New Life March 9

Gossip

Gossip brings anger just as surely as the north wind brings rain. Proverbs 25:23. Gossip also brings hurt feelings, and crushes the character of the victim, but when you look at the character of the gossiper - Because those people refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about God. They gossip and speak evil of one another; Romans 1:28a, 29c, 30a.

 If we speak evil of another we do not have God’s love in us – love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. 1 Corinthians 13:6. If we love one another we do not gossip about one another.

 If you’ve ever been a victim of malicious gossip, you’ll know that you don’t want to make anyone else the victim of your gossip.

 Like the old cliché, “Don’t say anything about someone if you can’t say something nice”, lends us good advice.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Without wood, a fire goes out; without gossip, quarrelling stops. Proverbs 26:20.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I never hurt anyone with gossip, to insure that help me never to gossip.

New Life March 10

The Tongue

 So it is with the tongue: So it is with the tongue: small as it is, it can boast about great things. James 3:5a.

 The tongue is small but it controls our person completely – We put a bit into the mouth of a horse to make it obey us, and we are able to make it go where we want.  Or think of a ship: big as it is and driven by such strong winds, it can be steered by a very small rudder, and it goes wherever the pilot wants it to go. Just think how large a forest can be set on fire by a tiny flame! James 3:3, 4, 5b.

 Yes, the tongue is a deadly weapon. It is one of the most uncontrollable parts of the body! If we could only learn to control our tongue and speak only praises to God and good to others.

 Our tongue is or can be one of our greatest tools for witnessing to Jesus, even if we don’t lay out the Gospel, just our pleasant manner, kind and loving words and the way we say what we say.

 Our whole destiny can depend on our tongue, how we use it to project ourselves to others and the Lord! We must THINK before we speak.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Human beings can tame and have tamed all other creatures — wild animals and birds:, reptiles and fish. But no one has ever been able to tame the tongue. James 3:7, 8a

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to be mindful of how deadly my tongue can be and help me to keep it under control.

New Life March 11

Double Trouble

 How many times have we said something then wished we’d kept our mouth shut? Our tongue seems to serve a dual purpose, we are loving and wholesome with our tongue or hateful and mean. Keeping our tongue is very important – If you want to stay out of trouble, be careful what you say. Proverbs 21:23.

Words of thanksgiving and cursing pour out from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, this should not happen! **11**No spring of water pours out sweet water and bitter water from the same opening. James 3:10, 11. We all know someone with a foul mouth except in the presence of the minister or on Sunday, this is not how we should be, we have to put our whole being into our daily life as a Christian, that includes our tongue and everyday of the week and no matter whose company we are in.

We are responsible for our words – You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say. What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words. Proverbs 18:20-21. The life we are preserving or destroying is our own life!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Do any of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue, your religion is worthless and you deceive yourselves. James 1:26.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to be of one mind and of one speech being that of the things of the Lord.

Christian Life March 12

Our Strength

 Our strength comes from the Lord – He protects the lives of his faithful people, but the wicked disappear in darkness; a man does not triumph by his own strength. 1 Samuel 2:9.

 When we feel weak and helpless there is strength in the Lord, as the Lord’s answer to Paul – But his answer was: But his answer was: “My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.” 2 Corinthians 12:9a. We should feel as Paul did – I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ’s power over me. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 9b, 10b. If we call upon the Lord during weak times in our life and faith, then He will make us strong.

 If our strength comes from the Lord we will always be strong enough – I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me. Philippians 4:13.

 As a familiar song goes “They are weak but He is strong” from “Jesus Loves Me.” We are weak and He is strong, so depend on the Lord for strength and know you cannot make it on your own.

VERSE FOR TODAY: The Lord protects honest people, but destroys those who do wrong. Proverbs 10:29.

PRAYER THOUGHT: I know I haven’t made it so far and can’t go on without your strength to hold me steadfast on my way, thank-you, O Lord, for the rock you have been for me to lean on.

Christian Life March 13

Light and Dark

 God is the Light of the world, God loves the light, evil hates the light – This is how the judgement works: the light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds are evil. John 3:19. Not many robberies take place in broad daylight, same with people who are evil, they do not come to the Light of Jesus because they cannot or will not admit their evil deeds. Just like dust on the furniture, it does not show up until the sun shines across it, so it is with our lives we don’t realize how miserably we have sinned until we let the light of Jesus shine on us and shows up our sins.

 This can also work in the opposite way – But those who do what is true come to the light in order that the light may show that what they did was in obedience to God. John 3:21. Just like looking a painting or picture the light brings out the quality more vividly. Same with us if walk in the light our good deeds will also show more clearly in the world.

VERSE FOR TODAY: In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me not to conform to worldly situations I may be put in, but may I always let your light shine and let others know that your love is in me.

Christian Life March 14

Idols

 There are many forms of idols, the golden calf that the Israelites worshipped is the most vivid example of an idol, but we today also have idols. Our everyday things can also become idols, if we would rather stay home on Sunday and watch TV, that’s an idol. Taking our money and spending it on fancy cars, and other unneeded items instead of giving it to the Lord, then money is an idol, as well as the fancy car, anything we think more highly of than our love for the Lord, we are worshipping, they can become idols. – Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the Lord your God and I tolerate no rivals. I bring punishment on those who hate me and on their descendants down to the third and fourth generation. But I show my love to thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my laws. Exodus 20:5, 6

 Our Lord loves us but he demands our full attention, we cannot allow the things of this life to stand in our way of showing our love to the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: You have been raised to life with Christ, so set your hearts on the things that are in heaven. Colossians 3:1a.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Please O Lord, let me recognize if someone or something has became an idol so I can remove it and refocus my sight on you.

Christian Life March 15

Fear

 We should not fear the things of this world – Do not be afraid — I am with you! I am your God — let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you. Isaiah 41:10.

 God is in control of our being – Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Matthew 10:28.

 We must fear God but not in a way that keeps us from talking to God, we must be in awe and reverence – and let us be completely holy by living in awe of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1c. After all the Holy Spirit was not given to make us afraid – For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7

 Love does not produce fear – There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18a. God loves us, love comes from God so we should not run scared of God but rejoice in his love and hold God in highest reverence.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Let us be thankful, then, because we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Let us be grateful and worship God in a way that will please him, with reverence and awe; Hebrews 12:28.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Please help me to always worship you in a way to please you, O Lord, with awe and reverence.

Christian Life March 16

Armour

 The armies of the Bible, and the medieval armies of Europe, wore armour to protect themselves against the weapons of their enemies.

 Today, as Christians, we have to put on the Spiritual Armour provided by the Holy Spirit to protect us from the Devil’s attacks – For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age.  Put on all the armour that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil's evil tricks. Ephesians 6:12, 11.

 The following is the armour supplied by God taken from Ephesians 6:14-18:

* The belt of truth
* The breastplate of righteousness
* Shoes ready to announce the Good News of peace
* The shield of faith, to put out the burning arrows of the Evil One
* The helmet of salvation
* The sword being the Word of God
* Do all of this in prayer asking God’s help

Our armour must be kept on at all times, not letting our guard down, so the Devil cannot have his evil way in our lives.

VERSE FOR TODAY: So put on God's armour now! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground. Ephesians 6:13.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, thank-you for the protection against Satan you provide.