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Theme: "Too Much Chatter"

Scripture: : Proverbs 10:19 (NIV)

*"When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise."*

A Thought:

Oh you have heard this refrain countless times from the lips of pastors..."How many times have you said something that you have regretted later?" The vocal bullet hits you between the eyes and you cringe and shiver with embarrassment or at least you should. Be honest gents. The speaker continues by quoting James 3:1-6 (NIV)...verse five..."*Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark*" Some of us love to hear ourselves. Just ask the wife, girlfriend, friend, relative, business associate about our proclivity to talk. The habitual habit is prevalent at home, social functions, work and even bible studies....and you are holding court. The lips are moving incessantly and not unlike television talk show guests words are flying through the air at the ready for someone to grasp a thoughtful comment. The more you yak the less you say.. Eventually the jabber evolves quickly to gossip and other distinctive tell tales and hurtful words. Remember our school days? When you forgot to do the homework and the teacher calls on you....hmm, I'll tell the teacher what I know (or know less)...I'll jabber away until the answer appears. Ha! That will do it. What a fake! Indeed the following verse is appropriate for this deception...Ephesians 5:4 (NIV) "*Work brings profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.*"

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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Talk to yourself:

- What is in gear first...lips or brain? Do you do the majority of the talking? Do you interrupt and or finish the speaker's sentence? Do you hear or listen - there is a difference? How present is gossip in your speaking portfolio? Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in your day to day conversational skills. Listen to yourself. Listen!

Scriptures: Psalm 19:14, 64:2-4, 141:3; Proverbs 6:16-19, 10:19, 11:13, 18:8, 20:19, 25:23, 26:20; Ecclesiastes 10:14-20, 11:1; Matthew 18:15, 12:34; Romans 1:29-30; James 3:5-6, 8, 4:11; Revelation 12:10.

Quote: 17th Century English poet Ben Johnson has something to say about the difference between talking and speaking...."Talking and eloquence are not the same thing: to speak, and to speak well, are two things. A fool may talk, but a wise man speaks."

Bottom Line:

Bloviation is endemic in today's individual and mass communication madness. Words assemble into conversations via 21st century instruments or as simple as a voice are sent into the atmosphere like locusts of the old testament. Bloviators are present in the eerie silence of a kitchen, restaurant, classroom and or library. Folks rich and poor, educated or not for hours on end stare at their smart phones, tablets and other social media devices while their respective fingers trip over each other for their turn to be tapped. Not unlike a one to one or group conversation words are exchanged either for the good or for the bad....James 3:8 (NIV) *"but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison."* Sharing a conversation is like a ping pong match...back and forth. In addition a person's heart does not want to be pierced by hurtful words. For mature Christians there is no room for glibness, verbosity and idle chatter. These repugnant habits lead to gossip, obscene stories, foolish talk, coarse language and cruel jokes as stated in Ephesians 5:4. Gents, take heed...Proverbs 17:4 (NAS) *An evil-doer giveth heed to wicked lips; And a liar giveth ear to a mischievous tongue.* The old adage: *Sticks and stones will hurt my bones but words will not harm me.* Not true if you are the recipient of the following words (fill in the blanks) - - - - -, - - - - -, - - - - -. That hurts! OMG!

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

