

Everyone Will Give Account

Ezekiel 18:1-32; Matthew 12:33-37 / Psalm 52:1-9

I. Christians Live in a World of Words

A. Jesus Himself is intimately connected with the concept word. In the beginning was the Word, and *the Word was with God, and the Word was God*. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.* (JOHN 1:1-4)

B. The Scriptures where believers encounter God are incredibly powerful. For *the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* (HEBREWS 4:12)

C. The new life and new nature enter through words. *Being born again*, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, *by the word of God*, which liveth and abideth for ever. (1 PETER 1:23) *along with Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* (JOHN 17:17)

II. What Does God Hear from You?

A. God ignores nothing. But I say unto you, That *every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.* (MATTHEW 12:36)

B. People talk themselves out of safety into danger. He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: *but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.* (PROVERBS 13:3)

C. God will give every word what it deserves. For *God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.* (ECCLESIASTES 12:14)

D. What have you collected for eternity? For *by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.* (MATTHEW 12:37) *along with And I saw the dead*, small and great, *stand before God*; and *the books were opened*: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (REVELATION 20:12)

III. Do Not Believe the Privacy Lie

A. A person's fundamental nature will appear in the life that person lives. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for *the tree is known by his fruit.* (MATTHEW 12:33)

1. The inner person can contain only so much and therefore a person must remove what is bad and replace it with what is right. *Cast away from you all your transgressions*, whereby ye have transgressed; and *make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die*, O house of Israel? (EZEKIEL 18:31)

2. Righteousness does not occur naturally or by accident; it must be intentionally cultivated in hope. *Hate the evil, and love the good*, and *establish judgment in the gate*: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph. (AMOS 5:15)

3. James connected approaching God and developing a single focused mind. ***Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*** Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and ***purify your hearts, ye double minded.*** (JAMES 4:8)

B. Hypocritical lies do not change fundamental realities. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for ***out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*** (MATTHEW 12:34)

1. There may be explanations but never excuses for sin. ***In this the children of God are manifest,*** and the children of the devil: ***whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,*** neither he that loveth not his brother. (1 JOHN 3:10)

2. God sees through deceit and deals with the underlying reality. ***Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor,*** working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good; and ***lying rather than to speak righteousness.*** SELAH. Thou lovest all devouring words, ***O thou deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy thee*** for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and ***root thee out of the land of the living.*** SELAH. (PSALM 52:2-5)

3. The presumption of the atheist that there is no God to settle accounts removes the moral governor which prevents wickedness. ***The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.*** (PSALM 53:1)

4. The evil which makes people miserable first must begin and mature internally before it erupts into evil practice. For ***the vile person will speak villainy,*** and ***his heart will work iniquity,*** to ***practice hypocrisy,*** and to ***utter error*** against the LORD, ***to make empty the soul of the hungry,*** and he will cause the ***drink of the thirsty to fail.*** (ISAIAH 32:6)

C. The life of the mind cannot be hidden; it will display itself. ***A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things;*** and ***an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*** (MATTHEW 12:35)

1. When the inner person lives in the presence of the mind of God, the outer conduct will flow. The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. ***The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.*** (PSALM 37:30-31)

2. Get rid of what doesn't produce good. ***Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*** (EPHESIANS 4:29)

3. Righteousness will crowd out unrighteousness. ***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*** (COLOSSIANS 3:16)