1Thess #82

Sins of the tongue define the troublemaker.

Be prepared to do the Lord’s at the end of this message.

You folks can go over to 2Corinthians chapter ten – we will be going there shortly.

Our current study in 1Thessalonians chapter four has us now looking into the problem areas of that congregation.

They had great success from the start at evangelizing and reaching out to others throughout that region of Greece.

Considering that the Apostle Paul probably only spent 5 weeks establishing a church in Thessalonica, it really took off quickly in a positive direction.

Timothy did a follow up visit - probably within a few months of the church’s foundation period. He also taught BD as well as observed the congregation’s growth and direction.

What Timothy realized was that a small group of Bels had started to go back into the cosmic system in two realms.

One group was operating as if grace was a license to sin and they got involved in immorality once again.

The second group had a problem with inaccurately handling the word and becoming lazy.

The Apostle Paul had to reign in the congregation and in doing so he had to reprimand them as a whole group.

/Sometimes as a leader the best way to nip a problem in the bud is to gather all those under your authority and make a sweeping announcement addressing the issues. Gossip, lies or maligning, as well as immorality and laziness can spread like cancer and can never be ignored by leaders. \

Leadership demands making tough decisions.

Yet the decisions have to have a lasting effect.

This does not single any one person out but puts the whole group on notice and gives room for the individuals to correct the problem themselves.

It is a quick and easy approach you can use at first – one time, after that you have to begin to single people out.

/The Apostle Paul wanted to stop the attitudes of treating grace as a license to sin. As well as wake up the lazy Bels and those who were acting as troublemakers. This was the right approach because after this point when problems persist, the authority has to become laser focused on picking out the exact people involved. At that point it becomes a one -on- one confrontation that has to have consequences. \

Leadership needs to have the integrity to handle this in the proper fashion.

We have been learning about busybodies, invasion of personal privacy and causing division amongst a group of people. In this context there is usually one defining factor that stands out.

That is the sins of the tongue.

/The sins of the tongue can be inadvertently or purposely used, either way it is sin. Sin is a violation of the righteousness of God’s justice system. It means you missed the mark, and that has no concern for fault or reason, it is a simple legal fact. God’s justice system does not recognize excuses or human viewpoint - it is direct, swift and never wrong! it is focused on divine righteousness or sin. There is no middle ground. \

That is why in God’s justice system - stealing a pencil is the same as robbing a bank at gun point.

Anything that falls short of God’s divine righteousness is sin.

/There are three categories of sin we can note within the human race:

1. The imputation of Adam’s sin to each member of the human race.
2. The individual OSN through physical birth, being physically alive at birth and simultaneously spiritually dead.
3. Personal sin which occurs after birth and before physical death. (mental, verbal and overt) \

The 3 areas of personal sin basically over-lap and intertwine with one another in many areas.

Almost all sins happen from a place of thought first, it is mentally formulated or nurtured and that is where you can stop it at that point. This means your volition; the free will and freedom God allows all of us to have - is the culprit.

Now many of you know the church at

Corinth had its fair share of problems especially in the arena of personal sins and living for self.

2Cor 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not wage battle according to the flesh,

You can do nothing spiritual from your flesh – your flesh is void of real spirituality. It is driven by the OSN whether it is trends or lust patterns it doesn’t have the filling power of the HS.

/[2Co 10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/4/s_1088004) for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful **for the destruction of fortresses** (*ochyrōma*).

We build castles from the combination of the OSN and the cosmic system – fortresses that have great strength that only the nature of Christ can tear down!\

AH-COO-DAHMA, this is a large structure a building with depth and foundational strength.

This is why we are called on a spiritual journey after salvation – we need to have our structures of sin and cosmic viewpoint torn down.

We all have them and the sins of the tongue shows us how powerful they truly are.

The weapons we receive at the moment of salvation – 40 grace gifts, are designed to rip these strongholds apart as we gain momentum toward becoming more like Jesus Christ each day. REPEAT

/[2Co 10:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/5/s_1088005) *We are* destroyingarguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and *we are* **taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ**,

The overt and verbal sins begin within the soul – thoughts! It is there we take them prisoner and press them down and out of our soul. \

The destruction or pulling down is in a Greek present tense – we keep on destroying these thoughts and speculations as they pop up.

It is a physical description of grabbing an enemy prisoner who is wrestling against your authority, and then throwing them down into a prison.

/2Cor 10;5 *We are destroying arguments (logismos)*

Speculations, imaginations and viewpoints from within our soul, it means ideologies and even norms and standards. It is the viewpoint, imagination and speculations of Satan and our own OSN combined! \

LOG-EE-MOS, speaks to deep thoughts, viewpoints and speculations that we formulate in conjunction with the cosmic system.

The obedience of Christ means it is HIS nature and HIS power that will prevail – not our flesh.

[2Co 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/6/s_1088006) and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

These scriptures have a strong connotation of military combat - up close and personal.

Wrestling the enemy into submission.

[2Co 10:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/10/7/s_1088007) You are looking at things as they are outwardly. If anyone is confident in himself that he is Christ’s, have him consider this again within himself, that just as he is Christ’s, so too are we.

There is a spiritual battle we are called to fight that is not easily seen by the human eye – especially the inner battle of our own soul structure.

That is why you never assume you have all the details on what someone else is struggling with – this is a real battle!

The sins of the tongue can be taken captive like any other sin!

/Mat 5:28 but I say to you that everyone **who looks at a woman with lust** for her has **already committed adultery with her in his heart**.

Mental attitude sins do not become sins until they are nurtured within our heart. Having a momentary thought of negativity or a fleeting thought of sin is when we capture it! \

We again can look at the fact that having our priorities in order and organizing our life so we do not spin out of control matters.

/Psa 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil
And **your lips from speaking deceit**. 14 **Turn from evil** and do good; Seek peace
and pursue it.

The “*lips from speaking deceit”* refers to gossiping, maligning or judging.\

Notice we can turn when sin or evil is in front of us – we have to take responsibility for our own Christian walk.

/The sins of the tongue are;

Gossiping – repeating what may be true to others, stepping on the privacy of another.

Judging – speaking with fierce criticism and assuming you have all details as you condemn another.

Maligning – is taking that which may be true and twisting it in a negative fashion to your advantage or the disadvantage of another. \

/Lying – complete falsehood used to elevate self or place another in a negative light. Also used to remove justice from reaching you.

Speaking evil – is the art of wicked speech in relation to promoting lies about something or someone. Elaboration about events true or false related to other people so as to bring harm upon them.

Slander- a common use of slang or vulgarity often coupled with lies directed at a person to destroy their reputation. \

We are going to close in James chapter 3 and then do the Lord’s supper.

Out of the Biblical list of the seven worst sins- three of the worst sins are sins of the tongue — Proverbs 6:16-19.

/Pro 6:16 There are six things that the LORD hates, Seven that are an abomination to Him: 17 Haughty eyes, a **lying tongue**, And hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run
rapidly to evil, 19 A **false witness** *who* declares lies, And one who
**spreads strife** among brothers.\

By the way - the busybody is usually the one who spreads strife among the brethren.

Either by accident or on purpose!

Your sins of the tongue carry great weight and problems with them.

As we get ready to prepare for the Lord’s supper let me read James chapter three as it speaks loudly to what we are noting today.

James 3:1 Do not become teachers in large numbers, my brothers, since you know that we *who are teachers* will incur a stricter judgment.

/[Jas 3:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/3/2/s_1149002) For **we all stumble in many *ways.*** If anyone **does not stumble in what he says,** he is a perfect man, **able to rein** in the whole body as well.

The mature Bel can reach a pinnacle where the sins of the tongue are no longer an issue in their life.\

This is through the filling power of God the HS and the application of BD daily in your life – it is possible!

[Jas 3:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/3/3/s_1149003) Now if we put the bits into the horses’ mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their whole body as well.

These are great explanations in relation to how powerful your tongue can be. It can guide or place you in the wrong direction or the right direction.

[Jas 3:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/3/4/s_1149004) Look at the ships too: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are nevertheless directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot determines.

/[Jas 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/3/5/s_1149005) So also the tongue is a small part *of the body,* and *yet* it boasts of great things. **See how
great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!**

The one who engages in sins of the tongue spark fires in their personal lives and in the life of others.\

Once you release those words from your mouth to the ears of someone else - there is no taking it back.

It becomes dust in the wind and it may well go out and drop on any number of people without you knowing it!

/Psa 52:2 Your tongue devises destruction, **Like a sharp razor**, you worker of deceit.

Sins of the tongue can become a deadly razor, slashing at not only others but falling back upon you who unleashed it!\

Sins of the tongue often have tendencies of coming back full circle - in boomerang fashion, right back upon the culprit.

I’ll stick with one of the warnings the Apostle Paul used in Rome.

/Rom 16:17 Now I urge you, brothers *and sisters,* **keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances**  contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. 18 For such people are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but **of their own appetites**; and by their smooth and **flattering speech they deceive** the hearts of the unsuspecting.\

Remember flattery is usually just a mixture of truth and lies design to manipulate someone or distract someone away from something.

Rarely do people know how to use real, honest flattery, in its proper context of giving a sincere compliment.

Do not be fooled or tolerate sins of the tongue from your self or those in periphery.

/Mat 7:3 “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but **do not notice the log that is in your own eye**?

The problem with most busybodies and troublemakers is they can never get their own life in order so they focus on the life of others. \

It keeps them from truly looking at their own flaws and failures.

Fortunately, no matter where you fall on the scale of the sins of the tongue and being a busybody.

TLJC died so that you do not have to live in that bondage of the sin nature each and every day.

You are eternally secured at salvation and you are in union with Christ forever. On your bad days you learn to give mercy and grace to yourself and wash that sin from your life – the work of the cross of Christ ensured you do not have to dwell in sin during this temporal walk. YOU WERE SET FREE by Jesus Christ!

There is now NO CONDENMATION for those who are in Christ Jesus.

There is no room for you to dwell in shame or guilt – take responsibility and name and cite it then move forward.

The slave market of sin is no longer your hang out… it is no longer your home!

You are royalty and forever destined for glory in the heavens.

Let us never forget and always bring HIM into remberance…

On the night our LORD was so bitterly betrayed – HE took the bread and broke it and gave thanks.

 He said this is my body… take and eat.

In remembrance of our LORD let us eat the bread.

In the same fashion our Lord Jesus Christ lifted the cup and gave thanks.

HE said – this is my blood, the blood of a new and everlasting covenant, for each time you eat the bread and drink the cup you bring ME into remembrance until I return.

Let us drink the cup.

Let us pray…..amen.