

“The Empty Word.”

Ephesians 5:6-7

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Ephesians 5:6-7 (PowerPoint presentation)

Preface

The world is full of words.

Words are the beginning of all things, and it seems that this world is made up of words that express thoughts and ideas and embody the expressed words.

The first and beginning of the myriad of such words that fill this world was God’s words in Genesis 1:3, “Let there be light”.

This light is a light beyond the physical material light of the sun, moon, stars, fire, flames, and fluorescent lights. It is a light that reveals good and evil, that clearly separates the holy from the unclean, that nothing can remain covered before its light, that nothing can remain hidden and unknown, that all things are laid bare.

And this “light that breaks through all darkness and shines in the midst of darkness is Jesus Christ,” as revealed in the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation.

As it is written in Revelation 21:23, “Because Jesus the Lamb is the light that enlightens all, neither the sun nor the moon, the representatives of physical and material light, will be needed any more in the new heaven and the new earth”.

The world as it exists today began, was formed, and is being operated by the Word of God, “Let there be light,” that is, “Jesus Christ, be”. However, Satan’s words of Genesis 3:1, “Did God really say that?” were unleashed upon the world, defying, blocking, and seducing the words of God, “Let there be light,” and “Jesus Christ, be ” as if they had no value. And man, fascinated and attracted by these false and ungodly words, voluntarily fell in love with them, and was embraced, surrounded, tossed about, and even sent out these empty words that seemed to have some kind of appeal but had none. And so, man’s soul is controlled by the countless empty words that he himself has uttered, and he has become a dying being, one who will fall into eternal perdition, the destination of empty words.

Part One

Because human beings were originally created in the image of God, who does things with words, they are the only creatures who can manipulate and use words, and initiate and create things with words.

However, man has lost the word that is the first of all possible words that are called words, “Light, Be” and “Jesus Christ, Be”. Therefore, they are attracted to, immersed in, and imbued with physical light that has nothing to do with the light that overcomes darkness and deceives the peoples of the nations, and as a result, they speak and take in only empty words. And one starts things with empty words, is manipulated by empty words, starts something empty again with empty words, creates something empty again with empty words, and dies pretending to be alive while surrounded by empty things.

Nevertheless, perhaps because emptiness has become the norm, people are unable to even notice emptiness, and when they do notice it, they try to fill it with another empty word. And so we are surrounded and obsessed with empty words that go in circles with no way out, and our thoughts, feelings, ideas, values, worldview, outlook on life, reason, intellect, and sensibility have become filled with empty words.

In 1 Timothy 6:5, the apostle Paul expresses that “the intellect has become corrupt and lost the truth,” and rightly so, our human intellect, which has lost the words “Light, Be” and “Jesus Christ, Be,” has become corrupt and has made gold and silver its god, money its god, people its god, pride its god, knowledge, learning, technology its god. We have created an empty world full of all kinds of god-like things that man has made into gods.

We have created a world where there seems to be something and nothing is there, a world that repeats the same evils that existed in the past with the illusion that something new is being created every day, a world that Solomon described as “all that is under the sun is empty”.

We say how great science and technology are, how great new theories and logic are, who is great and who is not, and we create and enshrine great people and give them awards to make them have authority and admiration as if there is something great about them. And then they make us feel as if we can change the world in some way, spewing out new empty words, immersing us, enthusing us, making us unable to leave, making us think as if there is some answer out there.

We have reduced the biodiversity of this beautiful natural world by 68% in just the last 50 years, beginning with God's words, "Let there be light". Despite this, humans still believe that "Humans are amazing, humans can do it. Humans can do it. Humans have potential. Humans are the answer. Humans are great. I am great. Why is this world spinning without realizing how great I am? I am God." They do not feel that they are full of greed, thirst, judgment, and empty words, they do not realize that they are strangling themselves, and they refuse to acknowledge the One God who created heaven, earth, and all things.

So, no matter how much we have, our desire for possession never diminishes; no matter how much we eat, our soul is never satisfied; no matter how much we win, we are never convinced that we have won in life; no matter how much we experience, our hearts are always broken; no matter how much we are praised, our fear never disappears; no matter how many empty words we are surrounded by, we even forget that we are tired of being surrounded by them. We forget that we are tired of being surrounded by empty words, and we take it for granted, and we make life about telling and convincing ourselves that "it is so," "it is good," "it is real".

Part Two

Jesus Christ was born on earth as a light to liberate us from "the emptiness of words", rather than to cast a stone in a world filled with such empty words.

He who is the first of all words, "Let there be light," appeared in human form.

He came to us sinners, the people of this world who have lost their life, and their way of life through empty words, to give us back the words "Let there be light," so that we can turn again to the only non-empty word, "Let there be light".

Zechariah 1:1-4 (PowerPoint)

God's words to us human beings are simply, "Return to me. Return to Me. Return to me".

But people do not return to those words, so God himself took on human form and appeared to us in a form that we can see with our own eyes, Jesus Christ, who is the very word "Let there be light".

When Jesus began His ministry, He was led by the Holy Spirit to fast for 40 days and 40 nights.

To the devil, who had spoken empty words to Jesus in His dying state, tempting Him with the food most necessary to sustain His physical life, Jesus proclaimed the most important thing that was lost in the world, the first and foremost essential thing for us human beings in a fundamental and substantial sense.

He said, “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”.

When interpreting Jesus’ words, it is sometimes interpreted as “Jesus is not denying that we need food, clothing, and shelter to live, but that food, clothing, and shelter are necessary, and what we need in addition is the Word of God,” but I wonder if that is really true.

For Jesus, who had not eaten for forty days and forty nights and was so dried up that he could have collapsed and died at any moment, all that was necessary to preserve his physical life was a sip of water, a crumb of bread, and a spoonful of hot syrup water.

That is what Jesus would have needed most to sustain the life of his flesh and blood.

But what does Jesus say here?

He declares, “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”.

He says, “Not to live a life attached to the body, which is unfortunately doomed to perish because of sin, but to live eternally in the eternal life of the soul, which remains forever!” He declares, “If we do not live in our souls, no matter how much we dress up our bodies, no matter how much we eat good food and get fat, it makes no difference that we die pretending to live,” and “Instead of ending up as dust of the ground, we will suffer eternally in the burning gehenna of eternal perdition,” and “the life preserved by bread is fruitless, and the true and eternal life, which cannot be preserved by bread, is to be preserved by the Word of God,” and “I am doing this now, led by the Holy Spirit, fasting for forty days and forty nights, and in my physically parched and dying state, to expose the wiles of the devil, who holds people captive with empty words.”

People seem to think that lack of money is the biggest problem, that not being able to eat good food is wretched, that living in a nice house and driving a nice car is an absolute requirement for a good life, that studying, working hard, being enthusiastic, becoming familiar with

various knowledge, and keeping countless words emanating from a smartphone in one's body is a way to take a break.

And people put off living a life in which the soul lives by the Word of God because it seems tedious, and they are too busy to devote time to it and think it is a waste. They go to church to earn money and work, but they are too lazy to go to church for worship. They take seriously the empty words that investing more money is the only way to enrich their lives rather than investing time and wealth in the Word of God, and their souls are dying.

They lose their light and their souls die.

Part Three

Matthew 6:24-34 (PowerPoint presentation)

What we lack now, what our life lacks, what our children lack is not what we wear, not what we eat, not what we drink, not our spectacular career or upbringing, not our good music, good education, good culture, or good medical care, but to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first.

No matter how much we dress, no matter how much we eat, no matter how much we drink, no matter how much we learn, no matter how much we experience, no matter how much we listen to good music, no matter how good our education, no matter how good our culture, no matter how good our medical care, if we do not continue to seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness, there is no life.

Matthew 10:26-39 (PowerPoint)

We human beings were created so that we cannot live without fear.

So what should we fear?

We should fear God.

The fear of God brings peace and life, but the fear of anything other than God brings only fear and anxiety.

The only way to be free from such fear is to listen to this word of Jesus and fear the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father.

You have to acknowledge Jesus in the presence of any thing or any person.

Failure to acknowledge Jesus means the death of the soul.

When we acknowledge Jesus in all things and in all people, we understand life.

Not the life that clings to this physical life, but the real life beyond the physical, the eternal life that Jesus' death on the cross has given us.

We can fear the loss of that life.

You will have the most important and only valuable fear of all.

1 Timothy 6:3-12 (PowerPoint)

Faith in God is not bondage, but liberation, freedom.

Rather, to not believe in the one true God, Jesus Christ, is to go astray, to stab oneself with much pain.

And our battle is not how to become rich or how to become materialistic, but how to fight the battle of faith and finally win eternal life or not.

It is not a matter of "I believed in Jesus once before, so I'm fine now!

What a tragedy it would be if, like Demas, a former disciple of Paul, who lived with Paul, we love this world so much that we don't know whether we have or have not won eternal life....

One more passage.

2 Timothy 3:1-17 (PowerPoint)

(This is a passage that foresees the times we are living in and says about what we, who are living in those times, must cherish the most)

We are living in difficult times.

Even those who say they believe in Christ seem to love only themselves, love money, blaspheme God, are not reconciled to others, love pleasure more than God, and deny the power of piety even though they appear to be pious.

And they are not prepared to be persecuted for the sake of Jesus and to live piously in Him.

We want to be a light and shine in the community in a way that the world will recognize us, but we avoid being a light and shining in the community in a way that the world will not recognize us.

Because we are afraid of persecution. Because we are afraid of martyrdom. Because Christ is not everything.

Because we cannot rejoice that we have been made worthy of being humiliated for Christ's sake.

And above all, we do not take the Bible, which gives us the wisdom to correct such a way of life and train us to live righteously.

We do not hold it. We will not open it. We will not read it. We will not listen to it.

We will not pray. We will not kneel. We do not beat our chests and cry.

Because, for the time being, we have clothes to wear, lunch to eat after the service, a home to return to, and the sustenance to maintain this perishing body for the time being.

Therefore, we cannot see, hear, or realize the need for the Word of God.

We cannot become familiar with the Bible.

For there is enough bread to keep the body that is kept with bread, first of all.

The words of life that Jesus spoke at the risk of his life, “Man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of God,” are heard only as if they strike the sky.

Seminary students do not open their Bibles.

Seminary teachers do not open their Bibles.

Pastors don't open their Bibles either. That's why believers don't open their Bibles either.

They say they believe in Christ, but they open their computers, tablets, and smartphones, but they don't open their Bibles. So, there is no way they can do missionary work and evangelism, and the seminary is about to collapse, and the church is about to collapse.

This is the inevitable result.

The world's population continues to increase, yet the number of seminaries that teach “the Bible is the Word of God” continues to decrease, and theology, the study of the Bible, continues to roll along without opening any Bibles, and the church seems to be dying.

“O hypocrites! How is it that you know how to discern between the earth and the sky, and yet you do not discern between the present time and the future?” These words of Jesus ring out every day.

We, in the midst of tremendous spiritual dullness, have to fight the battle of faith.

We are now living in the very world of the words of the Old Testament prophets.

Conclusion

We read newspapers, listen to news, read books, laugh at words of comedians, and are exposed to words of knowledge and scholarship every day, but when we are exposed to these words every day, they seem to be empty words that go around in circles.

There are incidents, accidents, natural disasters, school fees, living expenses, profit, this person, that person, and so on, and if we are exposed to only empty human words that are not God's words, that we do not know whether they were spun or spat out, our soul will thirst.

Even by the empty words of man, a heart like a sandstorm may be quieted for a time, but when the storm arises, it soars again, and the sand that obstructs our line of sight, where we cannot see anything ahead, remains intact.

But the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the point of separating the soul from the spirit, the joints from the marrow, making us discern the thoughts and measurements of our hearts, and sweeping away the sand as if with a broom and dustpan, sweeping it clean.

Ephesians 5:6 (PowerPoint)

Do not be deceived by empty words.

The only thing we need to break free from being deceived by empty words is the Word of God.

Do you have the Word of God?

Do you have it?

Do you open it?

Are you eating it?

Are you drinking it?

Are you listening to the Word rather than hearing the Word?

Are you listening to the Word of God as He is the subject, not as I am the subject, using the Word as a tool?

Do you say, "Lord God," but in reality, are you not treating the Word of God as if it were, "Lord me, and my servant Jesus will follow me?"

Only listening to the Word of God can save us from being deceived by empty words.

Let's pray.

Benediction: Ephesians 5:6a