

**THE WORDS OF OUR MOUTH
PSALM 19:12-14; EPHESIANS 4:29-32**

Introduction

The Psalmist David begins this Psalm by declaring something that is often **rejected, ignored, or otherwise disparaged** by this world—**God’s great glory is revealed from heaven 24-7-365! (Vs 1-6)**

Then the Psalmist declares the glory and majesty and value of God’s Holy Word, which too, is often **rejected, ignored, or otherwise disparaged** by this world! **(Vs 7-9)**

He compares **the value of the Word** greater than fine gold!

He compares **the sweetness of the Word** to honey!

He details the value in that the Word of God **WARNS US!**

He also details the value in **KEEPING THEM!** (Great Reward!)

After thinking on the revelation of God’s glory both in the heavens and in His Word, he reflects on this in verse 12a and offers a prayer in verses 12b through the end of the Chapter. **(Vs 12-14)**

There is a lot here, but I want our focus to be on **verse 14** this morning and next Sunday morning. Unfortunately, sometimes the words we use don't always have the effect we want. Do they?

During the course of his sermon, a visiting evangelist wanted to emphasize the brevity of life. He took a long pause, then said, “Every member of this church is going to die.” But, to his ultimate surprise, a man in the back row responded to this statement with a big smile.

Needless to say, the evangelist was stunned, so he repeated the phrase with even greater volume. This time he noticed that the man crossed his arms and looked even happier than before. Well, this rattled the preacher so much that he literally shouted the words a third time at the top of his lungs, “Every member of this church is going to die!!”

But, in the midst of a loud but serious cry of “Amen” from the congregation, that guy in the back seat just kept beaming from ear to ear.

Well, immediately after the service, the evangelist tracked down the man and asked, “Why in the world did you smile so big when I said ‘Every member of this church is going to die?’” The man erupted with a huge smile and said, “Because I’m not a member of this church.”

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Unfortunately, the words that we use don’t always have the effect we want.

Sometimes words meant to spur people on toward action, falls on deaf ears. (Over 1000 messages in the last 9 years here)

Sometimes the words we use to try and encourage, are interpreted as patronizing or condescending. (e.g. Trump)
Sometimes we don’t know what words to use, and we choose ones that end up doing more harm than good.

And, these are mistakes that all of us make - because we’re all human. We’re not perfect.

Even with the best of intentions, we will still **misstep in our choices of words** from time to time.

But, this morning, we’re not going to be talking about the times that we slip-up, and use the wrong words. We’re talking about **the conscious deliberate use of words that are hurtful to others.**

Verse 14 of our text is our key verse where we find the title of this message—*“The Words of My Mouth.”*

But I want us to remember this **context in which the Psalmist refers to the words of our mouths.** This verse **comes at the end of a section declaring the glory of the laws and commands or THE WORDS of the LORD!**

So, it’s important for us to notice the link between *“the words of our mouths”* and *“the law of the Lord.”* Because **the only way our words and thoughts will be pleasing to God is if they are in accordance with His commands.**

So, I want us to take some time today and look at some Scripture that gives us **some direct instruction concerning the words of our mouth or the things we say.**

Turn to Ephesians 4:29-32

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Let's think about **the words that we use on a day-to-day basis.**

What kind of **attitude** are we displaying **when we speak to others or when we speak about others?**

Would the Lord consider the words we use on a regular basis as "*corrupt communication*"?

The word "*corrupt*" means "*rotten, that is, worthless.*"

And it's not just talking about using profanity here even though profanity would most certainly be included.

When we **use our words to put others down to their face**, or when we **use our words to criticize or put others down in the eyes of others**, or even when we **use our words to vent our anger**, we aren't doing ourselves or those around us any service.

And, more importantly, **we are not doing the Lord any service either!**

It's especially important that we notice **the last half of verse 29**. Not only does the Apostle Paul instruct us to avoid using words that are "*corrupt*" but he says that **we should only use words that are going to "edify" or build up and benefit those who hear them.**

It is much easier to tear down something than it is to build something, isn't it? Maybe part of the reason why we tear others down is because we like to take the easy route! Tearing down is easier than building!

It would be a good rule of thumb to **consider before we speak** whether or not what we are about to say is going to "*minister grace*" to those who hear us.

There's an anonymous poem I found that says:

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*"When you are disposed to criticize a friend,
Just remember, the beginning's not the end;
When within, this urge you find,
These three questions bring to mind:
Is it TRUE? Is it NEEDFUL? Is it KIND?"*

Vs. 30

Corrupt communication grieves the Holy Spirit of God.

To "*grieve*" means "*to distress; to cause to be sad.*"

When our mouths are full of ***corrupt communication*** against our fellow brother's and sister's in Christ, and that grieves the Holy Spirit God, is there any wonder that we don't have the power of God in our lives and people aren't turning to the LORD.

Vs 31

There is quite a list here that we are instructed to put away and they all manifest themselves in corrupt communication.

"Bitterness" – means "*sharp or bitter, biting.*"

Using our words to let somebody know how we feel? This is talking about **when the bitterness we have on the inside of us pours out to the outside of us for others to hear.** We need to put that out of our life!

"Wrath"– means "*passion, as breathing hard.*"

It is talking about getting smoking hot over something! We need to put that out of our life!

"Anger"– means "*violent passion that inflicts punishment.*"

Do you ever (or have you ever) jumped somebody verbally and gave them a piece of your mind? You punished them with your tongue. You wanted that other individual or group to know you meant business so you expressed yourself in no uncertain terms very passionately to them! That's what it is talking about! We need to put that out of our life!

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“Clamour”– means “*outcry.*”

Do you ever talk loudly about someone for others to hear and you don’t care who hears it, in fact, you want everyone to know how you feel? That’s what it’s talking about! We need to put that out of our life!

“Evil Speaking”– means “*vilification.*” It comes from the same word that is translated “*blasphemy*” in our Bible. Have you ever called someone everything but a saint? That’s what it’s talking about!

We need to put that out of our life!

“Malice”– means “*badness or depravity, malignity, trouble.*”

Do you ever look to bring somebody down in the eyes of others or try to destroy them? You want to see them hurt for what they did or are doing. That’s what it is talking about! We need to put that out of our life!

Vs 32

We’ve seen what we are to put off! This verse tells us what we are to put on! That is, what we are to do instead of verse 29-31.

“Kind”– it means “*to be usefully employed.*” In other words, instead of tearing someone down with your words, why not try to “*edify*” them or “*build them up.*” Be a help to them not hurtful to them!

“Tenderhearted”– it means “*to be well compassionated or sympathetic; full of pity.*” It is the opposite of hard-hearted! It is the same compassionate attitude that Christ had for us when we were lost!

It is the same compassion he still has for us today when we aren’t what we should be!

“Forgiving”– it means “*to grant as a favor, that is, gratuitously, in kindness, pardon or rescue.*” Note how this describes the way that we are to forgive is the same way that God for Christ’s sake has forgiven us!

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Conclusion

Ask yourself this question: **Are the words of my mouths acceptable with God?**

Well I can tell you that if they are going to be, it must first begin with our love relationship being right with regard to God.

Matthew 22:36-40 ³⁶ ***Master, which is the great commandment in the law?***

³⁷ ***Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.***

³⁸ ***This is the first and great commandment.***

³⁹ ***And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.***

⁴⁰ ***On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.***

That second commandment includes what we’ve been talking about today. We’ve got to be right with God, but we’ve got to be right with one another too!

The words of our mouth must be acceptable to God! The question is, are they?