

# Sobering, Frightening?

“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, **this one's religion is useless.**”

James 1:26

# Sobering, Frightening?

“Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For **by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.**” Matthew 12:34-37

**By Your Words You  
Will Be...?**

# Avoid Words of Abuse

- Renders the tongue unfit for the praise of God. James 3:8-12
- Revilers will not go to heaven.
  - 1 Cor. 6:9, 10
- God even hears the whispering.
  - Rom. 1:29-32
- May be a result of anger. Matt. 5:21, 22
  - Be careful. Eph. 4:26, 27

# Avoid Words of Retaliation

- Called to something better. 1 Pet. 3:8, 9
- Example of our Lord. 1 Pet. 2:21-23
- Vengeance belongs to the Lord.
  - Rom. 12:17-21
- Never criticize in selfish anger or with a desire to hurt.
- Don't be like children with, "He started it."

# Avoid Lying Words

- Lying belongs to the old man of sin.
  - Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9, 10
- Honesty should not be rare among Christians.
- Don't cause others to question your paternity. Jn. 8:44
- Talk less. Prov. 10:19

# Avoid Cursing and/or Filthy Talk

- Col. 3:8; Eph. 4:29; 5:3, 4
- Saints. Eph. 5:3
  - Holy, separated ones must talk differently.
- Our speech should be reflective of people perfecting holiness. 2 Cor. 6:14—7:1

# Learning to Do Better: Guard Your Environment

- Reduce the bad influences. 1 Cor. 15:33
- Literature, friends' speech, TV, movies, etc. enter our hearts and may exit our mouths. Luke 6:45
- We can avoid much more than we do.
- Can we learn to avoid circumstances that provoke our anger, tempt us to lie, etc.?



# Learning to Do Better: Study and Meditate Upon the Scriptures

- 2 Timothy 3:16, 17
- Will shape our thinking.
- Promotes purity of thought.
- Shows what God has forbidden and what He requires.

# Learning to Do Better: Pray

- Find wisdom, strength, help, etc.
  - James 1:5; Heb. 4:14-16
- Confess the transgressions of speech.
  - 1 John 1:8, 9

# Learning to Do Better: Use It Properly

- The tongue should not simply avoid evil and be idle.

# Use Words of Edification

## Ephesians 4:29

- Use words that build up.
  - Imitate Barnabas.
  - Proverbs 15:4; 16:24
- Even when criticisms must be given, edification must remain the goal.
  - Proverbs 25:11, 12
- Be an edifier.

# Use Words of Thanksgiving

## Ephesians 5:4

- Apply to abuse and retaliation.
- Giving thanks is desired by God and helps remind us that God is listening.
- “Thank God!”

# Use Evangelistic Words

## Acts 8:4

- Talking about the Holy One helps us avoid unholiness.
- Don't "give them what for;" instead, give them what they need.

# Sing

- Singing spiritual songs...
  - Occupies our tongues with something good.
  - Teaches others. Col. 3:16
  - Reminds us of God. Eph. 5:19
- The cheerful are to sing. James 5:13
  - If not cheerful, “sing and be happy.”

# Pray

## 1 Thessalonians 5:17

- Take advantage of this great privilege.
- When prayer is our habit, we can...
  - Pray for the \_\_\_\_\_ instead of calling him one.
  - Pray for our attacker instead of lashing back.
  - Find strength at the throne of grace.



# Use Words of Praise to God

- It is for this purpose that He saved us.
  - Heb. 13:15; 1 Pet. 2:9

# Conclusion

- “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” **Matt. 12:36, 37**
- “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.” **James 1:26**

# Conclusion

- We must not allow our words to make our religion vain or condemn us.
- Let's devote our speech to those things God desires.
- Why not use your tongue to confess Christ today?
  - “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” **Rom. 10:9, 10**