with their cursing clothes? Like a fashionista with shoes, hat, jewelry and the like. The prophet Jeremiah says in **Jeremiah 23:10** that calamity can come on a nation, country, town or city as a result of a curse, "*For the land is full of adulterers; for because of a curse the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their course of life is evil, and their might is not right.*" God can reveal to you by the Holy Spirit if there are curses over your land and you can start to pray to see those curses broken.

Mr. Wiseman gives these six points as to why a person may fall into the sin of swearing.

1. "*Therefore it must be from the prompting of the spirit of the devil within them.*" **James 1:26** says; "*If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.*" Those are very strong words...your religion, your Christianity is worthless if you can't bridle your tongue! You're being prompted the devil himself to speak such words.
2. "*It also flows sometimes from hellish rage, when the tongue has been set on fire of hell, even the whole course of nature.*" **James 3:6-9** says; "*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. When you curse someone for anything, you're actually cursing God! What are you allowing to burn within you as a hellish rage toward someone? You can repent of it right now and ask Jesus to forgive you.*"
3. "*But usually, swearing flows from daring boldness that sticks up a finger to the law that forbids it.*" **James 5:12** says; "*But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No,' 'No', lest you fall into judgment.*" Do you use your finger to curse someone? Do you use 'OMG'? One of the Ten Commandments says in **Exodus 20:7**; "*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*" You won't go without punishment the Bible says. In the court of law you're to put your hand on the Bible to swear. We accept it as common practice, but how many people, be it common folk, judges, lawyers, Prime Ministers, Presidents, Kings or leaders commit perjury? They've sworn on what is true but have lied in their heart and when exposed, are worse off? James is clear here when he says; "lest you fall into judgment."
4. "*Swearers think that, by belching their blasphemous oaths out of their black and polluted mouths, they show themselves the more valiant of men.*" **Luke 6:45**, "*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*" What's the treasure in your heart that you're speaking out? I don't believe there is one person who in their places of employment, home, or wherever are not bombarded with swearing and cursing. You're not more of a valiant person by swearing. How many people even swear on their father's grave thinking that it carries heavy weight to convince the listener that what they're saying is true...when actually it's a lie! The listener thinks that surly it must be true because who would swear on their father's grave...but it goes on all the time, lying through their teeth.
5. "*they imagine also that, by these outrageous kind of villainies, they will win over those that, at such a time, they have to do with, and make them believe their lies to be true.*" Lying and swearing go hand in hand, their akin to each other like close brothers. I'd like to start off by saying though, but if this sin or any other that we've talked about **Leviticus 19:12** says; "*And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.*"
6. "*They also swear frequently to make some profit; and when they meet with fools, they take them in by this method.*" Again, it's deception and lying. It's interesting that you don't hear people swear by the devil, or by their favorite band, movie star or talk show host; neither by their favorite fashion designer because they know it holds no weight. But by swearing by Almighty God is a sin worthy of his judgment. Don't do it! **Jesus** in **Matthew 5:33-37** says; "*Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No,' 'No'. For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.*"

Mr. Wiseman ends this section on the story of King David and I'd encourage you to read the whole story in [II Samuel 16:5-14](#) , [I Kings 2:8-9](#), [I Kings 2:36-46](#). The story is long but in essence what was happening to King David wasn't because of Saul's household, it was because David committed adultery with Bathsheba and also killed her husband. The Prophets word to David was that his kingdom would be torn from him which you can read about in [II Samuel 12:1-15](#). So the curses that Shemei used on King David, came back upon himself. The Bible says that what you sow you reap. If you sow cursing and swearing, you will reap it in your life. You can either bless or curse the situation you're in. Don't cohabit with the demonic in cursing out anyone or anything. Here are a few scriptures in closing that speak for themselves:

Colossians 3:8; *"but now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth."*

Proverbs 18:21; *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."*

I Peter 3:10; *"For, 'He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.'"*

Matthew 12:36-37; *"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

As a Christian, you have God's grace and power within you to resist any and all temptations, including swearing and cursing. These are spiritual issues and all the 'good will' you may have to stop swearing isn't sufficient. You need the work of the Holy Spirit in your life to change and transform you and to deliver you from this temptation. You can ask the heavenly Father right now to forgive you of your swearing and cursing in Jesus name. You can pray something like this; "Heavenly Father, I ask that you forgive me for allowing my mouth and words to curse others, myself and you. It is sin and I repent of it right now in Jesus name. I ask that you put a guard over my mouth, that I would be quick to hear but slow to speak in all situations. Holy Spirit, you are my helper and I ask that you help me when I'm tempted to swear and curse and you'd make a way of escape for me. I ask this in Jesus name, Amen."

Here are two short videos about swearing and cursing; [Christians and Swear Words](#), and [Christians Swearing?](#)