

**10/5/18**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

I knew a man who would pick up the bodies of dead deer from the side of the road. He would take the dead deer home, butcher it and then make meals for his family with it. Even though it was roadkill, he served it to his family.

Can you imagine putting something like that into your mouth? The very thought of such a thing makes us cringe and revolt in disgust. You are probably wondering why I would even ask such a question.

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

***Ephesians 4:29***

As much as we can't imagine taking a bite of decaying roadkill *into* our mouths, the Lord doesn't want that kind of filth coming *out of* our mouths. The Greek word we see translated as *unwholesome* gives the picture of that which is rotten or putrid or in the process of decay. It's a gross picture. Think of the words you have been using lately. Does *unwholesome* describe the way you have talked to others? Does it describe the jokes you have made at work or in the locker room? Does it describe the language you listen to regularly on some TV programs and movies? Filthy words have no place in our lives. We deserve God's punishment for even one filthy word that we may have uttered.

Thankfully, our Savior never spoke that way. His words were perfectly loving and pure and noble. Even from the cross as he was dying for you and me, he spoke words of love

and forgiveness when he said: “Father forgive them,” and “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” He still speaks that way to us today! Throughout God’s Word, Jesus speaks words of love to you and me. He says that we are his children through faith. He says that heaven is our home. He says he will never leave us or forsake us and he says that we are the very apple of his eye.

With this love of Jesus in our hearts and minds, let’s resolve to let his love flow out of our mouths in all that we say.

***Prayer:** Dear Jesus, forgive me for the filthy words I have spoken. Fill me and encourage me with your love and forgiveness and help me to speak in ways that will benefit others. Amen.*

*(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)*

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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