

## A CONSECRATED TONGUE

By Edward M. Mix

*But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. (I Peter 1:15)*

IF all who profess to love our Lord Jesus Christ would obey this injunction of the apostle, how the cause of our dear Redeemer would be advanced. The world would realize that the religion we profess is indeed a blessed reality. Our words would then "minister grace unto the hearers," and carry conviction to the ungodly that God was in us of a truth; "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

God's command to all of us is, "Be ye holy; for I am holy," and the inspired apostle speaks of purifying our souls "in obeying the truth through the Spirit." We can only know and obey the truth through the Spirit of Truth, and if God's Spirit dwells in us we shall assuredly obey the command not to indulge in "filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient." (Ephesians 5:4)

But it is too true that there is a great deal of "foolish talking" at the present day, even among professing Christians, and too few are aware how this practice of jesting eats out the life of godliness, and proves the means by which many are shorn of their spiritual strength. A word once passes the bounds of our lips and it is past recall. Cannot all of us remember with sorrow some time when we have spoken "unadvisedly with our lips"? It was for this reason that, Moses was debarred the privilege of entering the Promised Land after he had wandered for forty years in the wilderness.

How careful then ought we to be about our words, that our speech may be "always with grace, seasoned with salt, that we may know how we ought to answer every man." (Colossians 4:6) May the Lord help all of us who profess to love our dear Redeemer, to realize that by our words we shall be justified, and by our words we shall be condemned. Let us ever bear in mind His solemn warning, "I say unto you, that *every idle word* that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof, in the Day of Judgment."

"O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise."