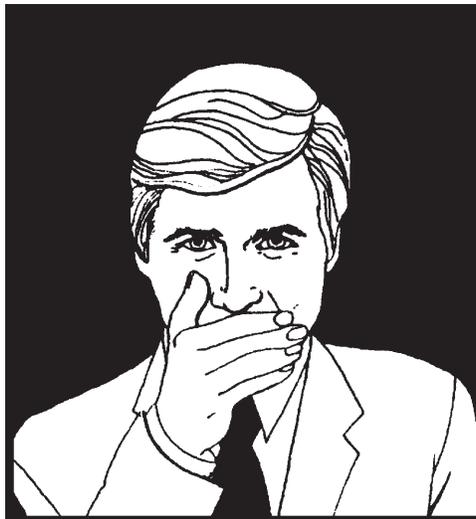


Watch Your Mouth

**Let the words of my mouth,
and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable in thy sight, O
LORD, my strength, and my
redeemer (Psalm 19:14).**



— B. R Hicks

Watch Your Mouth

— B. R. Hicks

While gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai, the multitude of Israelites, who had followed Moses out of Egypt, heard God's Voice thunder out the Commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

Countless Christians who would be horrified to let hard-core profanity escape their lips are guilty before God of breaking this very Commandment. While they are careful to avoid the use of the common vulgarities employed by the world, their speech is peppered with words and phrases that are deceitfully disguised forms of swearing or cursing.

Early in His ministry, Jesus Christ took a public stand against all forms of swearing. In His famous *Sermon on the Mount*, Jesus said, "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (Matthew 5:34-37).

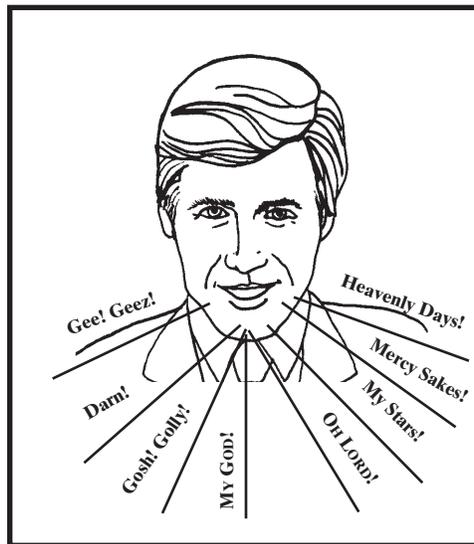
The most common of all sins are those committed by the human mouth and tongue. The Apostle James declared that the human tongue is set on fire of Hell and that it sets on fire the whole course or wheel of nature. This verse does not refer to God's natural creation

in the form of trees and flowers, but to mankind's human nature.

Frequently, Christians feel dead, worried, and aggravated, and they wonder from where these awful feelings come. Little do they realize that they have grieved the precious Spirit of God with the slang words that have proceeded out of their mouths and that these so-called harmless words have set their wheel of nature on fire with the torments of Hell, as it were.

As we examine the true meanings of a few modern slang words, we clearly will see why we experience the tormented feelings of oppression that are a result of having a dirty mouth, as far as God is concerned.

A Christian's Dirty Mouth



1. GOSH: An interjection, an exclamation of surprise, a euphemism (substitute word or expression) for *God*. We see, then, that we actually are taking God's Name in vain when we use the seemingly harmless word *gosh*. The word *vain*, as used in connection with cursing, swearing, or misusing God's Name or Nature, relates to the destructive, deliberate misuse of God's Name by sinners and also to the ignorant misuse of which Christians are guilty when they fail to exercise the proper measure of reverential respect for God and all things that pertain to Him.

2. GEE or GEEZ: An exclamation of surprise, a euphemistic contraction for *Jesus*. When we use either of these apparently small slang words, we are taking the precious Name of Jesus, the Redeemer and Saviour of the world, in vain.

3. GOLLY: An interjection or exclamation of surprise, a euphemism for *God*. We cannot feel happy, peaceful, and satisfied as Christians if we continually are taking the Name of the LORD God and His Son, Jesus Christ, in vain.

4. DARN or DARNED: An interjection meaning to damn; a euphemism for the curse word *damn*. These lightly spoken slang words are in reality disguised curse words that usurp God's Supreme Power to judge and condemn or curse a soul. When we observe how freely these words are used in Christian circles, we realize how dirty many Christians' mouths are.

5. HEAVENLY DAYS or MY STARS: Euphemistic expressions calling God's visible and invisible celestial creations to bear witness to man's actions on the Earth.

6. MY WORD: A term that exalts man's human word above Christ's, the Living Word of God.

7. GOODNESS SAKE, GOODNESS GRACIOUS, GRACIOUS SAKES, MERCY SAKES: Interjections and euphemisms for the Goodness of God that lead men to repentance and the Grace and Mercy that came by Jesus Christ at the expense of His own Life's Blood.

8. OH, JESUS or HELP US, JESUS: Interjections and euphemistic means of carelessly calling the High Priest, Jesus Christ, to minister on one's behalf.

9. OH, LORD: Another interjection, used lightly to call the LORD of Heaven and Earth to attend to what a person is saying.

10. MY GOD, GOOD GOD, FOR GOD'S SAKE: God is the Divine and Infinite One Who inhabits Eternity. Therefore, His Name always should be spoken with the utmost reverence and respect. To do less is to take His Name in vain.

These terms are just a few from the long list of slang words used by Christians. All these expressions relate to the Name or Nature and the Attributes of God. Therefore, if we use these words in a vain, careless, disrespectful manner, we are guilty of breaking God's Third Commandment.

A few Christians, when in the presence of members of their own sex, also feel free to use four-letter, back-alley, gutter-level words. These words carry an unclean anointing, whether they are spoken by sinners or by Christians. Thus, they have the power to defile the speaker and the listener, and they bring a great reproach upon the blessed Name of Christ.

Some may think that it is being narrow-minded to single out widely accepted words and label them as diminutive curse words. But, remember, Jesus Christ said that *narrow* is the Way that leads to Life. It is better to be narrow-minded and have a clean soul that is filled with life and peace than it is to be broad-minded with a dirty soul that is filled with torment and destruction.

Let us remember to reverence the Commands of the LORD.

But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation (James 5:12).

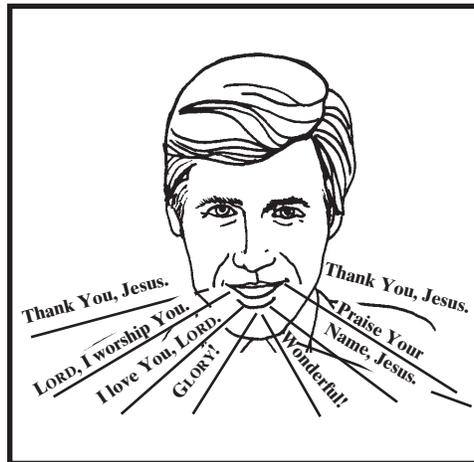
But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned (Matthew 12:36,37).

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain (James 1:26).

But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be (James 3:8-10).

We do not have to be condemned by the words of our mouth. We can repent for our carelessly spoken words, and we can permit Jesus Christ to give us a clean mouth, a mouth that is full and overflowing with thanksgiving to God and kindness toward our fellowmen.

A Christian's Clean Mouth



Additional copies of this tract are available for the price of \$1.00 for 10 tracts. Order from Christ Gospel Press at the address below or visit our online catalog at www.christgospel.org.

Publisher: Christ Gospel Press
P. O Box 786
Jeffersonville, Indiana 47131-0786

© Christ Gospel Churches Int'l, Inc., 1992

All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America.

Don't let this tract die — Pass it on!