

By Your Words You Will Be Justified, By Your Words You Will Be Condemned

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At the very start, I want to raise a very important question: Do you believe there is judgement after death? After a long period of observation, I have found out that most people have this feeling in their hearts that somehow somewhere there is a supreme ruler, who would judge us according to our deeds in our lives on earth. Of course, perhaps you do not agree with this saying. Nevertheless, it is truly the conclusion that I have come to after a long period of observation. For example, whenever you encounter some mishaps, you would naturally think of retribution. It is strange, why would you think of retribution? You can tell in your heart that there is something wrong. You see, there is a kind of very strange instinct in human. This instinct lets him feel that somehow somewhere there is a supreme ruler. We all have to be accountable to him one day.

Human hearts fear to be judged, afraid to give account one day

For instance, there is a concept of “releasing the soul from purgatory (called ‘release’ in this sermon)” among Chinese. Do you know what is release? I heard of this word in the past, but I did not fully understand its meaning. One day I felt an urge in my heart. Therefore, I searched for this Buddhist concept on the internet. In fact, many people misunderstand the meaning of release, thinking it is something to be

done for the dead. In fact, release is not only for the dead. It can also be for the living, because “release” means “to release one’s soul out of suffering”.

Many people’s understanding of “release” is: after a man’s death, others perform some religious ceremonies for him. Through these ceremonies, what he had not done well could be compensated. Perhaps he had some wrongdoings. Hopefully his punishment could be reduced through these ceremonies, so that he could enter the world of perfect happiness. After I researched the teaching from some Buddhist monks, I found that the release ceremonies are not very effective (assuming they really work). This is not my own conclusion. It was concluded by the Buddhist monks themselves. Why?

Because if you want release to be effective, the following conditions must be satisfied: Firstly, the deceased must have deep regret for the sins committed while alive. If the deceased did not have a trace of regret for the wrongdoings committed while alive, the release ceremonies would be in vain. Secondly, the release performer (Buddhist monk) must have deep Buddhism practice. The problem is, not many monks have true Buddhism practice. If the release performer does not have Buddhism practice, the release ceremonies are useless.

Some monks even reckon that: the effectiveness of release cannot rely on the practise of the monks who perform those ceremonies only. It also relies on the practice from the relatives of the deceased. Obviously, it is clear in people’s heart that wrongdoings cannot be fixed by money alone. It is not possible that because the deceased had a lot of money, more bad things could be done while alive, and then it can be fixed by simply getting a well-experienced monk to help with the release.

Even if the relatives have good practice, it may still be not effective,

because the deceased can only get one seventh of the relatives' practice result. It means that if the practice of the relatives is very good, for example, if the relative scores 70 points, he can transfer 1/7 of these 70 points (like bank transfer) to the deceased. Suppose the deceased has 50 points. After transferring from the relative, he receives an extra 10 points, totally 60 points. If 60 points is the passing mark for entering the world of perfect happiness, he would be lucky enough to have just passed. On the other hand, if the deceased has only 20 points for himself, even if the relative transfers 10 points to him, it is still useless to him. However, it means that his relative has lost 10 points for the deceased in vain.

Therefore, some monks reckon that if people do not practise well while they are alive, getting the monks to perform release is only the last resort. Nevertheless, many monks reckon that the release ceremony has some effects. The reason being: doing release ceremony is better than not doing at all.

After I roughly found out what release was all about, my conclusion is: rather than spending a lot of money and efforts to perform release ceremonies, it is much better to call on people to repent, keep away from sins and wickednesses and to return back to our only true God in heaven.

I just want to use this example to prove that people are afraid of judgement in their hearts. His instinct tells him that when a person dies, he does not simply go into non-existence. Moreover, the release ceremonies for the dead are performed by the living. If they do not believe "judgement after death", why do they still perform those ceremonies for the dead? Since the person is already dead, why would they still want to spend the money in vain doing these unnecessary

things? You can tell that most people believe there is judgement (retribution) after death. At least they want to believe just in case it exists rather than believing it does not exist. Do you have the same mentality?

Treasure the only chance, be careful with your choice today

People have a lot of fears in their hearts, except that they do not fear God. The book of Proverbs teaches us to fear God, to live their own lives peacefully. Those who fear God are not afraid of death, because they have a clear conscience, they are not afraid of the future judgement after death. But many people are not willing to fear God when they are alive. They do not live a peaceful life, and yet, think of different ways (for example, release) to compensate for their wrongdoings in their lives, wishing to avoid God's judgement by performing these ceremonies. How tragic this is! Our instincts tell us: We have done too many hurtful deeds in our lives. Although not known to people, God knows all the details. We have to pay back after death. Therefore, we thought of many strange and funny ways to soothe our conscience, hoping that we will have a peaceful and soft landing after death.

The Bible tells us that we have only one chance in life. If you do not do good in this life, there is no second chance, because God is absolutely fair. Unfortunately, we are not willing to accept this fact. We prefer to choose to live a self-centred, reckless life. At the same time, after doing the wicked deeds, we still hope that we can compensate by performing the release ceremony. The rich people like to uphold the release ceremony. They donate generously to temples. They hire well-experienced monks to help them with the release, thinking they can fix everything up with money.

Try to ponder on this. If the rich can do wicked things as they wish, after (or just before) they die, they spend a lot of money on release ceremony, at last, they can still enter the world of perfect happiness. Do you think this is fair? What we need to ask is, whether this is the way for the rich to soothe their conscience, or this is the fair rule from God? Speaking of release, we have to assume that there is a supreme ruler. Otherwise, who is going to decide the final outcome? In other words, who is going to decide what types of people can enter the world of perfect happiness? We need to think ahead further: if this supreme ruler can be bribed or manipulated so easily, isn't he more hopeless than the corrupt officials on earth?

The Bible clearly tells us that this creator of the universe is a righteous, holy and omniscient God. We can deceive ourselves but not Him.

God decide on the Judgement standards, man cannot shun his responsibility

Talking about judgement, what standard do you think God would use to judge people? There is a wrong concept among Christians, that is: depending on whether you believe in Jesus or not. If you believe in Jesus, you should be alright. If you do not believe in Jesus, you would be in big troubles. Owing to this wrong concept, a lot of Christians think that they do not have to worry even though they have done many bad things. Everything would be alright after believing in Jesus. Let me tell you, you are totally wrong. This is not the teaching of the Bible.

The Bible teaches us: in this world, we have to live out the fear of God in our lives. It does not matter what we believe. We can believe in a lot of things, but we never do according to what we believe. Do you

think we can pass God's judgement? I am sorry. I have to tell you, the Bible never offers cheap salvation. Let us read a Bible passage. Then we understand what yardstick God uses to judge people. Matthew 12: 33-37.

12:33"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

12:34"You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

12:35"The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.

12:36"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give account for it in the day of judgment.

12:37"For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

I want everybody to pay attention to this verse: "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Have you ever thought of God using this standard to judge people? We always think that judgement depends on what big bad things that you did: such as killing, arson, rape, etc. those extremely wicked crimes. Why did Jesus say instead that God would judge us according to our words?

Words reveal character and intentions. All words would be confessed during judgement

Let us start with verse 33. At the very beginning, Jesus compared people with fruit tree. We all know that the quality of fruit reflects whether the tree is good or bad. Then what does fruit stand for? Fruit stands for the words people say, because verse 34 mentioned mouth, speak, etc. Therefore, in order to find out whether a person is good or bad, you can observe the words that are spoken by the person.

Doesn't the Bible say that people are judged by their own behaviours? Why did Jesus say that judgement is related to our "words"? Do you think it is reasonable? Have you ever thought that speaking itself is a kind of behaviour, it even is our most active behaviour? Don't think that only killing and arson are wicked. Many wicked things are revealed through our words, but we do not notice them in our daily lives. The fact is, only the people who fear God would be cautious about their words.

A lot of human relationship problems are caused by a careless statement spoken irresponsibly, a statement spoken without fearing God, a statement spoken without thinking thoroughly. Therefore, Jesus warned us: on the judgement day, we have to confess all the careless words that we had spoken in our lives. Do you think it is possible? There are about seventy or eighty years in a person's life. There are so many words that are spoken everyday. How can we remember what we have spoken? How is it possible to confess every word?

Nowadays high technologies can provide a lot of evidence for the police to convict a criminal. One of those high technologies is CCTV (closed circuit TV). Every single movement of the criminal is recorded. Today many court cases use CCTV recordings as evidence, so that the criminal's quibbles are futile. Today's CCTV recording times are getting longer and longer. Very soon, it can even record in colour, high definition. The criminals will be unable to escape convictions. If human technology can do this, for God to enable us to confess every word during the final judgement, would you still be surprised and think that it is incredible? What human can do, do you think God cannot do?

I want everybody to understand that God pays attention to our words very much, because words can bring us very long-term consequences.

Wise words can bring us good effects. Careless words can bring us very long-term bad effects. Verse 37 tells us that our words determine whether we are righteous or sinful. Do you think it is reasonable?

Why does God pay so much attention to our words? Have you ever thought that actually our words show what we are thinking in our hearts? Perhaps you may hide your thoughts for a while. But as time goes by, you cannot help but show it in your words subconsciously. This is the meaning the Bible verse “make the tree bad and the fruits bad” is trying to tell us. The fruits from the bad tree may look good on the outside. But after you have tasted it, you would know its bitterness and harm. Bad trees must bear bad fruits. Good trees must bear good fruits. What is in your heart would definitely be reflected in the words you speak.

Grumbles and ridicules are common, but they hurt others and ourselves without our notice

I want to remind Christians specifically, do not think that because you have not done extremely bad things, therefore you are a good Christian. I believe that most Christians would not do any big crimes, but the sins of the tongue are very common. They are being committed habitually, being committed almost every day. Have you realised this point? In real life, a lot of “wickedness” is triggered by words. Many brothers and sisters encounter some unhappy things in their work place. When they come to church, they grumble about their bosses or colleagues saying how bad they are. Once, after hearing too much about this grumbling, I spoke to the brothers and sisters: we should not say such words about our boss and colleagues, because this kind of opinion about them is not fair while they are not present. They have no chance to defend themselves. Everything would be according to what you say. You say your boss is stingy, harsh, and very demanding. Would it be

that you are too slack in your work? Have we ever sensed that our words would seriously affect the listeners, causing them to have negative impression about the person being talked about?

For example, I do not know a brother, but so-and-so tells me, “That brother is not good, this and that.” When I come across that brother, I would naturally have a negative thinking about him in my mind. The fact is that this person’s words have already damaged my relationship with this unknown brother. Here we can see that: You can use words to draw people’s relationship closer. You can also use words to break up a church. Have you ever thought that the sin of words is very serious? That is why I said, a lot of human relationship problems are triggered by a statement. Nevertheless, we always think that gossip is not a sin. Therefore, it is being repeated again and again. Today’s society emphasizes on human rights and liberty. We have the right to speak. We have the freedom of speech. But you need to remember this: you have to be responsible for every word that you say, because God would look into it.

I often remind brothers and sisters that never joke about somebody during conversations, because this is a serious mistake that we often easily commit. We like to laugh at others, thinking that it is funny, humorous, but we are unaware that this is harmful to others. For example, we often make jokes about people’s appearance, laugh at people being fat, short, ugly, etc. Do you realise that this is entertaining ourselves by hurting others? If people are being hurt by these jokes, aren’t you disobeying the Bible teaching of “loving others as yourself”?

Presenter’s casual joke costed innocent nurse’s life

That is why I said, Christians would not commit any wicked sins,

but sins of words are plenty, never ending, because we are not sensitive to sins of words, never serious. The following is a good example. Two radio presenters in Australia tried to make fun in their programme, causing the person involved to commit suicide. During their live programme, one of the female presenters used fluent Queen's accent (pretending to be the Queen) to make a phone call to a hospital in England trying to know the details about the princess's delivery situations. A nurse in the hospital did not doubt it and told the presenter everything about the princess's delivery situations.

The two radio presenters were proud of themselves because they had "inside story". They boasted about it during their programme, entertaining the audience. After the programme was broadcast, the nurse found out she had been deceived and fooled. She felt extremely guilty and she blamed herself. Eventually she committed suicide because of neglecting her duty (leaked privacy of the Royal family). She left a few words before she committed suicide, explaining that because she could not bear the pressure from the media and the public, she had chosen suicide to compensate for her negligence. This is the ending that nobody had predicted.

The two presenters regretted about this, but they did not feel that they need to take any responsibility, because the law does not forbid people to make fun or joke. From the legal point of view, they surely need not be responsible for the nurse's death. The nurse's family does not have the right to sue them. Nevertheless, some people even said that the reason for the nurse's committing suicide was that her internal quality was too low, that she could not bear any pressure. Finally it turned out to be the nurse's fault, nothing to do with the presenters.

The whole incident was a tragedy caused by words. A seemingly

unimportant joke caused an innocent person to lose her life. If you cannot remember Jesus' words, I hope you would at least remember this example. Whenever you want to make fun of a person, think about this deceased nurse. Think carefully before you take any action. Today's society emphasizes freedom of speech. You can say anything you want to say. You do not have to be responsible for your speech. I solemnly tell you here, on the judgement day, you will find out what sort of ending that your "freedom of speech" will lead you to.

Bad words infect others, hidden evils cause tragedies

For example, a wife lost her temper on her husband without any reason and said something that should not be said. Consequently the husband went to work with an unhappy heart. When he reached the company, a colleague offended him. He then had a fight with his colleague. At last he was dismissed by the company. Obviously, the bad mood of the husband was not an independent case. It was related to how his wife treated him in that morning. The wife would blame the husband's bad temper for his fight with his colleague. She never thought that all these happenings were closely related to what she said in that morning.

I remember a case that happened when I was working before. At that time, I was working in the kitchen of a five-star hotel. The kitchen was very big. There were many chefs that came from different countries. A couple who were chefs came from Vietnam. Owing to the needs of work, the staffs were separated into two shifts, day shift and night shift. This couple was no exception. Most of the time, the husband was on day shift and the wife was on night shift.

One day, a Hong Kong chef half jokingly said to the husband, "You

have to be careful, your wife is getting too close with the French chef.” After hearing this, the husband had a quarrel with his wife. On the next day, when the wife met the Hong Kong chef, she took a chopper and chased after him in the kitchen. Fortunately, she was stopped by the other colleagues and bloodshed was avoided.

Did this female chef really have an affair with the French chef? I believed she did not. Because from observations, I found that the French chef was serious with his work. His conduct was also very decent. But because of the “freedom of speech” from that Hong Kong chef, the relationship of this couple was damaged. It nearly caused the loss of a life.

Many cases of homicide are caused by a negligent, irresponsible statement. But people always pay attention to the homicide after it has happened. They never review the causes of the case. Most people think that a negligent statement would not do any harm. Even if it does, it is because the person concerned has a low EQ (Emotion Quotient), nothing to do with me. We are too insensitive to “the sin of speech”. When we read these verses from our Lord Jesus, do we feel that it is incredible, that it is making a mountain out of a molehill? But God sees matters much more thoroughly than we do. He is righteous. He demands us to take responsibility for our words. I hope that we won’t be foolish, so that we won’t fall into God’s judgement.

I wish to teach us to fear God through this Bible passage. Starting from today, learn to fear God in our speech. Speech is the most active behaviour in our lives. May we fear God in our speech, let God be pleased, so that on the day when we will be judged, our speech would reveal that we are righteous. You do not need to do great things. You also do not need to be a generous billionaire in order to be regarded as

righteous by God. The Bible tells us that a truly righteous person does not depend on how much money he has, or how much he has donated to the charity. It depends on whether your speech can bring benefits to other people. If your speech always stumbles people, brings harm to people, you will be condemned by these careless words.

Seek holiness of the heart, abandon religious errors

Let us read Matthew 15:18-20, we see the same emphasis here:

18 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

20 "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

Notice the error that was pointed out by the last verse. This was the religious concept. What was used to determine whether a person was holy or not? It used some external rules as the standard for judgement. For example, whether a person is holy or not is determined by whether he washes hands or not, what he eats or what he does not eat, how he dresses himself, etc.

Jesus overturned all the external rules here. He pointed out that this understanding was totally wrong. The things you eat or do not eat cannot prove anything. The washing of your hands or the lack of it also cannot prove anything. You can imagine, some poor people rely on picking from the rubbish for a living. How can they afford to always wash their hands, or to choose what to eat and what not to eat? They even have difficulties in getting enough to eat. How can they afford to keep their personal hygiene? Do you think God would regard them as unholy?

Religious people often use these external rules to judge people. Jesus denies this kind of perspective, because this is not what God wants. In that case, what does God want? Here we talk about the issue with the mouth again. What would really defile a person? It is the words that come from the mouth that would defile a person. Why? Because the words from the mouth actually come from the person's heart. It represents the real you. Ultimately it is the issue with the heart. If you have a problem in your heart, it would be revealed through your words. Because of this, the Bible puts a lot of emphasis on the problem with the tongue.

Beware of worldly contamination, avoid filthy mentality

I don't know whether you are aware that today, a lot of filthy thoughts and system of value are propagated by words. Words are part of a language. They can be used to express your inner thoughts and system of value. Verse 18 said "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man." It means that if a person's heart is not right, whether it is spoken or written, his words would defile others, not only defile himself, but also defile others.

I remember a long time ago, I knew a few high school students. Three of them were planning to go to USA to further their education in universities. One of the students told me that his mum suggested to him that after he arrived in USA, he must find a way to get the green card. The plan is that he should find a girl with a green card or with the status of USA citizenship. This is the short cut to get a green card. It does not matter whether he likes the girl or not. After he has obtained the green card, he can divorce and get married again.

Perhaps you think his mum is somewhat crooked. In fact, in real life,

a lot of people have the same thought in their minds but they are lack of opportunities only. After I heard what this student said, I felt very bad. He was only 20 years old. His mum taught him this kind of crooked way. In many people's eyes, his mum's words were "big wisdom". This kind of plan for the children's future was quick and money-saving. Why not give it a try? But the tragedy is, most people are not conscious that this kind of suggestion would defile the heart of young people, and spoil their whole lives.

Do you know what consequences this suggestion would bring? If this young person took his mum's suggestion, his concept about marriage would be twisted. Marriage to him is for the green card. After getting the green card, the marriage relationship is no longer important. That means, it is impossible for his marriage to be happy and long lasting. In fact, this reflects the problems with his parents. At least it reflects how his mum treats marriage. Needless to say, this is also the marriage concept of today's society. Marriage is only a trade. There is no meaning at all.

Be careful with your tongues. Watch out for your speech. Your dirty thoughts often defile others, affect others through your speech. Do you realize that? Perhaps you reckon you only causally made a suggestion, therefore you do not feel that you are a sinner. Even if the person takes your suggestion, gets into trouble, becomes a sinner, this is his problem, nothing to do with you. Of course the law cannot convict you. Nevertheless, God will demand you to pay back for your sins. Exactly as what the Lord Jesus said, you have to confess every word that you have said during your lifetime.

If there is a problem with your heart, the speech that flows out is dirty, it would defile others. For this, be very careful when making

suggestions for others. When people encounter problems in their lives and seek your advice, you have to be exceptionally careful. I hope that your advice would be one that is given in the fear of God, one that is a blessing to others, not one that would ruin other's whole life.

Ask God to change our hearts, pursue after a clean conscience

Therefore, the state of our hearts is most important. We have to always safeguard our hearts, for example, our minds and our thoughts. Speech reveals people's inner heart. If you want your speech to build up others, you must start from the heart. Proverbs 4:23 reminds us to "keep your heart with all diligence." Why? It is because "out of it spring the issues of life." These are very wise words. They remind us to look at ourselves from God's angle. Whatever you do, the outcome depends on your heart, because God is righteous and just.

If you know that your heart has a lot of issues, a lot of dirty thoughts, then you must come before God to ask Him to help you. The God in the Bible can change people's hearts. People cannot change themselves. You can try to provide education, or good living conditions. But you cannot change their hearts. Only God can change people's hearts.

Why do you come to church? I hope that the reason is not for joining some religious activities. The reason is because you are attracted by God's words, God's truth, kindness and beauty. God's words are like a mirror, or a flash of strong light. They reveal the problems of your inner heart. Therefore, you come to God to ask for healing, to seek for the right medicine, because you realise that you are sick and need to be healed. The God in the Bible is true and living. He likes to help people. If you seek Him wholeheartedly, you will obtain His help.

The secret to beauty and kindness, avoid evil ways

Let us continue to read Matthew 12:35:

"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."

This verse is very important, because it directly and honestly tells us how to be able to protect our hearts. The good man mentioned here because his heart has a good treasure of good things, therefore he can bring forth good things naturally. We see a cause and effect relationship here. The reason that a good man can bring forth good things is because he deliberately accumulates good things in his heart. This point is very true. The Bible is true in every word, and it is very practical too. It never teaches people to take a short cut. You have to really work hard in order to get good results because we reap what we sow.

I want to share the following three aspects, which help us to live such a life.

The first aspect: Beautiful and good things must be remembered in our hearts. The reason that good people are good is because they deliberately store good things in their hearts during their daily lives. Our hearts are like a storeroom. They must be kept clean. If this storeroom is dirty, whatever good things stored in it would become dirty, because inside there, fleas, cockroaches and rats are biting. After God has cleansed and changed our hearts, we must always keep our hearts from contamination. Therefore, after the storeroom has been cleaned, we must not put dirty things in the storeroom again.

In your daily life, what would you store in your heart? Many people like to store some bad things, for example, people always like to hear some gossip news or sex scandals that should not be heard, and then

spread them everywhere. For example, every news medium has a special column called “movie and TV column”. It specifically reports the private lives of actors. Normally they are scandals that are “not suitable for children”. A lot of people like to pay attention to these scandals. Owing to the popularity, these scandals become interesting subjects for people to talk about in their spare times. We have nothing to do with the actors’ private lives, but many of us like to hear about them, and spread them: so and so actor has a new love target; so and so actor has an affair; so and so actress wears sexy clothes; so and so actress boldly exposes herself in her new movie.....

Many people out of ignorance like to collect news about sex scandals. No wonder that whatever they think has always to do with pornography. Why are you always disturbed by the sexual thoughts? Why can’t you avoid sexual topics in your conversations? This is because you choose to store these unhealthy “news” in your heart, allowing these scandals, pornography to contaminate your heart.

Whenever other people are gossiping about someone, do you always like to overhear with your ears widely opened? You not only like to hear, you also like to tell others. All the things that flow through from our mouths are some gossips which cannot build up people. We think they are harmless. We even reckon that these gossips can have the effect of entertaining everybody; we are not aware of the fact that how many people have been hurt by these gossips. No wonder these careless words will become evidence of our condemnation. Therefore, you have to deliberately choose to store those good things in your heart everyday. As advised by Paul in Romans 12:9, “Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

The second aspect: use God’s words to guard our hearts. God’s

words are most important. They can guard our inner hearts, help us to keep alert in our daily lives, help us to distinguish between good and bad. It is very dangerous for a person who does not know how to distinguish between good and bad. The person would then abandon those good things, see bad things as good things and store them in heart. Therefore, you must use God's words to guard your own inner heart. At the same time, you have to deliberately choose to store true, good and beautiful things in your heart in your daily life. As we are living in this age when internet is so common and popular, choosing to use God's words to "guard our own heart" is especially important, because a lot of evil information is propagated through the words, pictures and videos etc. on the internet. Even though there is some good stuff, but most people are very easily affected by the evil stuff, viewing some articles, pictures and videos that should not be viewed. Consequently, our minds and thoughts are affected and contaminated by this bad information. Subsequently, they influence our speech and behaviours.

Therefore, it is your responsibility. Of course, God absolutely can change your inner heart. But you also have the responsibility to guard your own heart. If you are a Christian, do you guard your own inner heart properly? Do you deliberately store good stuffs in your heart?

The third aspect: Be careful with making friends. Talking about speech, we also have to be very careful with making friends. Speech is a communication tool that cannot be lacking among people. Bad friends can subconsciously defile our thoughts and system of value by speech. If you want to be clean in your inner heart and speech, you must be careful when making friends, because the Bible says: "Evil company corrupts good morals." (I Cor. 15:33)

A lot of people's (including Christians') systems of value are faulty,

because they are affected by the bad trends of the world. They sometimes intentionally or unintentionally propagate some bad and defiling systems of value in their speech. If you cannot change them, then you must keep a distance from them. Even though they are brothers or sisters in church, if the party concerned still refuses to change after many reminders, then you must keep a distance from them, otherwise his speech would defile you sooner or later.

Be cautious when using words, be God's messenger of light

Christians are not “nice guys”. We cannot agree and follow wrong speech, system of value blindly. On the other hand, we also cannot be always defensive. We should rely on God. We can start from the church. Be the role model for the people around you to bring them good influences. You have to know, those ungodly or irresponsible speech not only breaks down the relationship between one another, but also affects the witness of the church. If a church or a Christian does not have good witness (especially in speeches), how can non-Christians get to know God?

The Church is the light of the world. This also means the world is deeply buried in darkness. Today, the society's system of value is crooked, upside down. Everybody is aiming at “money”. One can do anything for money, forsake relatives, even kill each other. Everybody in the world needs to know God, needs to know God's rules, needs to see the light of life.

I hope that Christians can bring good influences and help to people in their speech, not to corrupt people with their dirty words. We have to be a wise person who fears God. Only by fearing God can bring good influences and blessings to the people around you.

I hope that after hearing this sermon, we all have a clear goal. In our daily lives, very truly learn to fear God in our speech. We have to let God control our tongues, make good use of words, propagate the system of value about truth, goodness and beauty and God's blessing to the people around you. If you put God's words in action, God will regard you as righteous on the Judgement Day. There is no blessing greater than this.

Finally, brethren,
whatever things are true,
whatever things are noble,
whatever things are just,
whatever things are pure,
whatever things are lovely,
whatever things are of good report,
if there is any virtue
and if there is anything praiseworthy
--meditate on these things.

(Philippians 4:8)