

The Spoken VS the Written word

The Romans, known for their emphasis on law, used to say that "The tongue is free, but the pen is restricted." It means that while we can say whatever is on our minds without worrying much about how our words will be interpreted later, we cannot do the same when it comes to putting our spoken words on paper.

People can always deny what is attributed to them as expressed in words; they can also claim to have forgotten what they had said or that their words were misunderstood. But when it comes to the written word, people can neither deny nor pretend to have forgotten what they had written; the written word will always be there for everyone to read and judge. Now that the written word could be replaced by a recorded one, the spoken word, when recorded, has become as binding as the written one.

While most people can escape responsibility for the spoken word, no one can escape responsibility for the written or the recorded word.

And when man dies, only his words endure. The spoken one is more likely to live for a short time only and be subject to distortion; the written and recorded words, in contrast, would live forever and be saved all attempts to distort or alter.

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June 2003