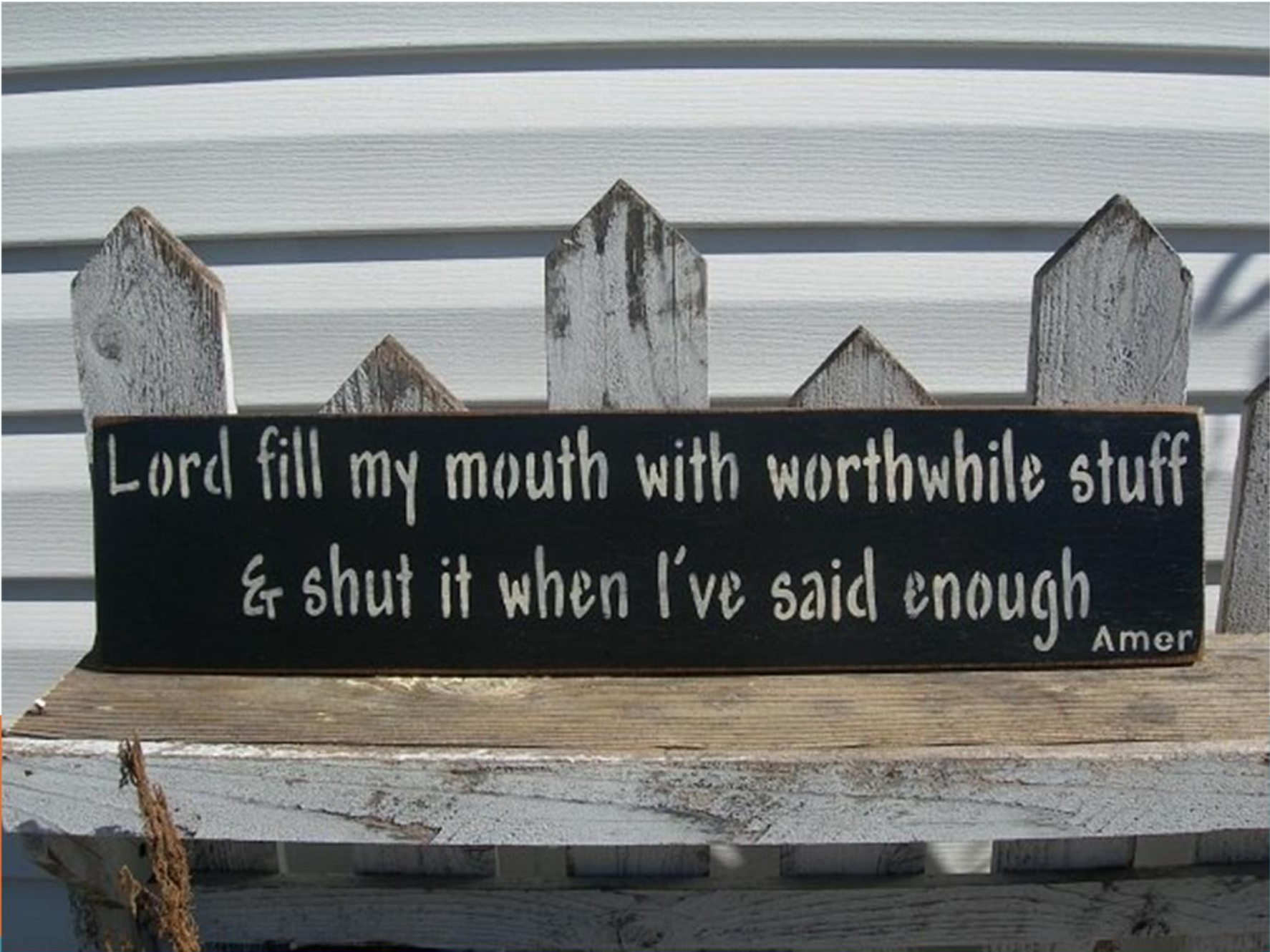


WISE MAN TALKING

THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH - A CASE
STUDY IN GODLY AND UNGODLY
COMMUNICATION

A photograph of a weathered wooden fence with a dark sign attached. The sign features a quote in a white, stylized font. The fence has several vertical wooden pickets with pointed tops. The background is a clear blue sky. The image is framed by an orange triangle on the bottom left and a blue triangle on the bottom right.

Lord fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff
& shut it when I've said enough

Amer

A. BORN LIARS



Our mouths reveal this
TRUTH

“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” - Jesus

B. THE MOUTH SPEAKS

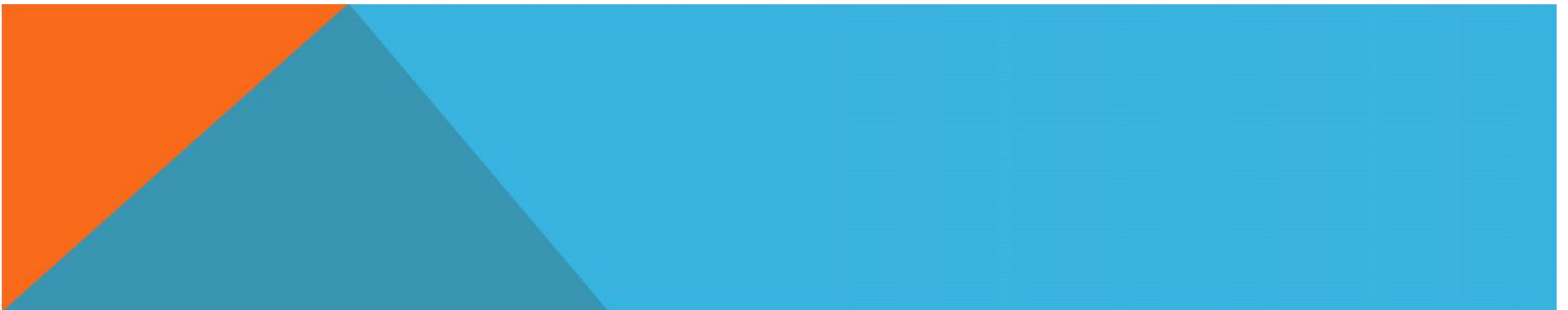
“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” -Matthew 12:34b, NIV



Proverbs 18:21 - “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

C. THE PROGRESSION TOWARD TONGUE TAMING

Ephesians 4:22-23 - *“.... that in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”*



II. THE ILLUSTRATION OF THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH

A. Background



Corinth



Ancient Ruins



Goddess
Aphrodite



Ruins of Temple of Apollo

B. WISE MAN TALKING

I. Words of Encouragement

I Cor. 1:3-9 - *“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”*



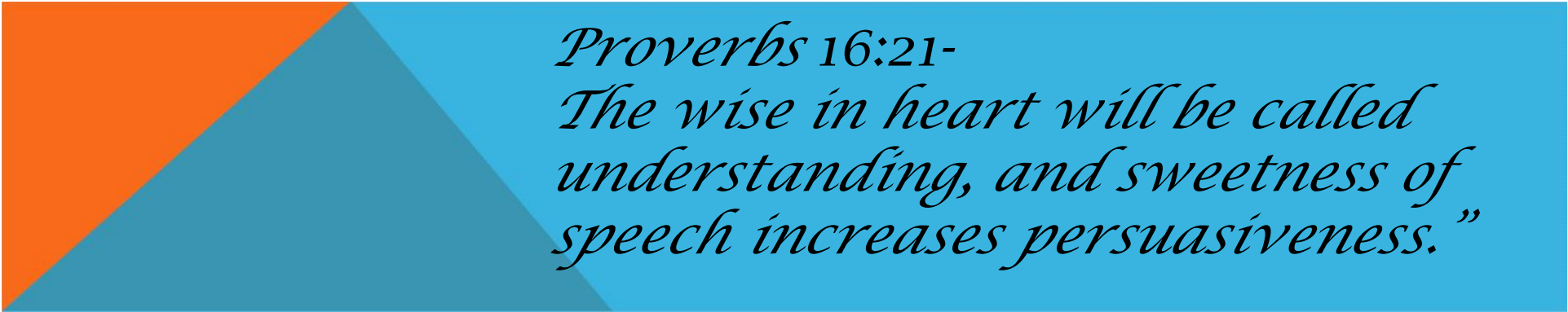
Words of Paul

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

(I Cor. 1:3-9; Proverbs 15: 23, 28a; Proverbs 16:21)

Encouraging words are:

Thoughtful	Timely
Understanding	Sweet
Pleasant	Healing
Eternally significant	



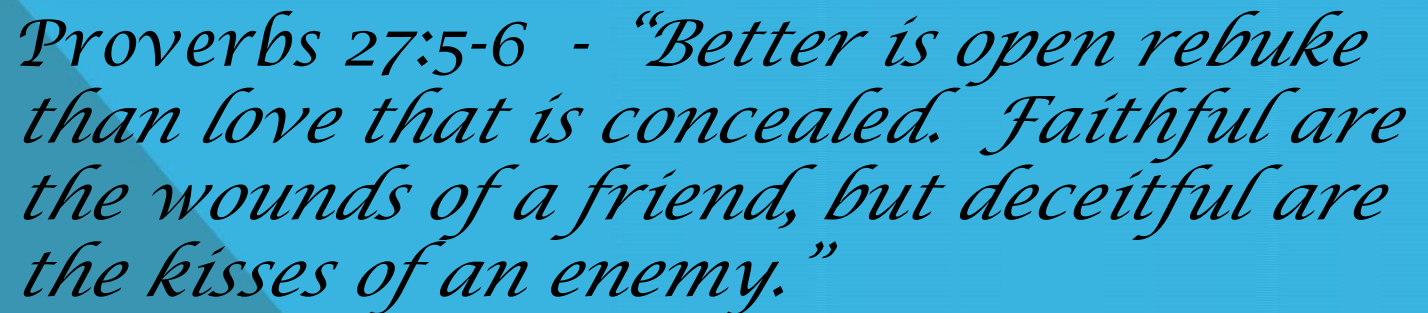
*Proverbs 16:21-
The wise in heart will be called
understanding, and sweetness of
speech increases persuasiveness.”*

B. WISE MAN TALKING

2. Words of Admonishment

1 Corinthians 4:14-16, *“I do not write these things to shame you, but to **admonish** you as my **beloved children**. For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I **exhort** you to be imitators of me.”*

Paul says I shall come to you soon. In 1 Cor. 4:21 he asks, *“What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with **love** and a spirit of **gentleness**?”*



Proverbs 27:5-6 - “Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.”

B. WISE MAN TALKING

2. Words of Admonishment

2 Cor. 7:8 - *“For though I **caused** you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it – for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while.”*

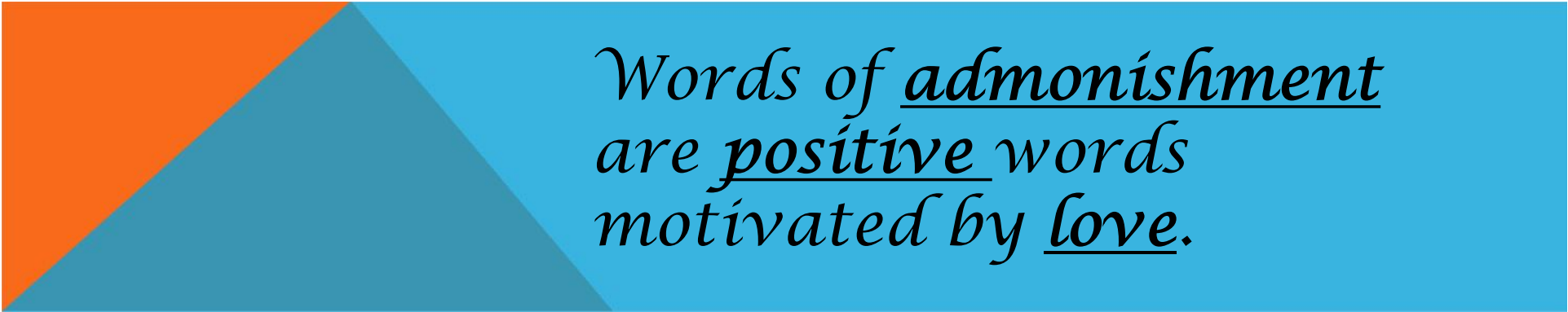
2 Cor. 7:10 - *“For the sorrow that is according to the will of God **produces a repentance without regret leading to salvation**, but the sorrow of the world produces death.”*



Wise words can hurt.

2. Words of Admonishment

2 Cor. 12:19-21 - *“All this time you have been thinking that we are defending ourselves to you. Actually it is in the sight of God that we have been **speaking in Christ**; and all for your **up building, beloved**. For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances. I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and **I may mourn** over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.”*

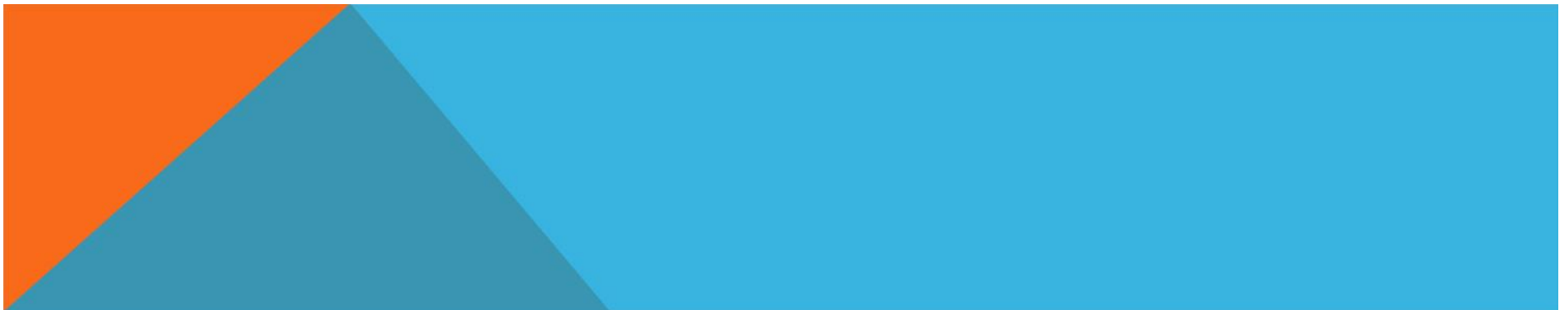


*Words of admonishment
are positive words
motivated by love.*

3. Truthful Words

2 Cor. 4:1-2 *“Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of **truth** commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”*

2 Cor. 4:5-6 *“For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus sake. For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the **Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**”*



B. WISE MAN TALKING

3. Truthful Words

2 Cor. 5:11 *“Therefore, knowing the fear of the LORD, we persuade men.....”*

2 Cor. 5:20 *“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us: we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”*




Proverbs 11:11 - “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life....”

C. FOOLISH MAN TALKING

1. Harsh/Angry/Contentious Words

*1 Cor. 1:10-11, “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no **divisions** among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are **quarrels** among you.”*



Proverbs 18:6 - “A fool’s lips bring strife and his mouth calls for blows.”

C. FOOLISH MAN TALKING

The root of the problem-

I Cor. 3:1-4 *“And I brethren, could not speak to you as spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for **you are still fleshly**. For since there is **jealousy and strife** among you are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? For when **one says**, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not mere men?”*

Proverbs 10:18-19 – “He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool. When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable but he who restrains his lips is wise.”

2. Perverted Words

In 1 Cor. 5:6-8, he says, “Your **boasting** is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Therefore let us celebrate the feast not with old leaven, not with the leaven of **malice and wickedness**, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

Proverbs 10:31-32 - “The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom, But the perverted tongue will be cut out. The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverted.”

3. Deceitful Words

2 Cor. 11:4 - *“For if one comes and **preaches another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or **a different gospel** which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.”*

2 Cor. 11:12-13 - *“But what I am doing I will continue to do, so that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting. For such men are **false apostles, deceitful workers**, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.”*

Proverbs 19:9 - “A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will perish.”

A lying tongue is an abomination to God and He hates it.

III. CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION

The antidote for the poisonous tongue is a new heart.

With regard to our words, it is not enough to know God's Word; we must do the hard work of putting into practice what we read and hear.

This is impossible in our own strength; we must put on the armor of God and pray.

Be a wise woman talking.

Ephesians 6:10-11 - "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."