

II Timothy, Sermon #12

II Timothy 2

The church at Ephesus was charged by God (vs. 14) – not to argue/quarrel about words of no value – churches have a reputation for fighting and division.

The church—really should be a taste of Heaven on earth. Amen!

These squabbles, striving about words, result in the subverting of the hearers—literally,
the ruining God's people

Now, that's a catastrophe—but there is a catastrophe that is even worse
Miners trapped, but when three rescuers died and mine sealed off, that's even worse

This is what we will see—a catastrophe on top of another catastrophe.

I've entitled today's sermon "Christian Catastrophes, Part 2"

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 2:14

Let us pray

You may be seated

Christian Catastrophes

Vs. 14-15 – tells us not to wrangle about words, but instead to study the Bible – work in the Word and to rightly interpret it.

Therefore, a person who knows the Bible will shun “godless talk” – vs. 16 – sins of the tongue—

How many of us this week have committed a sin of the tongue?

Complained? The Bible says to do all things without complaining (Phil. 2:14)

Back-talking—talking back to parents? Authority

Heresy/false teaching, gossip/speaking evil of another person (Titus 3:2),

cursing? Foul language (Ephesians 4:29, 5:4)

A Godly person will avoid this kind of talk

Our tongues tell on us—don't they?

This kind of speech is profane and vain—in other words, fruitless – worthless – of no value

A workman in the Bible will shun the crooked mouth

A workman in the Bible will know false teaching when he hears it

We are to shun this kind of talk because of what it leads to—what does the Bible say?

Vs. 16—more ungodliness

Someone spreads gossip—what happens? Sins just multiply.

Someone is negative, griping—what happens? Others join in and they become negative

Someone shares a false teaching in a Sunday School class – what happens?

Jesus Christ was going to return in 1987.

People sold and gave away their possessions.

We know that idle chitchat or gossip can do considerable damage in a church.

So, we are to shun it – first, in ourselves

1. Be careful what we say—guard our tongues

“He that keepeth his mouth, keepeth his life, but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction” Proverbs 13:3.

Proverbs 21:23, *“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from troubles.”*

2. Be careful what we teach—the Bible says in . . .

James 3:1, *“My brethren, be not many [teachers] masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”*

That is why the Bible calls on us – to study.

Thirdly, be careful what we listen to

Oftentimes, we are more concerned about the calories in what we intake that the poison we intake through our ears.

This is not good for our soul, and in fact, could cause an increase in sin.

Destructive speech **will lead to further ungodliness.**

This kind of talk is bad enough, but when it infects the hearers, the evil is compounded, multiplied; it’s advanced.

No one is exempt from the corruptive influence of godless talk – it is all around us.

So, the fallout of these babblings/false teaching is the furtherance of ungodliness/more sinful living.

An approved workman, capable of accurately handling the Word of God, knows that kind of talk is dangerous, and he will oppose it; he won't listen to it; he won't think on it.

Do you know why? Vs. 17

Talk will spread like a cancer—when cancer is discovered, what do we need to do?
Remove it/it gets radical treatment.

It just continues to kill—like gangrene.
God compared it to gangrene – ulcerated

Use maggot therapy – some maggots only eat dead flesh, leaving the living tissues unaffected.

Diabetics are prone (brown recluse spider)

Much as gangrene spreads, infects, and kills other tissue, so an unhealthy mouth spreads and infects the body of believers, the church.

This infection must be exposed and removed—most church leaders do not want to deal with it.

Even in modern warfare, **gangrene** is one of the worst dangers in battlefield injuries. If not treated promptly and carefully, it can quickly lead to amputation or death. It is better to amputate than die.

Amputation in a sense would be church discipline—sever a member of our church family—shun him because of his actions.

If you will cut out the tongue, strife will cease/the bickering/squabbling, unrest will end

Proverbs 22:10, *“Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.”*

Proverbs 26:20, *“Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.”*

And, if this kind of talk goes untreated—like gangrene—death will come.
Death would be the end of the church.

How many churches do we know that are unhealthy, sickly, and some have already died?

Listen, folks, this is serious business

So, this kind of talk must be dealt with and the best place to deal with it is individually.
Stop the spread in its tracks—shun it / avoid it / don’t tolerate it.
Don’t allow it!

All too often these kinds of things are left untreated—and when that happens, a sore develops; it becomes putrid, nasty, red—oozes.

So, the brilliance of the Church to the world becomes the stink of another religious failure.

Only healthy people/those who are in the Word of God can keep a church healthy and vibrant.

False teachings, gossips / words to no profit, profane and vain words spread faster than the truth, because the sinful human heart is more receptive to them.

It is so infectious, malicious, and insidious that they are to be handled like gangrene—immediately.

Now, God identifies one of the talkers as **Hymenaeus** (vs. 17) who, because he was denounced in I Timothy 1:20, obviously had been a threat to the Ephesian church for some time.

This fellow is a consistent problem.

I Timothy 1:19-20

Although Paul had put him out of the church when he was in Ephesus, having “[turned] [him] over to Satan,” **Hymenaeus** obviously persisted in his efforts to mislead believers there, **and Philetus** had replaced Alexander as his partner (I Timothy 1:20).

Unfortunately, these people find people like themselves—they just gravitate to each other.

Gossips run with gossips; crooks run with crooks; Godly run with the Godly.

★Folks, this is not a positive or good thing to have your name listed here for all eternity as an example of gangrene speech.★

God named two men who were false teachers, and He also identified their false teaching.

Both of them—concerning the truth—have erred – vs. 18 – (missed the mark) by teaching that the resurrection had already taken place

God is telling us exactly what they were saying that was causing the problems.

The particular heresy of **Hymenaeus and Philetus** was their claiming **that the resurrection [had] already taken place.**

God does not explain what resurrection they had in mind.

We know it’s not Jesus’ resurrection (which had already occurred)—they were in some way denying the physical resurrection of believers (which had not yet occurred), but they were saying it had.

To deny or distort the truth about the **resurrection** is to deny and distort the heart of the Gospel.

It is a tragic thing to teach falsehood about that doctrine.

The denial of a physical resurrection is a serious thing—I Corinthians 15:12, 53-54.
The Resurrection is a foundational truth of the Gospel.

I have heard people preach/teach that Jesus did not resurrect physically

What did Jesus tell Thomas?

“Reach here thy finger, behold my hands, and reach here thy hand and thrust it into my side and be not faithless but believing” John 20:27

These fellows were in the wrong, but sadly, that is not the end of it – vs. 18e

This is what hurts.

It will overthrow the faith of some.

This is why these men were dealt with—and it is why we must, as a church, confront such behavior amongst the congregation.

The idea of overturning people indicates that the **faith** held by **some** of those who listened was not saving faith.

A saving faith cannot be lost.

Some people won't get saved due to this nonsense.

Because they had not placed their **faith** in Christ as Savior and Lord and were exposed to deception, they fell prey to corrupt teaching and remained lost.

Again, that sad truth reveals one of the greatest perils to mankind.

It keeps **some** souls (people) out of the kingdom of God

And that, my dear people, is a Christian catastrophe upon the lost and dying and hell-bound world.

II Peter 2:1, *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies.”*

Christian Catastrophes

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed.

Our conversations—good or bad.

What comes out of our mouth really identifies what's in our heart.

We need to be students of the Bible; be doers of the Word—especially in the arena of
our tongues.

Behold, how great a fire our tongues can kindle!

Maybe you are here today and you're lost/without Christ.

You've never accepted Him as your Savior.

He died and He resurrected – physically – He's living and He's coming again!

Are you ready to meet Him?

Maybe you are here today and you say, "I can't believe that Christian people behave
this way."

Look, we don't put our faith in mankind; we put our faith in Christ.