

The Danger of Empty Words

[Eph 5:6 ESV] 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

I. Intro

- A. Our message MUST have its foundation on truth.
- B. The place we discover truth, is God's word.
- C. When GOD speaks, the words are not empty
- D. When we speak God's word, the words are not empty.
- E. When we IGNORE God's word and speak, we find empty words.
- F. The danger of empty words: they try to take the place of God's word.

II. Text

A. LET:

1. This little word reminds us of our power and weakness
2. LETTING someone deceive you means that you have power to overcome, yet the warning is there anyway.
3. In our weakness, we allow things, we allow people to take us from where we should be to where we shouldn't

B. No one deceive you

1. The deceiver is always at work
2. If he can take your attention from truth, direction, God's will...He counts that as a victory.

C. With EMPTY WORDS

1. Kenos: (ways used in scripture)
 - a) empty, vain, devoid of truth
 - b) places, vessels, etc. which contain nothing
 - c) empty handed
 - d) without a gift
 - e) destitute of spiritual wealth, of one who boasts of his faith as a transcendent possession, yet is without the fruits of faith
 - f) endeavours, labours, acts, which result in nothing, vain, fruitless, without effect
2. Empty Words can also be many words, and pleasing words, but without truth they are empty.

D. Because of these things:

1. Referencing the sins from the previous paragraph: immorality, impurity, Covetousness, improper talk...amongst others
2. Because of continued sin, the result will be clear and from God.

E. The wrath of God comes

1. His wrath has come before, and will come again
2. What we read about in the Old Testament is real and an image of what is to come.
3. We know God's power through stories, and experience. We can believe these words.

F. Upon the sons of disobedience: Don't be named among them

III. Point: 3 warnings

A. Warning 1: Philosophy without Foundation

1. Philosophy is not bad, It is actually very important
 - a) Definition: the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.
 - b) The working definition of philosophy is basically a thought process
 - (1) How you get to a conclusion
 - (2) How you view certain things
 - (3) For instance: a defense philosophy for a sports team
2. But Philosophy without foundation on TRUTH is simply foolishness.

- a) If your working knowledge of a subject leads you to believe something not found in scripture, it is not a good philosophy
- b) We must grow to agree with God, not just in lip service, but in core belief!
- 3. When we give lip service, yet not allow our core beliefs to change, we start straying from reality found in Christ.
 - a) [Col 2:13-19 ESV] 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. 16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.
 - b) Substance (reality) (that which is real) is found in Christ.
- 4. Practical aspects for today:
 - a) sexual/gender identity issues...God's word speaks
 - b) sin generally...God's word speaks
- B. Warning 2: Faith without Fruit
 - 1. FAITH IN God produces the FRUIT OF God.
 - 2. To say you have faith, but the fruit of your life is not a desire for godliness, is an impossibility
 - a) You are called to step out in faith
 - b) You are then blessed with a thousand other steps of faith
 - 3. This is the difference between belief and faith:
 - a) To believe in God is a great start, but not enough
 - b) We must have faith in Jesus Christ to pass from death to life.
 - c) God is drawing us into faith, and growing our faith.
 - 4. [Jas 2:14-19 ESV] 14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder!
- C. Warning 3: Fruit without Faith
 - 1. The Fruit of the FLESH will not bring about godliness.
 - 2. The fruit I've witnessed that is not marked by faith in Christ seems to be a lengthy process of trying to one up the previous good deed.
 - 3. The good deeds of the flesh are simply another way to attempt to fill the void in our lives.
 - 4. We have a built in desire to accomplish something, or help others, but if they are faithless deeds, they will leave you empty.
 - 5. Serve in FAITH as God has empowered you to do good works:
 - 6. [Mat 5:14-16 ESV] 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

IV. Close