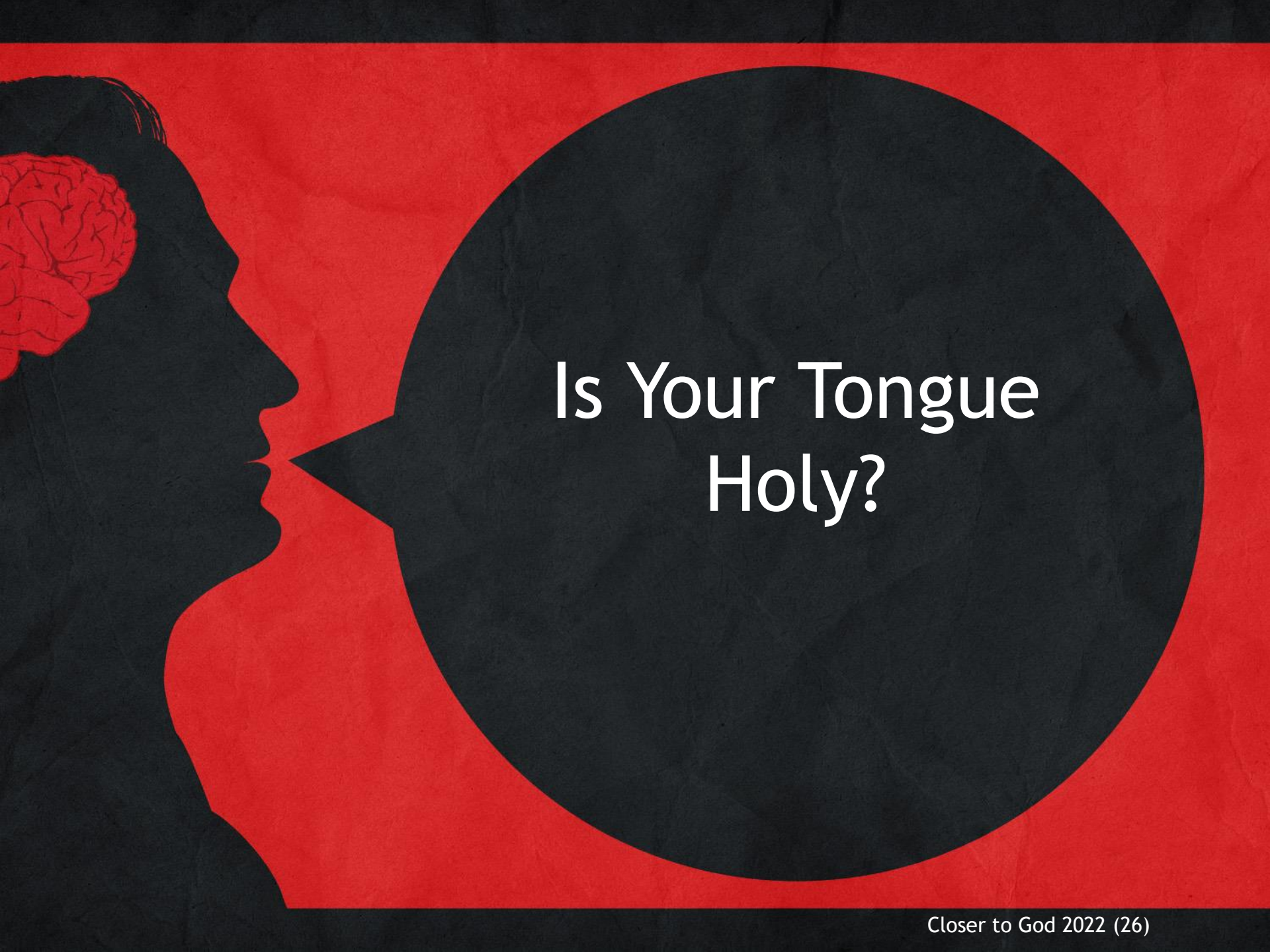




# Pursuing Holiness (4) (Holy speech)

# Previously

- We are continuing to examine our pursuit of holiness.
- We have addressed:
  - Being devoted, a faithful servant
  - Being separate and living pure
- The disposition that promotes holiness
- Attitudes that promote holiness
- Today...

A black silhouette of a human head in profile, facing right. Inside the head, a red brain is visible. A large black speech bubble extends from the mouth area. The background is a solid red color.

Is Your Tongue  
Holy?

# The Power of the Tongue

- It is sobering to consider how powerful words can be!
  - Nations have turned to or from evil
  - Families saved or destroyed
  - Words have condemned or rescued
  - Friendships created or damaged
  - Etc.
- Souls have been saved, and sadly some have been lost



# The Power of the Tongue

- **Matthew 12:34** - out of the heart the mouth speaks
- **James 1:26** - bridling the tongue
- **James 1:19-20** - swift to hear...
- **James 3:1-12** - the power of the tongue



# The Power of the Tongue

- **Proverbs 18:21** - death and life in the power of the tongue
- **Proverbs 13:3** - He who guards his mouth preserves his life...
- **Proverbs 25:11** - A word fitly spoken
- **Proverbs 21:23** - Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul...



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Remember self-control

- You have to believe you can control what you say!
- It may not be easy, but you can! You must make up your mind.
- One of the best ways to learn self-control is by controlling the tongue (**James 3:2**)



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Control what goes into your mind

- **Proverbs 15:26** - The thoughts of the wicked...But the words of the pure
- What you choose to see and hear WILL have an influence on your mind and affect your speech
- Cf. **Matthew 12:34, 15:18-20**





# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Control what goes into your mind

- **Philippians 4:8** - ... meditate on these things
- We need to be aware of the impact of our choices of entertainment, friends, etc.  
**Proverbs 6:27**, can a man take fire into his bosom...?



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Control what goes into your mind

- Consider the example of gossip
- The unnecessary repeating of details about others, especially private matters, usually without consent

**Proverbs 20:19, 11:13**

- Consider also **Proverbs 26:20** - IF you do NOT listen to gossip, you will not repeat it!



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Weigh your words carefully

- **James 1:19** - swift to hear, slow to speak
- **Colossians 4:6** - speech with grace
- **Proverbs 15:28** - the righteous studies how to answer



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Weigh your words carefully

- **Proverbs 10:19** - “In the multitude of words, sin is not lacking...”  
While continued talking may not be wrong itself, there is more opportunity to slip up and sin.
- **E.g. Ephesians 4:26** - Be angry and do not sin. You have to control it!



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Resolve to use your tongue for good

- We live in a society that continually uses harsh, hateful and even blasphemous language. With the bitter divisions, we see sheer ugliness, often with the tongue - lies, deceit, profanity, etc.



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Resolve to use your tongue for good

- Sadly, churches are not exempt!  
**Galatians 5:15, Ephesians 4:31**
- Instead, let us use our words for good:
  - Worshipping God - **Hebrews 13:15**
  - Defending our faith - **1 Peter 3:15**
  - Encouragement - **Ephesians 4:29, Hebrews 3:12-13**



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Remember kindness

- Recently addressed. Let us apply this to our conversations.
- **Proverbs 31:26** - a quality of the virtuous woman  
**2 Timothy 2:24-26** - the servant of the Lord - gentle, not quarrelsome, patient, etc.  
**Proverbs 15:1** - A soft answer turns away wrath...



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Remember kindness

- Before you speak to someone, **THINK** about **HOW** you are going to say what you say  
Sometimes the manner of delivery says more than the actual words  
- We cannot run roughshod over others with our words and be pleasing to God!





# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Be consistent

- We ALWAYS are to be faithfully serving God  
Do our words betray us?
- **James 3:8-12** describes this.  
**Matthew 7:15-20** - you will be known by your fruits  
Is our manner of speech inconsistent depending on circumstances?



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## Pray for God's help and strength

- Prayer may not be the answer to everything, but it is ALWAYS part of the answer
- **Ephesians 6:18, cf. Luke 18:1ff**  
If we are struggling with our speech, we need to pray about it  
**Psalm 141:3. 19:14**  
**Matthew 6:9-13**, even the model prayer finds us seeking strength to overcome temptations



# Rules for controlling the tongue

## When you do sin, REPENT!

- Whatever our sin is, we need to repent and pray for forgiveness
- **1 John 1:9, Acts 8:22**  
Do not lie to yourself about this -  
**cf. James 3:2** Note there is a difference between stumbling and continued, willful sin.  
Regardless, we repent - **Ephesians 4:31-32** - put it away from you  
(**cf. 2 Corinthians 7:11**)



Are you using your words to  
draw closer to God?



Pursuing  
Holiness

Let us pray!