

Elder Bobby Willis



James 1:26, “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.”

One of the key words found in James 1:26 is the word “**seem**”. The usage of this word tells us that the “**any man**” under consideration may NOT be as religious as they would want you to believe. To me this is a borderline hypocrite. This may sound harsh, but then no one has ever accused me of not trying to be plain in understanding what I might believe and say.

To bridle one’s tongue is not an easy task. I know this from self experience. It covers a far reaching territory which has resulted in much hurt and pain, not only in the church, but in families, neighbors, in the work place, and many other issues. Sometimes one’s heart can be deceived with the smallest of issues which are like canker sores when allowed to fester. They would best be served to be treated early and not wait till much pain is caused to get rid of what could later become hurtful.

How sad it is for one’s religion to be declared in “**vain**”. To be in vain means that it is of very little or no benefit, either to you or in the service of God. Why? Because the hurt which has been caused by not bridling your tongue has far outweighed any good you might have accomplished in the kingdom.

Notice the words of David in II Samuel 23:1-3, “**Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.**” Would it not be good for us as believers in Christ to be in prayer that the word of the Lord would be in our tongues?

Let us constantly examine ourselves and our usage of our tongue when we speak of others. The old adage of “*if you can’t say something good about someone, don’t say anything at all*” is still pretty good admonition. Yes, there are times when we must warn

others of potential dangers, and it may be concerning others of which the warning is necessary. However, we must make sure our tongue is bridled even in these cases and it not be done with malice in our heart. I Peter 1:15, **“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.”**

May God grant all of us wisdom in bridling our tongues that what we may say and do may be to the glory of God and our religion be not in vain. ***“Think About It”!***