

OTHER RELEVANT BIBLE PASSAGES

—2 Corinthians 5:9–10

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

—James 3:1–10 (selected portions)

1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. ... 5 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! 6 And the tongue is a fire, The tongue represents the world of wrongdoing among the parts of our bodies. It pollutes the entire body and sets fire to the course of human existence—and is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and sea creature is subdued and has been subdued by humankind. 8 But no human being can subdue the tongue; it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people made in God's image. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. These things should not be this way, my brothers & sisters.

SOME QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION:

—To begin, please read Exodus 3:16–6:13 to obtain a better perspective of what we're studying. Also, it's very helpful to read the additional Bible passages in the sermon notes & above on this page.

—This passage in Exodus, along with other biblical exhortations about how God wants us to use **our mouths/tongues/voices**, strongly suggests that **one of its main purposes is to glorify God**. Let's ask ourselves, "How often do I use my voice in a way that glorifies God?"

—How often do I recognize that **God has called me to be a mouthpiece** who might help others trust in the Lord as the One Who rescued them from the penalty and problem of sin?

—Is there anything that holds me back or hinders me from **speaking out about my trust/faith/belief in Christ**? What would that be?

—If you had been in Moses' position/situation, how would you have reacted or responded?

—God wanted Moses to represent Him in the effort to rescue the Israelites from their horrible circumstances in Egypt. God's ultimate objective was to demonstrate His power, authority, and glory. He said, "I AM THE LORD!" God is God and He has the the absolute right to do whatever He pleases. The goals expressed in Exodus 6:6 was to bring judgment on the Egyptians. What thoughts would you have about God's reason for using Moses to help rescue the Hebrews from bondage? He could have simply rained fire and brimstone on the Egyptians to punish them & rescue His people, but instead chose to use Moses.

—Considering what God told Moses when he complained that he wasn't eloquent or able to go speak to Pharaoh, why is it important to recognize that God made our mouths? (Hint: What purpose do they serve?)

—In our culture, we're typically so overwhelmed by the amount of info we're being given, often we tune things out. Many **experts** say that our communication skills and ability to listen have decreased. Why is it essential that we filter the things we receive? What does Matthew 12:33–37 teach us about that? How would 2 Timothy 2:16–17 relate to this concern?

—Most people never think about the reality that our primary source of sin relates to our mouths, speech, voices, or words. Please read Psalm 19:12–14. How does this passage provide us with some important insights about dealing with this challenge? Considering James 3:1–10, why is the tongue impossible to tame without God's almighty strength? What factors might contribute to this problem?

—In Exodus 4:10–13, (specifically verse 10) Moses claims that he wasn't eloquent, but ironically, the Hebrew word used to note, "Then Moses **said** to the Lord" actually means to **speak boldly with confidence**. What was the focus of Moses' fear? (Hint: whom did he fear more, Pharaoh or God?) Try to discuss this with someone.

—Colossians 4:1–6 highlights the priority of prayer and also exhorts us to request that God will give us the words to say when we share the Gospel with others. How could following these instructions impact our ability and success in reaching others with the Gospel?