**Scripture:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Ephesians 4

**Singing:** 266:1-3 – 140:1-2 – 21:1-4 – 386:1, 4, 6 – 90:1, 2, 5, 6

Intro: One sin is like a *snowball rolling downhill*

A. Principle: *sin is never a single sin but always leads or involve more sin*

B. This principle is the spine of James 5:20 *Let him know, that he which*

*converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.*

C. God’s *caring will* also extends over our words (9th commandment)

 1. Communication skill is one of *the reflections of our Creator in us*

**Wholesome Words**

I. The value of wholesome words II. The good use wholesome words

**I. The value of whole some words or communication**

A. Matt 12:36 proves that *words matter – even to God*

 1. Eph 4:29 and Prov 15. 44 affirm this

 2. Words matter to God mainly for three reasons

 1st because it reflects something very special of Him in us

 2. because use of words is a life or death matter

 3. because use of words brings closeness – intimacy in relationships

B. This intro shows that the *9th* isn’t just about ‘Bee-Honest’ but “Bee-Nice”

**II. The good use of Wholesome Words**

**A. Good use is *to tell the truth about a neighbor in a court session***

 1. this *truth telling is so important* that He orders death to false witness

**B. Good use to tell the truth in all non-court contexts**

 1. Jesus taught us to *let our ‘yes be yes and no be no’*

a. we are to be countercultural: *for lying is most common sin*

 b. Lord commands us love & speak truth & to deal in truth

 ● Eph. 4:15, 25 is God’s word- medicine(also Eph. 5:26!)

**C. Good use is to *minister grace through each ear to the heart*** Eph. 4:29

 1. What *separate chief friends (marriage/church/friendships)?*

a. the devil’s smallest tool: *our tongues* (Prov. 16:28 – Prov. 17:9)

 b. taste God’s hatred for the evil of the tongue: Prov. 6:16-17

**D. Good use is *to refuse to use a good thing for bad cause:* words!**

 1. Don’t twist the truth (Gen. 3:1-5)

 2. Don’t exaggerate the truth (Gen. 3:1-5)

 a. to exaggerate is to *inflate the facts* to promote yourself

 b. it may succeed to gain admiration, but it drains a relationship!

 3. Don’t gossip truths: *gossip is truth turned devil’s advocate*

 a. gossip is *spreading ‘truth’* with an evil purpose

b. quite clothing this *devil’s wolf in sheep’s clothing of false religion*

 c. before you share, be sure to do a truth and self-check

 4. Don’t slander

 a. slander is character assassination

 ● Jesus and many of His followers endured this

 5. Don’t flatter with truths or untruths to get favors or deceive

 a. Flattery is giving insincere praise only to advantage yourself

b. Flattery and gossip are evil siblings

Closing Observations:

A. Besides *talking with words* there is *talking without words* that break 9th

B. If you face the *pain of sins against the 9thconsider the Great High Priest*

*Who [Jesus] did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth;*

*Who, when reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.*

1 Peter 2:22-23