THE TONGUE.

James gives us as good description of the tongue as we need to be careful to hold it under control.Jas.3,2 For in many things we offend all.If a any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man,and able also to bridle the whole body.3 Behold we put bits in the horses mouths,that they may obey us;and we turn about their whole body 4 Behold also the ships,which though they be so great,and are driven about by fierce winds,yet are turned about by a very small helm,whithersoever the governor listeth.5 Even so the tongue is a little member,and boasteth great things,behold,how great a matter a little fire kindleth!6 And the tongue is a fire,a world of iniquity:So is the tongue among our members,that it defileth the whole body,and setteth on fire the course of nature;and it is set on fire of hell.7 For every kind of beasts,and of birds and of serpents,and of things in the sea,is tamed,and hath been tamed of mankind.8 But the tongue can no man tame,it is an unruly evil,full of deadly poison.9Therewith bless we God even the Father and therewith curse we men,which are made after the similitude of God.10 out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing.My brethren these things ought not so to be.11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? 12 Can a fig tree,my brethren bear olive berries? either a vine figs?so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. Who is a wise man among you,and endued with knowledge? Let him shew out of a good conversation,his works with meekness of wisdom.14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts,glory not,and lie not against the truth.15 This wisdom desvendeth not from above,but is earthly,sensual,devilish.16 For where envying and strife is,there is confusion and every evil work.17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure,then peaceable gentle, and easy to be entreated,full of mercy and good works,without partiality,and without hypocracy.18And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Proverbs also has a few things about the tongue Prov.6,16 These six things doth the Lord hate:yea seven are abomination unto Him.17 A proud look.a lying tongue ,and hands that shed innocent blood,18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,feet that be swift in running to mischief.19 a false witness that speaketh lies,and he that soweth discord among brethren. Mt.15,1-20 The scribes and Pharisees criticised Jesus and the disciples for eating with unwashed hands-Verse 11 jesus answered them,Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a mann;but that which cometh out of the mouth,this defileth the man.verse 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart;and they defile the man.19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts,murders,adulteries,fornication,thefts, false witness,blasphemies.20 These are the things that defile the man. Mt.12,34 O generation of vipers,how can ye being evil?speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.35 A good man out of the good treasures of the heart bringeth forth good things:an evil man out of evil treasures bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you,that every idle word that men shall speak,they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement.37 For by thy word thou shalt be justified,and by thy word thou shalt be condemned.

Judgeing by these references,we should be very careful to keep our tongue under control.1 Pe.3,10 For he that will love life, and see good day let him refrain his tongue from evil,and his lips that they speak no guile Jas.1,26 If any man among you seemeth to be religious,and bridleth not his tongue,this mans religion is vain. Prov.21,23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue,keepeth his soul from troubles.Psa.34,13 Keep thy tongue from evil,and thy lips from speaking guile. Eph.4,29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth,but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearer. Col.4,6 Let your speech be alway with grace,seasoned with salt,that ye may know how ye ought answer every man.Col.3,16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;teaching and admonishing oneanother in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts unto the Lord.--1 Pe.1,15 But as He which hath called you is holy,so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.

Conversation--Heb.13,5 Let your conversation be without covetousness. Tit.2,7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works:in doctrine shewing uncorruptness,gravity,sincerity.Sound speech that cannot be condemned;that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed,having no evil to say of you.--1 Pe.2,12 Having your conversation honest among the gentiles: that,whereas they speak evil of you,they may by your works which they behold glorify God in the day of visitation.Phil.1,27Only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel.--Praise HIM.Heb.13,15 By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually,that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.1 Pe.2,9 But ye are a chosen generation a royal priesthood,an holy nation,a peculiar people;that ye should shew forth the praise of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light Col/1,12 Giving thanks unto the Father ,which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son;14 In whom we have redemption through His blood,even the forgiveof sins.--- Let us watch our tongue. J.H.Lackey Church of Christ.