

October 3, 2020

THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

BY YOUR WORDS

Jesus made a very revealing statement about the words which people speak. He said, "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 12:36-37). It is obvious that the words we speak are important and have an eternal impact.

Few would deny that telling lies is prevalent in our society. People lie for a variety of reasons. Some lie when caught doing something they know is wrong. By lying they expect to escape the consequences of the wrong they have done. Others lie to gain an advantage over others for their own personal gain. Lies are sometimes told to sell a product or to avoid paying taxes owed to the government. Some tell lies to boost their popularity or reputation. They may claim credit for something which with they had little or nothing to do or make promises they never intend to fulfill. Some try to diminish the impact of a lie by saying, "Oh, it's just a little white lie" or "I'm just stretching the truth." Yet, the Bible tells us that "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord..." (Proverbs 12:22). If you start to tell a lie, remember the warning of Jesus, "by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned."

Another common misuse of words is cursing. Sadly, it is not uncommon to hear even young children using vulgar language which they have picked up from parents, television, and movies. Cursing often becomes a lifetime habit and many who use vulgar language seem to be unaware that they have said anything wrong. In describing the characteristics of those under sin, Paul writes, "whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness" (Romans 3:14). In warning of the dangers of the tongue the Bible says, "Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so" (James 3:10). Cursing, using God's name in vain, and vulgar language is condemned as "evil speaking" (Eph. 4:31; 1 Peter 2:1). The next time you are tempted to utter a curse word remember the warning of Jesus, "By your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned."

Join us at the Green Plain church of Christ for Sunday morning worship at 10:00 am and Wednesday night Bible study at 7:00 pm. Visit our webpage at greenplainchurchofchrist.org. Enjoy online Bible studies at www.gbntv.org. Watch "A Bible Answer" Sundays 8:00 am on the CW (WQWQ-TV).