

Start lesson 25, 9/19/19

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We are looking at Romans 3:13. Using metaphors, Paul describes the depravity of the natural man.

“A figure of speech in which an expression is used to refer to something that it does not literally denote in order to suggest a similarity”

Many times, metaphors can only be understood in the light of the context of the entire Scripture, such as when the New Testament writers refer to them.

Using metaphors, Paul describes the depravity of the natural man.

FIRST: Romans 3:13 *Their throat is an open sepulchre.* Their mouths are like a tomb that is empty, and ready to devour the dead.

SECOND: V. 13, having no fear of God, they use their tongue to devour others as an open grave devours the dead.

THIRD: **There is death in the tongue of the wicked, as they use it for deceit and flattery** to accomplish their wicked goals against God and man.

Jeremiah 9:3-5 *And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD. 4 Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with **slanders**. 5 And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.*

Slander: Speak evil of another

Smooth words... Proverbs 5:1-6 fits here perfectly. The Wise Man warns of smooth words that lead down the pleasant road to death.

My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: 2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge. 3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. 6 Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.

In Psalms 55, David talks about his oppressor using smooth, deceitful words to accomplish his evil plans against him. He pleads with the Lord to protect him from those deceitful words:

David makes an important point in 55:21 *The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they **drawn swords**.*

Psalms 5:9 ***their throat is an open sepulchre***; waiting to devour wherever possible, as *they flatter with their tongue.*

Psalms 58:3 *The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies*

This statement includes even God's elect. Only the grace of God delivered us from the realm of the Father of Lies, the devil. James tells us that the lying tongue is still a common problem.

Proverbs 26:25 *When he, the wicked, speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.*

Psalms 55:21 *The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, **but war was in his heart**: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.*

The wicked see and use words as weapons of war, as they seek dominion over the whole world.

Truth Is Not Absolute, but truth to the wicked is that Which Works.
(<https://erraticus.co/2018/08/08/truth-absolute-works/>)

Example: "New York Times Forced to Admit Kavanaugh 'Victim' Doesn't Remember Assault" (<https://www.breitbart.com/the-media/2019/09/16/nolte-new-york-times-forced-to-admit-kavanaugh-victim-doesnt-remember-assault/>)

The NYT sought to consume and destroy Kavanaugh with **deceit when they left by leaving out the fact** that the "alleged victim" had no memory of anything Kavanaugh was being accused of doing.

Election season is upon us. We will be overwhelmed with words, even lies used to deceive. How can we separate truth from lies? The only way will be by examining the character of both the attacker and the one being attacked.

When the war is won by deceit and flattery, the swords are put away, and the truth is revealed. The vast majority of politicians use deceit and flattery in order to get the Christian vote. Sadly, once great Christian Education Institutions, Yale, Princeton, fell to the wicked who used deceit to gain control.

The wicked consider words, deceit and flattery, as a means of warfare in their war to overthrow

God by overthrowing his righteousness laws.

*Psalms 34:1 ¶ «To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD.» The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes. 2 For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful. 3 **The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit:** he hath left off to be wise, and to do good. 4 He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.*

Men lie to themselves and to God in their vain attempt to get God to remove his heavy hand against them, Psalms 78.

Psalms 78:30-39 *They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat was yet in their mouths, 31 The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel. 32 For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works. 33 Therefore their days did he consume in vanity, and their years in trouble. 34 When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God. 35 And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer. 36 **Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues.** 37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant. 38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. 39 For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.*

The wicked make glorious false professions and promises that they will serve him if he will only spare them from their present distress.

“they attempted to deceive by their professions, or that their professions were false and hollow. Those professions were the mere result of affliction. They were based on no principle; there was no true love or confidence at the foundation. Such professions or promises are often made in affliction. Under the pressure of heavy judgments, the loss of property, the loss of friends, or the failure of health, people become serious, and resolve to give attention to religion. It is rarely that such purposes are founded in sincerity, and that the conversions apparently resulting from them are true conversions. The Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate render the phrase here, “They loved with their mouth.” Barnes

Here we see that when God brought terrible judgment upon his people, they repented with their mouths, but their hearts were still far from him. They loudly profess love for God, but their actions clearly prove the truth.

Even Obama professed Christian conversion. Trump claims he is a Christian, though the Times of Israel identifies him as America’s first Jewish president, <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/donald-trump-americas-first-jewish-president/>.

Notice how even the wicked, ungodly are asking for prayer as the hurricane destroys everything in its path. Which God are they praying to? Alah, the humanist god as proclaimed in the public schools? It cannot be the Christian God for v. 11 tell us that they do not seek after the Christian God.

How foolish of men to try to lie to the Lord with their tongue, when our every thought is an open book to him.

Flattery—Probably the most effective way to lure people into the *open sepulchre* is flattery. We all face the danger of flattery, and have probably used it ourselves.

Lying flattery. God unleashes his fury against man through nature, and man turns to God. The water goes down, the wind quits blowing, the earth quits shaking, and rather than learning to fear God, he forgets about God. How many commitments are made to God when things are difficult, and forgotten all about when the stress is over?

With no desire to seek after nor hear from God, the natural man is drawn to hear and believe lies from the wicked that tell him what he wants to hear. And it is quite easy to know what people want to hear, and speak to that desire. Trump won the presidency telling people what they wanted to hear.

That is why people are attracted to religions that have no firm foundation in the law-word of God. People want a non-condemning message; they want to depart from the “Worship Service” feeling good about themselves, so they welcome lies.

Lesson:

1. We must fully expect the wicked to use deceit and flattery to accomplish their goal of power over others. Their words are drawn swords. The wicked see words as weapons which to slay the Godly. Again, we see the necessity of knowing the word of God, or we will be one of their victims.

2. We must beware! The wicked who are openly opposed to the Lord and his Christ will use whatever means necessary to accomplish their evil goals.

To avoid being ensnared by deceitful words, we must know scripture. Read and obey Psalms 119:97-104.

Isaiah 8:20 *To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

Those who do not speak according to the word of God, have no light in them.

The wicked will devour the simple at every opportunity. In fact, many times the wicked are looking for the opportunity to devour the simple. We know we are being lied to when the speaker speaks “not according to” the principles found in God’s law. Thus, those who do not know the word of God are very willing to believe lies. It is for this reason that the wicked can so easily work their way to the top. Very few people know and believe the word of God enough to recognize a lie.

Philippians 3:1-3 *Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. 3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*

The wicked have no fear of God, so they use their tongue as drawn swords to gain power to use against God. The death in their tongue is deceit and outright lies.

Romans 3:13:

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Now,

FOURTH: The poison of asps controls their words.

Paul quotes from *Psalms 58:1* ¶ « *To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David.* » *Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men? 2 Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth. 3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. 4 **Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear;** 5 Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.*

Romans 3:13 *The poison of asps is under their lips:* That is, the venom of their deceitful and flattering is as poisonous and as deadly as an asp.

“1) an asp, a small and most venomous serpent, the bite of which is fatal unless the bitten part be immediately cut away.”

Psalms 140:3 *They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips. Selah.*

Man's natural disposition is to poison others with deceitful words for his own self-interest. And the more committed he is to his self-interest, the more poisonous his words. James tells us that even the elect are in danger of poisoning others with their tongue.

FIFTH:

Paul continues to deal with the tongue, the same tongue James warned about.

Romans 3: *Whose mouth is full of cursing*

Psalms 10:7 *His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.*

Cursing: can refer to what we consider profanity. Actually, it is reproachful and severe criticism and blame, such as Shimei used in relation to David, #2Sa 16:5,7,8.

We are warned about cursing those in authority: God, parents, masters, magistrates, kings, and governors.

Ecclesiastes 10:20 *Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.*

I believe an important point here is that the word **cursing** is found only here in v. 14 in the New Testament. Its meaning includes “utterances that are designed to bring harm by supernatural operation. They are made by priests, chiefs, the dying, etc. They often involve special formulas and rites. Sometimes they are linked with prayers. They demand belief in their fulfilment.”

1. Curse (and Blessing). Curses, found in almost all religious history, are utterances that are designed to bring harm by supernatural operation. They are made by priests, chiefs, the dying, etc. They often involve special formulas and rites. Sometimes they are linked with prayers. They demand belief in their fulfilment. They play a role in law, e.g., self-cursing for breaches of oaths. Jesus forbade his disciples to curse, {#Lu 6:28} giving authority only to withhold remission. {#Joh 20:23} God's curse, e.g., through the prophets, reveals his judgment in such a way as to initiate it, {cf. #Ga 3:10,13} the emphasis being on the ineluctability of the consequences of sin. (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament.)

Its meaning includes “utterances that are designed to bring harm by supernatural operation. In other words, pronounce a curse, or prayer, seeking unholy supernatural intervention into a situation.

Example:

Numbers 23:11 *And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether.*

Balak sought Balaam to invoke a supernatural power against God's people. So, we see that **curse** can refer to a prayer that seeks to invoke a supernatural power against an enemy.

Psalms 2 tells us that the world has bitter hatred against the kingdom of the Son, Jesus Christ, which is the Church. The world is literally praying to their god, Satan against Christ and his kingdom on earth Their prayer is that Satan would supernaturally intervene in their war against God's kingdom. They are using every means at their disposal against the Kingdom of God, and those means are well beyond our wildest imagination.

Ephesians 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

Colossians 2:13 ¶ *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

Which brings us to a point we do not like to think about. With no **fear of God before their eyes**, what is beyond their imagination in their lust for power and wealth?

Human Sacrifice

When we went Peru, we visited the ruins of a temple that looked out over the Pacific Ocean. There were many alters where humans sacrifice of young women took place. At the base of that temple was a place where the young women were groomed for their sacrifice to their gods.

Over the centuries, human sacrifice has been used in the hope of gaining wealth and power.

Examples:

Jephthah, Judges 11.

Israel. Psalms 106, Israel learned the way of the Canaanites, and followed their practice of sacrificing their sons and daughters unto the idols of Canaan. V. 37, 38, "Shed innocent blood" The King of Moab, 2 Kings 3:27.

As I followed the Epstein situation, there is serious speculations that Epstein was involved in

human sacrifice on the island he owned.

Thousands of young girls, as young as 13 & 14, were taken to that island and have never been seen nor heard from again. That raises a legitimate speculation of human sacrifices to gain the power of Satan.

What will fallen man not do if he thinks he can gain wealth and power over others?

Psalms 10:7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.

Mischief: In this case, an intent to cause harm.

Vanity: Excessive pride, conceit or exaggerated self-importance

End 25, 9/6/19