

Empty Words
Ephesians Part 20

“For this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person (such a man is an idolater) has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.” - Ephesians 5:5-7

This week I was listening to the story of a woman who professed to be a Christian. I was shocked at how easily she allowed herself to curse. You know, using four letter words. In the passage just before the verses above, Paul exhorts the Ephesians like this, “Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving” (Eph 5: 4). I realize we all slip up once in a while. We are around folks who curse regularly as a way of communication. But as a believer and a follower do you think Jesus would approve of us using such language? Well, would you believe this person did? She even thought God cursed once in a while.

I shook my head and had a little chuckle over that one, but then later realized that God just may do that. But when God curses, look out! That’s God’s wrath. No, He does not use bad language, but He will bring a curse on those who are disobedient. He cursed the serpent who deceived Eve. He cursed the ground because of Adam’s sin. Solomon wrote, “The Lord’s curse is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the righteous” (Proverbs 3:33). You better believe that it is in the Lord’s heart to bless, but as Paul says to the Romans, “Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you will also be cut off” (Romans 11:22). Your Father is very tolerant. But we all need to remember that He is also God. And as God if you get Him angry because of your consistent worldly behavior, He will punish you.

Gosh Pastor Gene, why the tough words? Because the world is full of empty words. If someone tells you there is no Hell, then they are lying to you. We all need to know the truth. Empty words justify sin and make God to be a person who is ever tolerant of evil behavior. Paul is real specific in the passage above: immoral, greedy, impure people have no inheritance in the Kingdom. Not only does Paul call the people of God to forsake ungodly behavior, he says that we are not to partner with them. Your BFF needs to be a growing believer!

Listen to how Paul encourages us, “For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them” (Ephesians 5:8-11). How do you expose darkness? Know the truth. Don’t live by empty words. God’s Word is full and you will be too if you follow it closely.

Love you guys and I hope you will be challenged to live in a way that pleases your Father.