



**Studies in the Book of Proverbs** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

**(#32) The Proverbs of Solomon 10:31-32- Hush Your Mouth!**

**Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

**Proverbs 10:31-32:**

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out. 32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

It is certainly true that "I believed, and therefore I spoke" (**Psalm 116:10**), for the heart is expressed through the words of the mouth. David well said, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer" (**Psalm 19:14**). A heart full of God's Wisdom cannot help but speak with it. Jesus used the illustration of a tree to express what an effort it would be to control a "perverse tongue."

Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.  
(**Matthew 12:33-34**)

Jesus had taught, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (**Matthew 7:19**). "The lips of the righteous" speak "the truth in love" (**Ephesians 4:15**), and "always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (**Colossians 4:6**). Thus a Christian will "put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth" and will "not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds" (**Colossians 3:8-9**). A righteous heart will speak the truth appropriately to build up faithful conduct, but the wicked will cut the faithful down. "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (**Ephesians 4:29**). The God-given human ability to speak, not only separates us from animals, but is a tool for good or an instrument for evil. Those who abuse this ability will lose it, eventually. The laws of the land should protect freedom of speech; but God and His Word will judge the morality of speech.



*All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.*