

## Digital Drugs Series Theme Verse: Psalm 106:29, 39; Romans 1:30

### Lesson 3: The Deadliness of your Tongue - James 3:8

*"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."*

#### 1. Instruments that are Handy

- Facebook has 2.2 Billion active users, which is 29% of the world's population
- 76% of users use Facebook every day
- 500,000 new accounts opened daily (6 new profiles every second)
- 50% of 18 to 24-year-olds go to Facebook first thing in the morning
- People access Facebook an average of 8 times per day
- Average time spent on Facebook is 20 minutes per visit

The statistics are endless. It's big, it's growing, it's not going away. Social Media can be used as a good tool, but it usually is a vehicle for foolishness/contention/abuse. It's not the platform that is the problem, it is the user. **The main problem is that most Christians aren't spiritual enough to be on Social Media! The good rarely outweighs the bad.** There are many verses in Proverbs and all throughout the Bible that speak against careless chatter. And a person is prone to say more things online than what they would say in person. 1 Tim. 5:13. **There are some conversations that you should not be involved in, some arguments that you should stay out of, and some people you shouldn't talk to!** Some people shouldn't be your friends, some matters are none of your business, and many aren't Christ-honoring.

#### 2. Intentions of your Heart

Prov. 18:21. With the tongue, you can praise God, witness, edify, express love, encourage, but you can also tell lies, break hearts, sow discord, ruin reputations, curse, etc. Psa. 34:13. James 3:1-12. If you can control your tongue, you can control your entire body. **A run-a-way horse or ship could mean injury or death to people. The words we speak affect the lives of others! It is important that our tongue directs people in the right way.** The devil can take something small, and use it to create a misunderstanding or confusion in your church, your home, or at work or school, and it can spread and cause many heartaches and much strife.

#### 3. Ignorance that is Hurtful

Now, if this were all true in Biblical days of no electronic devices, how much truer did it become with the advancement of technology: the postal service, the telephone, and now Social Media. The average person speaks 30,000 words per day. It is hard enough to watch our tongue in our daily life of conversation, but now we have added text messaging and Social Media to the equation, which is an extension of the tongue! Isa. 50:4. As Christians, God can give us the right words, at the right spirit, in the right time, to the right person, whether witnessing to the lost, or by refreshing a weary Christian. However, if we speak the wrong words, with the wrong spirit, in the wrong time, to the wrong person, it can drive someone farther away from Christ and from church! Social Media may not be addressed specifically in the Bible, but it is an extension of your tongue, and the Bible has a lot to say about that! Psa. 39:1; Psa. 141:3; Prov. 10:19; Prov. 21:23; Prov. 29:11, 20; James 1:19. Do you enter silly arguments? Has Social Media hindered your spiritual growth? You shouldn't partake in silly debates. Prov. 26:4. I wonder tonight how many would be willing to come to this altar and give your tongue to the Lord?