

## DON'T WAST YOUR BREATH

TEXT: (Proverbs 23:9, NLT)

<sup>9</sup> Don't waste your breath on fools, for they will despise the wisest advice.

### I. DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH ON MOCKERS

1. "Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you" (Matthew 7:6, NIV).
2. "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you" (Matthew 7:6, NLT).
5. Remember the wayside.

#### A. The Character of Those Who Scorn the Things of Christ

1. "Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. Outside the city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie" (Revelation 2:14-15, NLT).
2. "Then Pilate asked him, 'Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?' But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor" (Matthew 17:13-14, NIV).
3. "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7, NIV).
4. "Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment" (Psalm 22:16-18, NIV).

#### B. The Great Value of the Things We Have in Christ

1. "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you" (Matthew 7:6, NLT).
2. "For seven days make atonement for the altar and consecrate it. Then the altar will be most holy, and whatever touches it will be holy" (Exodus 29:37, NIV).

#### C. The Danger of Sharing Treasures of Christ with Those Who Scorn Them

1. "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you" (Matthew 7:6, NLT).
2. "Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get an insult in return. Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt. So don't bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you. But correct the wise, and they will love you. Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more" (Proverbs 9:7-9, NLT).
3. "So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 13:15-16, NIV).

## II. DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH ON FOOLISH DISCUSSIONS

1. "Do not get involved in foolish discussions about spiritual pedigrees or in quarrels and fights about obedience to Jewish laws. These things are useless and a waste of time. If people are causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them. For people like that have turned away from the truth, and their own sins condemn them" (Titus 3:9-11, NLT).

### A. A Waste of Time

1. "These things are useless and a waste of time" (Titus 3:9, NLT).
2. "Take a firm stand on these matters so that those who have put their trust in God will concentrate on the essentials that are good for everyone" (Titus 3:8, MSG).

## III. USING YOUR BREATH TO BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP

1. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" (Ephesians 4:29, NIV).

### A. To Teach the Gospel

1. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19, KJV).
2. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV).

### B. Expressing Love One Another

1. "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35, NIV).
2. "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3, NIV).
3. "A gentle answer turns away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1, NIV).

### C. Building One Another Up

1. "The tongue of the wise brings healing" (Proverbs 12:18, NIV).
2. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10, NIV).

## CONCLUSION

1. "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted" (Galatians 6:1, NIV).