

Be Angry (Ephesians 4:26-27)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. Illustration – Forest fires and the tongue
 - B. Context within Ephesians 4 – the unity of the body of Christ
 - C. Course of the Sermon

- II. ***Be Angry* (Eph 4:26)**
 - A. A quotation from the Old Testament – Psalm 4
 - B. *Be Angry* – yes it's actually a command! *Stir yourself up*
 - 1. A perplexing command: How can we understand this command in light of Eph 4:31 and Col 3:8
 - 2. Commentators attempts to change the meaning
 - C. In what way are we to *be angry*?
 - 1. Anger is an attribute of God
 - 2. Christ Himself was angry - Mark 3:5
 - 3. Anger is a gift
 - 4. We are to be angry at sin – not complacent or tolerant

- III. **Three negative cautions or qualifications to the command**
 - A. ***Do no sin*** (v. 26)
 - 1. We sin when anger is stirred by personal offense
 - 2. A bad temper is sinful (Eph 4:31)
 - 3. We sin when we are selfish and think of ourselves rather than God
 - 4. Be angry is not a license to use your tongue
 - 5. Outbursts of anger are sinful
 - B. ***Do not let the sun go down your wrath*** (v. 26)
 - 1. The day of anger is to be the day of reconciliation
 - 2. When left alone anger leads to bitterness - *wrath* is a settled condition of the heart
 - C. ***Do not give the devil an opportunity*** (v. 27)
 - 1. Be aware of the devil's devices to capitalize on your anger
 - 2. Angry and sinful words leave scars on children and loved ones

- IV. **The proper use of words (Eph 4:29)**
 - A. ***Not a rotten stinking word***
 - 1. cursing, using the Lord's name in vain, harsh words
 - B. ***But that which is necessary for edification***
 - C. ***That you may impart grace to your hearers***
 - 1. beware of how sinful words divide the church (1 Tim 5:19)
 - D. A call to repentance for improper use of words

- V. **Epilogue**
 - A. Christ's words of life
 - B. The sun did not go down on the Father's wrath