

We All Stumble in Many things

- **It is painful to watch a toddler.**
- Standing up and falling down
- Stumbling is a way of life for toddlers.
- Everything is a stumbling block to them.
- **It is painful to watch a novice**
- The first day on a difficult job ... we all stumble and make mistakes.
- Nothing worse than that initial jolt as we realize what we have just done and add up in our mind what it will cost to fix

We all Stumble in Many Things

- **It is painful to hear a first sermon or class**
- The first time often brings mistakes.
- We run out of things to say and say what should not have been said.
- *My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. James 3:1-2*
- Not a prohibition ... Just caution and concern

Stumbling in Word

- We stumble in word as a toddler in walking.
- As a toddler learns balance from mistakes so also must Christians in their words.
- In any conversation, many unforeseen subjects arise that can push us off balance.
- We can't control the words of others.
- Something said that shouldn't – Now What?
- Gossip, slander, vile jokes, evil words.
- Are we Balanced? Can we take control?

Learning Balance in Words

- *In a multitude of words sin is not lacking Pr. 10:19*
- *He who restrains his lips is wise. Pr. 10:19-20*
- *He who has knowledge spares his words Pr. 17:27*
- *Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace. When he shuts his lips he is considered perceptive. Pr. 17:28*
- *Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles. Pr. 21:23*
- *More hope for a fool than one hasty in his words. Pr. 29:20*

Learning Balance: Don't Stumble in Words

- *Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. 3 For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words. Eccl 5:2-3*
- *If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. James 1:26-27*

Learning Balance: Don't Stumble in Words

- *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Mt 12:36-37*
- It is never wrong to just walk away.
- May be embarrassing not to have an answer or not be able to handle to conversation.
- But it is better than stumbling and having to repent/confess or hear from God later.

An Area of Concern

- *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain. Ex 20:7*
- We often think of blasphemy or using God's name in a sentence like "oh my God."
- We might think of euphemisms like gol, golly.
- But there are other areas of concern. Whenever we go beyond what is written.

- *Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. 6 Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. Prov 30:5-6*

Someone who Nearly Blasphemed

- *1 Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. .. 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches. 13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence. 14 For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. 16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me — Ps 73:1-2, 12-16*

Someone who Nearly Blasphemed

- *Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. 22 I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. Ps 73:21-24*

Job spoke rashly

- *"Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? 3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. Job 38:2-3*
- *"Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me: 8 "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified? Job 40:7-8*
- *"Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. 5 Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further." Job 40:4-5*

Job spoke rashly but repented

- *"I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. 3 You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.' 5 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:2-6*

The Three Friends

- *And so it was, after the Lord had spoken these words to Job, that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has. 8 Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has." Job 42:7-8*

Moses Spoke Unadvisedly

- *They angered him also at the waters of Meribah, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes; 33 Because they were rebellious against his spirit, and he spoke unadvisedly with his lips. Ps 106:32-33*

Shall “We” Bring

- *And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; shall we bring you forth water out of this rock? 11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and smote the rock with his rod twice: and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their cattle.*
- *12 And Jehovah said unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them. Num 20:10-12*