

Title: Watch Your Mouth

Text: *"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."* (Ephesians 4:29)

Target: Words either build up or break down.

- I. **The Problem with our Words:** *"Let no **corrupting** talk come out of your mouth"*
 - A. **The Corruption of Our Words:** *"corrupting talk"*
 - *Sapros: rotten, decayed, spoiled, unfit; speech that causes damage
 - B. **The Condition of Our Hearts:** *"come out of your mouths"*
 - **Matthew 12:34:** *"You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."*
 - **Luke 6:45:** *"The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."*
- II. **The Purpose of our Words:** *"only such as is good for **building** (construction term of edification) up"*
 - A. **Strengthen Them:** *"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."* (1 Thess. 5:11)
 - B. **Supply Them:** *"To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!"* (Proverbs 15:23)
 - C. **Support Them:** *"The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary."* (Isaiah 50:4)
 - D. **Shape Them:** *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,"* (Colossians 3:16)
 - E. **Spur Them:** *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works."* (Hebrews 10:24)
- III. **The Precision of our Words:** *"as **fits** (words suited, tailored or customized) the occasion"*
 - A. **Fit the Person:** *"And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all."* (1 Thess. 5:14)
 - B. **Fit the Problem:** *"To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!"* (Proverbs 15:23)
 - C. **Fit the Proper (Time):** *"Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda."* (Proverbs 25:20)
- IV. **The Power of our Words:** *"that it may give **grace** (to give, grant, or impart) to those who hear"*
 - A. **Give GRACE:** *"He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend."* (Proverbs 22:11)
 - B. **Give HOPE:** *"A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit."* (Proverbs 15:4)
 - C. **Give LIFE:** *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."* (Proverbs 18:21)

Takeaway: If God holds us accountable for our words, we should be intentional with our words. (Matthew 12:36-37)