

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

142- Speaking out from What is Treasured in the Heart

Church October 12, 2025

Matthew 12:33-37

33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

34 You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

35 The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.

36 But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Words are powerful things. Nations have literally been raised and they have fallen because of Words- and NOT just Actions. We speak *constantly*. And we call our Speech and our Words- "*Communication*". And with Communication- Ideas are brought to Life; Dreams become Reality; and Truth is shared with other people. So, part of being successful in this Life- is to learn how to communicate as best as possible.

And that is true- even in the spiritual Realm. Because the Gospel must be "*preached*" or "*heralded*"- using words. So, in **Mark 16:15**, when Jesus said,

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

... He had in mind that we would actually utter the biblical Gospel- using Words and Phrases and Terminology that the people could understand- in their own Language or Dialect.

He didn't have to- but God used very ordinary men- who were all sinners, who needed God's Grace to be saved- to be the Apostles- who transformed History and who "**upset the World**" (**The Acts 17:6**).

And God used very ordinary Nouns and Verbs and Pronouns and Prepositional Phrases- that everybody on earth uses. Except these Nouns and other “word Tools” that make up the Words used in the Bible- are Inspired and Inerrant and Infallible.

But besides simply the Words themselves- there are a number of things that matter when heralding the Gospel. For Example, you can speak the Truth- but speak it *unclearly*. So, even though *everything* you say may be true- if people can’t understand what your saying- it doesn’t do them any Good. Now by saying that- I do NOT mean that we have to speak in a Way that *avoids* Depth or that seeks to never get into anything Profound that requires Thought. We are NOT better off by avoiding hard Subjects in the Bible. And that is part of what is Wrong with the modern Church. They “dumb the Gospel down” to the point where hardly any serious Information is conveyed.

I recently met a man in the store, who told me he was holding Bible Study in his Home. And I thought it was great- but then made the Mistake of asking him which Book of the Bible he was studying. Well, turns out, he wasn’t studying any Book of the Bible- he was simply going through a book about a Book of the Bible. So, I told him he might want to actually look at a Book of the Bible.

After a few weeks, I saw him again. And I asked how things were going with his Bible Study that wasn’t studying the Bible. And he told me that he has run into some Problems because some of the people didn’t agree with what was being taught. And so, he told me that God the Holy Spirit had led him into a Solution. He had decided that in order to preserve “Unity”- he was no longer going to get into anything that was “Controversial”. And that is *exactly* what is happening all over this Country.

So, please allow me to say something about that. EVERY major Truth in the Bible- is Controversial! The Virgin Birth; Full Deity of Christ; the Sinless Life; The Resurrection; the Trinity; Justification by Faith Alone- absent Works- there isn’t ANY major, fundamental Truth in the Bible- that we MUST believe, in order to be saved- that hasn’t been fought against and rejected from the Moment it was first taught until this morning! I mean, after all- we’re talking about a supernatural God and the Miracle of Salvation!

And yet, the Bible teaches that “keeping or maintaining or preserving Unity” among the already saved people in the Church is very Important. **Psalm 133:1** says,

A Song of Ascents of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwelt together in unity!

... and Jesus Himself prayed this Way in **John 17:23**:

I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

The Apostle Paul was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to *infallibly* write this in **Ephesians 4:1-3**:

**1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,
2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,
3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

... and that same Apostle said this in verses 11-13:

**11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,
12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.**

... and Paul also wrote this to the Church at Colossae¹:

**12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
(Colossians 3:12-14)**

... so, Yes! Working real hard and praying to arrive at; and then maintaining “Unity” among the saved people of the Church- is something we are *commanded* to do; and something that reaps wonderful Blessings for everybody! But NOT at the Expense of having and loving and obeying and defending the Truth! We are told to have BOTH!

¹ Colossae was a city in the ancient Region of Phrygia, which today is in the center of modern-day Turkey.

So, seeking to preserve “Unity” at the Expense of “Truth”- is one of the *worst* things any Church can do. THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE HAVE TODAY- IS TRUTH! Because without the Absolute, Eternal, and Infallible Truth of the sacred Scriptures- we have NOTHING to be in Unity about!

Years ago, I was a part of an Effort for the Churches on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to come into “Unity”. And many people from various churches met each week to pray and sing and talk about how to have this Unity. And we would sing about *“Tearing the Walls of Division Down”* and we would hold hands; and pray about Unity. But I began to see a very curious thing. In all of those Efforts- there was NEVER a mention of Doctrine or Theology or Truth. In fact, there was a premeditated and concerted Effort to *avoid* even *talking* or *praying* about being in the Unity we were supposed to believe in!

And so, I talked to the Organizer of the “Unity Effort” and he told me, *“We don’t get into that- because Doctrine Divides!”* And I replied, *“Yes it does! But ONLY with those who don’t want to agree with Scripture!”* And he said, *“Right- but if we begin to talk about what we are supposed to believe- then the Catholics and the Mormons and the Oneness Pentecostals would stop coming!”* And I said, *“Probably, but if we aren’t in Unity about what to believe- we really aren’t in Unity at all! And it’s all just a Mirage! And if we don’t arrive at Unity about Truth- then those people, who are deceived right now- will NEVER be saved!”* And he told me that if that is what I want- I shouldn’t keep coming to his Event- because that is NOT what he wanted.

So, people *say* they want to be in Unity- but they also want to keep their own Man-made and False Beliefs- that are the avowed Enemy of true, genuine, and biblical Unity! It is a very schizophrenic Way to go about Unity! Because unless we are in Unity around the Truth- then whatever “Unity” we think we may have- is worthless!

The ONLY Pathway to true, genuine, and lasting Unity- is for a Miracle to take place- where God the Holy Spirit activates the Minds and the Hearts of the people- so that we all agree with Scripture! And for that Miracle to take place- *requires* that we teach and study and learn the Scriptures- so we will understand what we are to be in Agreement with!

And that is what genuine Bible Study is all about. You see, we all ALREADY believe certain things- Way BEFORE we are saved! We ALREADY *believe* certain things and we ALREADY *reject* other things. We take what Momma taught us; and what we have read and studied ourselves; and what somebody else has taught us; and what we heard; or what we have sung about- and we put that all together and THAT is our own personal Theology! And EVERYBODY already has that- even *before* they are saved!

And so, the Purpose of Bible Study is to *confront* what we ALREADY believe with the Inerrancy and Infallibility of the 66 Books of the Holy Bible. And *some* of what we *already* believe will be *confirmed* to us as being true and in alignment with what God has spoken in Scripture! And we are to *celebrate* that! But *some* of what we *already* believe- will be shown to be False- when confronted with the Truth of the Bible. And at that Point- we should ask God to give us the Courage and the Strength to *discard; reject; and throw away* what we have been taught; and what we have ALREADY believed! And then, we should want to *fully and humbly and joyfully* embrace; and believe; and love; and obey; and defend- the Word of Truth!

And that is what Jesus meant when He said this in **Matthew 28:20**:

.... teaching them [those who have been saved through the heralding of the Gospel] **to observe all that I commanded you**

Here, our Lord meant the *ongoing* Teaching of God's Word in "*Line upon Line; Precept upon Precept*" Bible Studies- that HAVE to be taught with Words; Concepts; and Phrases- in a Way that people can understand- in their own Language! And even as far as entering into Salvation- that, too, is accomplished by proclaiming Words:

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. (Romans 10:9&10)

... yet, everybody doesn't agree with that.

For Example, the false religion of Islam is spread around the World- *primarily* through Violence; Threat; the edge of the Sword; or the Promise of that Violence. So, Islam spreads through *physical* Intimidation. And that is by *specific* Permission and even Command from both the Qur'an and by the personal Example of Mohamed himself!

But Christianity has become the *largest* Religion in the History of Man- through Persuasion and NOT by Intimidation. And even though throughout History- there have been evil men, who have carried out horrific Acts of Violence and Intimidation- "in the name" of Jesus or the Bible- the Distinction is they did those evil Deeds of Violence and Intimidation- by *ignoring* and by *sinning against* the express Prohibition and the strong Condemnation of both the Bible and the personal Example of Jesus! True Salvation is carried out by speaking Words and hearing and believing those Words; and NOT by the edge of the Sword!

But because we are all “*fallen Creatures of the Dust*”- our Words don’t always line up with the Truth. And so, we *brag*; we *embellish* Stories to make them look more spiritual; or so they will be more attractive to more people. We *exaggerate*; and, sometimes, we just tell Lies. But telling Lies is a Sin. And God is concerned with protecting the veracity of our Words. And so, through various human Writers, God Almighty said,

The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth. (Psalm 58:3)

Everyone who swears by Him will glory, For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped. (Psalm 63:11)

3 For your hands are defiled with blood And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken falsehood, Your tongue mutters wickedness.

4 No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly. They trust in confusion and speak lies; They conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity. (Isaiah 59:3&4)

5 “Everyone deceives his neighbor And does not speak the truth, They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves committing iniquity. (Jeremiah 9:5)

As for both kings, their hearts will be intent on evil, and they will speak lies to each other at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still to come at the appointed time. (Daniel 11:27)

Woe to them, for they have strayed from Me! Destruction is theirs, for they have rebelled against Me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against Me. (Hosea 7:13)

and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it [the city of New Jerusalem], but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (The Revelation 21:27)

Outside [the city of New Jerusalem] are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. (The Revelation 22:15)

... so, *obviously*, God is very concerned that His people speak the Truth.

Therefore, we are NOT given Grace by speaking, what people call, “*White Lies*” or by uttering “*Half- Truths*”. Because saying ANYTHING for the Purpose of *deceiving* somebody- is NOT Good nor is it honoring to God. It is, in fact, telling a “*Whole Lie*”! So, just speak the Truth at all Times- even if doing so brings about Punishment or other “Bad Things” to you Temporarily!

People who say they are saved- MUST be people of the Truth. And we are to NOT merely have some *casual* Relationship with the Truth. We, who, “*name the Name of Jesus*” MUST *value* the Truth; we MUST *love* the Truth; we MUST seek and strive to *obey* the Truth; and we MUST *speak* the Truth at all Times!

But if people tell Lies- *how* can we *trust* what somebody says? If people have the Capacity to lie- *how* do we *know* when or if they are telling the Truth? Jesus answered that Question in verse 33:

Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

So, Jesus said the Tree or the Individual- is “**known**” by its “Fruit”- and NOT just the Words he speaks. And the word, “**know**”- as used in this verse- comes from a Greek word (*ginosko*; Strong’s #1097) that means: *to understand something from something else*. So, Jesus was saying that by *examining* the “Fruit” (the unmistakable Proof) that *naturally* flows out from the Way a person lives his normal, daily Life- and NOT just how he acts in Church on Sunday Morning²- we can understand if that person is Saved or Lost; and we can determine if what he speaks is Truth.

So, the Way Jesus put it in verse 33 was: “*Allow people to prove themselves and prove if their Words are True- by the Way they live their normal daily Lives.*” And this is very similar to what Jesus said in **The Revelation 3:15&16:**

15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot.

16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

Jesus said He knew; He understood; and He comprehended our DEEDS. And He made a Determination about us- based on our Deeds or what we do; our Fruit; or how we live our normal, daily Lives. And then He said,

² This, of course, requires some form of ongoing Fellowship developed with those people

“I wish that you were cold or hot.”!

... and that does NOT mean our Savior would be pleased if a person was “*Cold*”- but that He simply wants *everybody* to actually “Be”- who they say they are.

So, being “*Cold*” has to do with being spiritually *Indifferent* while being “*Hot*” has to do with “*being on Fire*” for the Lord. And **Romans 12:9-21** describes what being “*Hot*” looks like:

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord

12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

20 "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

... that’s what being “*Hot*”- in Jesus’ Terminology- looks like. Which would mean being “*Cold*” would be the *opposite* of these Qualities.

Yet, Jesus was NOT being Naïve in talking about the Importance of our Words. Because, normally, when Jesus is speaking about our Words- it is understood that this *includes* the Way we live our normal, daily Lives (Our Fruit)!

Over 500 years ago, the great Reformer, John Calvin said,

“The Tongue exists to reveal our Heart”

... and over 2,000 years ago, God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the *first* Pastor of the Church in Jerusalem to *infallibly* say this in **James 3:4-12**:

4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.

9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?

12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

... which is what Jesus meant when He said this in **Matthew 12:34b**,

... For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

... and this in **Matthew 15:17-20**:

17 Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated?

18 But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

20 These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

Now in Context- what Jesus said here in **Matthew 12** as well as **Matthew 15**- was Him talking *directly* to the Self-righteous and hypocritical Pharisees. But

the Truth about the Connection of the Mouth and the Tongue with the human Heart is applicable for EVERYBODY!

You see, “*Evil*” in the World- the “*Evil*” that exists all over the World- that causes so many Problems- is NOT an “animate Object”- like a Tree; or like Dirt; or a Person. “*Evil*” might be defined as:

The *Summation* of ALL the Thoughts; Intentions; Choices; and Actions of ALL the lost and unsaved people of the World put together- whose Heart is NOT Right with God- that doesn’t glorify God.

... so, *contrary* to what Psychologists and Psychiatrists and Sociologists teach- Evil is NOT *external* to the Human. Jesus said “Evil” *originated* first with satan when he was cast down to the earth like Lightning! But after Adam sinned and fell- Evil now comes forth from the human Heart of ALL lost people- and then goes out into the World!

So, when people ask, “*Why does a Good God allow Evil in the World? Why doesn’t He stop it?*” Or when they ask, “*If God is Sovereign- then WHY is there so much Evil around?*” BY asking those Questions, they reveal that they really do NOT understand God; nor themselves; nor Evil very well.

So, what constitutes, “*Evil*”? What Acts; what Thoughts; what Choices; what “Intentions of the Heart” qualify as being “Evil”? Does a person have to be a Mass-murderer to be Evil? Does he have to be a Pedophile to classify as being Evil? IS being Evil- relegated to only people Like Adolf Hitler or Genghis Kahn; or Mao; or Pol Pot; or Joseph Stalin?

No! Because when a person desires to live in a Universe and a Planet that was created by God; when they breathe air that God made; with lungs that God created; with a heart that beats at the Permission of God- and all the while *ignore* the God that made all that possible. When people that God fashioned Himself- in His Image and Likeness-have the Audacity and the unmitigated Gall to want to be Happy- *without* God; *without* Grace; and while *repeatedly* sinning against God; while shaking their fist into the Face of Almighty God by their abject Refusal to submit themselves to Him and His Ways- THAT, my Friends, is the very Epitome of Evil!

In fact, when we see God- in His incomparable Majesty- stand before us in His pristine Glory- with His Arms outstretched to welcome us into His Bosom- and we then look Him in the Face and say, “*No thank You, I would rather have my stamp collection!*” Or, we say, “*You don’t make me Happy- but my petunia Garden does!*” Or, we say, “*NO, I get MORE out of Football; or my Computer Games; or my Cars; or my Books; or my Job- than I do with You!*” We couldn’t be any MORE Evil than that! We couldn’t Sin against God than that!

So, the Reason God doesn't destroy ALL Evil right now- is because God would have to destroy you and me! The Reason God *allows* Evil to go on- is NOT because He isn't strong enough! It is because of His Mercy towards all of us evil people- that stops Him! And so, God has designed two Ways by which He will eliminate ALL Evil from the world:

1. Through eternal Salvation now
2. Through eternal Damnation later

... and God will be gloried either Way!

So, the Bible teaches we are ALL "Evil"! And we ALL *deserve* God's Condemnation! And God would be Just to simply damn ALL of us! But IN His great Mercy and BY His amazing Grace- the one, true, and living God has determined to rescue *some* of the Evil people from His Wrath!

But the Determination of *which* evil people will be saved; and *which* ones will be damned- is the sovereign Prerogative of God- and NOT the Choice of Man! And that is why the bitter Prophet said this in **Jonah 2:9**:

"Salvation is from the Lord"

But please look again at **Matthew 12:35**:

The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.

It is fairly easy to understand what Jesus meant when He said,

The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good ...

... but what in the world did Jesus mean when He said,

... and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.?

How can any evil man have a "Treasure"? And how can that Treasure itself be called, "Evil"? And how can anything brought out from a "Treasure" also be "Evil"?

The fact that Jesus called what the evil man has- a "Treasure"- has to do with the Value that the Evil man has placed on what he has. It is a Treasure- to that evil man- because it is what he values; what he

loves; what he wants; what is important to him. So, the evil man has placed great value and Importance on something that Jesus called, “Evil”!

The fact that this evil man has to “*bring out*” that Evil- from his evil Treasure- shows us that this is something *internal* inside of him. So, he has to “*bring it out*”. This is an Indication that Jesus was talking about the evil condition of the Heart of those religious Frauds. How do I know that? Because back in **Matthew 6:21**- the Lord said,

Where your Treasure is- there your heart will be also

... so, the human Heart is connected to *whatever* we treasure; or whatever we value or whatever we love and view as Important! So, we love what we value; we love what we see as Important and useful and whatever brings us Joy!

And in Salvation- that Treasure is Jesus! And so, when God *unveils* our Minds and Eyes and softens our Hearts in the Miracle of the New Birth- we see the Glory of God in the Person of Jesus as being the Treasure of the Universe! And our Hearts begin to *love* that Treasure! And what that “good man”- that “saved man” “brings out” (speaks)- from his Mouth- the Words he speaks- flows out from the good Treasure (Jesus) that now lives inside his Heart! And so, his Words are also “Good” meaning they glorify God!

But the Heart of the Pharisees was Evil- even though they were, supposedly, the single most godly and righteous people in all of 1st Century Israel! And satan had blinded their minds so they could not “see”; or “comprehend”; or “understand”; or “believe”; or “love”; or take Joy” in the Glory of God in the Person of Jesus!

But *every* Heart of ALL lost people is Evil- to the extent I have already explained. So, the fact that Jesus *elaborates* here- shows us that the Pharisees were *unusually* Evil! The Evil in those men went way beyond the “normal Evil” that exists inside everyone, who is Lost! Those men didn’t merely sin against God- they *hated* Jesus! Those men *blasphemed* the Holy Spirit! Those men were planning on *murdering* God incarnate! And so, their Evil was *way beyond* anything in most other people. And that means that the Judgment of God against them was also unusual and extraordinary! Please read what Jesus Himself said about them from **Matthew 23: 33-35**:

33 "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?

34 "Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,

35 so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

Every Jew, who was Lost back then, did NOT receive this level of Judgment from God! This horrific Judgment was *reserved* for the Pharisees and ALL who were in Alignment with them- in their satanic Hatred of Jesus! And Jesus was very specific about the Time-frame this Judgment would come in the very next verse that says,

Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

... which is a Promise that before that Generation of people died out- all this frightening and horrific Judgment Jesus promised here would come to pass! And it did- around 70AD- which is what **Matthew 24** is about- Jesus “*Coming*” in Judgment against faithless; rebellious; and unbelieving Israel- who were led by the Pharisees! And in that “*Coming in Judgment*”- God utterly *eliminated* every vestige of the Old Covenant- like the Temple; animal Sacrifices; the Levitical Priesthood; the Sanhedrin Court; as well as all the genealogical Records- that encouraged them to understand Salvation being by Blood-line and not by Grace through Faith in Jesus! And God *purposefully* brought the Jewish people to a Place of complete Destruction- so they will eventually turn to their Messiah- the Lord Jesus Christ- and be saved! Now look at verses 36&37:

36 But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

For some Reason, there are many people, who have a real Problem understanding that we will- ultimately- be judged on our Works and by our Words. Over in **Romans 2**- the Apostle taught that God will render to every person- according to his Deeds. And here, it says He will judge men according to their Words. By your Works and your Words- will come your eternal Judgment- because what you *treasure*- what you *love*; how you *talk*; and what you *do*- all come from the same Source- either by being Fallen and Unsaved or being Born Again!

Now in no way does this Truth negate being Justified by Grace through Faith- ALONE! Instead, how we *think*; what we *do* and how we *speak*- PROVES whether the Salvation we think we have- is real! So, true and genuine Salvation

will ALWAYS demonstrates itself in Good Works; Good Thoughts; as well as Good Words- so they become the objective Criteria by which God makes that Judgment.

The Words of human beings are accurate “Gauges of the Heart”. If you have a *transformed* Nature- and Jesus Christ rules over your Mind and Heart and Desires and is the focus of your Joy- you WILL speak Words by which God will “justify” you. But if Jesus has never changed your Life- then you will speak Words by which God will absolutely “condemn” you!

Ephesians 2:10 tells us that the Salvation that is ONLY BY the Grace of God and that is ONLY THROUGH the Gift of saving Faith- is made manifest in each person’s Life- by the Good Works, which God has ordained before Time- that we should walk in them! Why? Because each one of us is the “*Workmanship*” of God! So, yes! We’re saved by Grace through Faith ALONE! But we are saved- UNTO Good Works and Words- because the Works and the Words *prove* that the Grace and Faith is there- and is working in us!

So, God can look objectively at all of our Words- which proves whether we’ve been Redeemed. And our Judgment- God’s Determination about us- is based on that! So, if you have any Question about whether you’re saved- listen to yourself when you talk- when nobody is around; or when you’re angry; or when you’re discouraged; or upset; or thoughtless. Because Words will reveal what is in your Heart!

The Bible declares that even though God is absolutely Sovereign; over everything; all the Time- every person is always Responsible for what he says and what he does. And so, if he consciously *rejects* Jesus Christ, then he is going to be Responsible for the Judgment that will follow.

So, when the Lost stand before God and God asks them, “*Why didn’t you love Me and strive to obey Me? Why did you talk the Way you talked? Why did you do what you did?*” There is ONLY one Answer the Wicked will give, “*I didn’t love You or obey You- because I didn’t want to! And I said what I said and did what I did- because that’s what I wanted to do!*” And they will be condemned!

But when the Redeemed stand before God and He asks, “*Why DID you love Me and strive to obey Me? Why did you say what you said and did what you did?*”- there is ONLY one Answer they will give, “*I loved You and I tried to obey You- I said what I said and did what I did- because You chose me; You gave me new, spiritual Life; You forgave me; You made me Righteous; You saved me; and You changed my Mind and my Heart! So, the Reason I loved you and strove to obey You- the Reason I said those Words and engaged in those Acts- is because of what You alone did for me!*” And they will be justified!

Amen! Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God ALONE!