

Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

1. Wanting a position of authority and leadership should be pursued soberly and with caution because God has a stricter judgment for those responsible for the spiritual welfare of others, 3:1.
2. It's inevitable that we will fail in various areas of sin but if we're able to control our speech, we'll be able to control ourselves in all other areas of sin, 3:2.
3. The reason the tongue is key to controlling ourselves in other areas of sin is because our verbal dialogue internal and external controls/influences all other areas of sin, 3:3-6.
4. The tongue is a tiny member of our body but it's an atomic bomb that can destroy every area of our lives, 3:5-6.
5. Our internal and external dialogue has tremendous influence over us and it is often influenced, guided, and directed by Satan, 3:6, 8.
6. Man can control every kind of creature, but he finds it impossible to control his tongue; with it we sing praises to God while at the same time cursing those He made in His image, which is basically cursing God, 3:7-10.
7. God designed nature to teach us about life, e.g., it teaches us that we should not use an instrument that God gave us to bless others, to use that same instrument to curse others, 3:9-12.
8. If you find yourself really eager to open your mouth and show everyone your wisdom, make sure it's for the right reasons. If you're doing it to impress others or feel important, keep your mouth shut and instead let your actions speak for themselves, 3:13.
9. True wisdom isn't eager to boast; it's humble, 3:13-14.
10. God's truth is not there to validate our self-importance; to boast and use God's truth this way is to lie against God's truth, 3:14.
11. Satan's wisdom leads to being envious, selfish and arrogant; such wisdom is completely human and devilish, 3:14-15.
12. Satan's advice appears to be true wisdom, but it only leads to confusion and all manner of sin, 3:13-16.
13. God's wisdom is absolutely pure, peace-seeking, gentle not harsh, willing to give deference to the other side, compassionate, seeks the other's best interest, fair, and is not two-faced, 3:17.
14. God's advice turns you into a peace-maker and leads to caring about the other side, thus, unity not winners vs. losers, 3:18.