**“God’s Priorities For Today’s Woman *-Discovering His Plan for You”***

**By Lisa Hughes -Fall 2020**

***PART 2 -- THE ART OF FOLLOWING GOD’S PRIORITIES***

Tuesday, November 24th -Chapter 5 – *“The Art of Speaking Pleasant Words”*

Chapter five will teach us how to revive….our tongues!

**T** he next of God’s priorities we are going to examine has to do with gossip. p.73

**H** ey, gossip is what *other* women do. It certainly couldn’t be a problem for you and me, *could it*? p.74

**E** veryone is aware of gossip. You’ve heard it, been hurt by it and you may have gossiped yourself. p.74

**A** ll women are commanded by God not to be “malicious gossips.” **Malicious**—that sounds so bad! *It is*!

**R** ightly so, God commands us to eradicate this fleshly deed. God hates gossip and we must too! p.74

**T** ell me, “Where does this big, bad, full-blown sin begin?” It begins in seed form in the heart. p.74

**O** h the damage that is caused by gossip. We are not to be “*diabolos”*—“devil speakers” or “slanderers.”

**F** alse accusers utter malicious lies about someone in order to damage that person’s reputation. p.75

**S** landerous speech can be vindictive and often stems from a bitter, unforgiving heart. p.75

**P** aul commands believers not to act like the children of the devil who is a liar, accuser and a murderer.

**E** mphasizing instead, that we are to “put on the new self, which in the likeness of God…”Eph.4:24 p.76

**A** re you aware that it’s possible to engage in slander without uttering a single word aloud? p. 76

**K** eep in mind what we have already learned, slander and gossip starts in the heart…in our thoughts.

**I** must realize that sometimes the conversations and critical thoughts I play out in my mind grieve God.

**N** asty thoughts can produce in us a quarrelsome spirit, and that is not how God desires us to act. p.76

**G** od’s Word speaks about how serious a sin it is when we complain against one another. Jam.5:9 p.77

**P** ardoned by sin’s eternal consequences, we can still face the sanctifying discipline of the Lord. p.77

**L** et’s pause here. If you find you have been slandering someone in your heart, repent of your sin now.

**E** ven if it’s necessary, go to the person you have wronged and ask for their forgiveness as well. p.77

**A** s Christ has extended His forgiveness towards us we too must ask and extend forgiveness to others.

**S** lander and malicious gossip undermines unity, harmony, and fellowship among believers. p.78

**A** s children of God, we are to think kind, patient thoughts towards others, even when wronged. p.77

**N** ever are we to return evil for evil but we are to respond in a godly manner to false and hurtful gossip.

**T** he tongue is a destructive little organ(Jam.3:2-10). We must learn to control our speech day by day as we walk in His power by faith. p.80

**W** e don’t want to bring shame upon the name of Christ by speaking like unbelievers, do we? p.80

**O** ur gracious God calls us to put away, to crucify, the “deeds of the flesh” and to “walk by the Spirit.”

**R** emember, this command to “walk by the Spirit” is a choice we must make every day. (Gal.5:16) p.81

**D** etermine to ask yourself: ***Is it true? Is it kind?*** **Is it necessary?** before you talk about others. p.83

**S** eeking to grow more gracious in our speech, we must lean on the Lord and immerse ourselves in His Word every day. p.84

Ladies, let this be our prayer each and every day, *“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14)*

Looking forward to our time together on “ZOOM” studying Chapter 6 on Tuesday, December 8th at 9:30a.m.

With love and prayers and gratitude filling my heart for you all,

Christyn ;)