

“BY YOUR WORDS”

INTRODUCTION

A. Proverbs 21:23

We can avoid trouble by exercising caution in what we choose to say.

B. Matthew 12:37

Our current memory assignment teaches that our words have the power to either condemn or justify us.

I. WORDS THAT WILL JUSTIFY

A. Luke 6:45; Philippians 4:8; Psalm 19:14

Justifiable speech proceeds from a pure heart. Therefore, one must think about pure things in order to speak them.

B. Ephesians 4:29

Instead of corrupt communication, our words must edify and impart grace. To edify is to build up. To impart grace means that the speech is pleasant or favorable, not offensive.

C. Colossians 4:6

1. Speech that is “*seasoned with salt*” is well flavored. It will never offend.

a. Proverbs 15:1, 23

Such communication eases an otherwise difficult situation.

b. Proverbs 25:11

Are your words “*fitly spoken*”?

2. We should be prepared with an intelligent answer. This demands forethought!

a. 1st Peter 3:15

b. Proverbs 15:28

D. **Ephesians 5:3-4; Colossians 3:15, 17; 4:2**

Instead of corrupt communication, our words must express thankfulness.

II. **WORDS THAT WILL CONDEMN**

A. **Exodus 20:7; Philippians 2:9-11**

Using God's name in vain: Although the third commandment is a part of the Old Law and not specifically repeated in the New Testament, it must continue to apply because the name of the Lord has never diminished in its reverence.

B. **Philippians 2:14-15; Hebrews 13:5; Colossians 3:17**

Though often overlooked, **complaining** is evil, for they demonstrate lack of contentment and gratitude.

C. **Colossians 3:8; Ephesians 5:3-4**

Filthy language does not suit those who have been risen with Christ. Such filthiness of speech includes: "*foolish talking*" and "*coarse jesting*" – i.e. inappropriate humor, joking of the sort that makes light of sin or debases godliness.

D. **Proverbs 10:19; 13:3; 17:27; Ecclesiastes 5:3**

Verbosity: Just talking too much can be sinful, so we ought to make every word count. Remember, the best way to keep people from jumping down your throat is to keep your mouth shut!

E. **James 1:19; Proverbs 29:20**

Hasty speech: Communication that lacks forethought is often wicked. "Seek first to understand and then to be understood. Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply" (Steven R. Covey, The Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People).

F. Psalm 12:1-4; Romans 16:18

Flattery is excessive or insincere praise. It often characterizes flirting, salesmanship, or politicking.

G. Matthew 5:33-37; James 5:12

Rash swearing: The Lord desires that we simply mean what we say and follow through on our word, rather than have any need to invoke oaths and the like.

H. 1st Timothy 1:5-6; Matthew 12:36

Idle, vain, or useless talk is epitomized in the use of **euphemisms**, which are seemingly inoffensive expressions substituted for those considered offensive. They have no meaning in and of themselves, except to provide a milder alternative to inappropriate words or phrases, such as: “gosh” or “golly” instead of “God”, “gee” instead of “Jesus”, “dang” or “darn” instead of “damn”, and “heck” instead of “hell”.

I. Proverbs 12:22; Colossians 3:9-10; Revelation 21:8; John 8:44

Lying is the product of Satan, the practice of which is not characteristic of a new life. Instead, it will result in damnation.

J. Proverbs 11:13; 16:28; 17:9; 26:20, 22; 1st Timothy 5:13

Talebearing is spreading rumors or gossip. It usually starts with: “Did you hear...?”

K. 2nd Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 2:3; 1st Timothy 3:11

To **slander** is to accuse falsely. Older women are especially urged to refrain from this sin. In every other instance this word appears in the New Testament, 35 times, it is translated as “*the devil*”.

L. Romans 12:14; James 3:8-12

Cursing is inconsistent with godly behavior. There is no excuse to curse anyone since even our enemies should be blessed. Examples of cursing are phrases such as “Go to hell” or “Damn you”.

CONCLUSION

A. James 1:26

According to our former memory assignment, true religion is characterized by control of one's own tongue.

B. Psalm 141:3

We should ever pray that we succeed in controlling what we say.