



Berean Christian Fellowship

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There Are No Careless Words with God

“But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36 NASB).

Many of us grew up on the maxim: “sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.” Many Christians underestimate words, but the truth of the matter is that words do great good and they do great harm. As Believers, we know it is by words that the heavens and the earth sprang into existence from the mind of God— *“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light”* (Genesis 1:3), for *“in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (John 1:1). It is because of God’s Word that you are alive today and the earth orbits the sun. This Word was Jesus Himself and *“all things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men”* (John 1:3-4).

It was also by words that Adam and Eve were tempted and brought sin and death into creation: *“the serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die!’”* (Genesis 3:4a). And it is by words that eternal salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ comes to all Mankind: *“faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ”* (Romans 10:17). Do you still think words are of little consequence? There is no such thing as a careless or thoughtless word with God—every word is purposeful for good to those who hear. Why do we who are the children of God give way to careless words, then? The answer of course is our sinful flesh nature, which causes us to seek our own good at the expense of all else: *“he who speaks from himself seeks his own glory”* (John 7:18a) -

glory at the expense of others. “Careless” is defined as “not giving sufficient attention or thought to avoiding harm or errors” (Google Dictionary). We can take other people’s needs and interests lightly when advancing our own interests or focusing on our own needs, *“for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Matthew 6:21). If we’re focused on ourselves, our interests come first in everything, even when we’re trying to help someone by giving them advice—who are we serving, then? If people feed and nurture their own interests, they become *“grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage”* (Jude 1:16) with no thought to the harm and errors they’re causing to people around them. What a contrast to Jesus who said, *“I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me”* (John 8:28b).

Jesus never spoke a careless word. He never spoke to gain an advantage nor did He seek His own glory. In imitating Him, you are to make sure your *“speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person”* (Colossians 4:6), for *“the building up of one another”* (Romans 14:19), not ourselves. As Believers, we are to remember that *“whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God”* (1 Peter 4:11a). How? - through the Holy Spirit Who speaks God’s Word to us (John 16:13). Therefore, before you speak, *“let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father”* (Colossians 3:16-17). Amen.

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