

KEEPING AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

I don't really have a message tonight because this week has been so hectic, I just haven't had the time to sit down in front of my computer and put one together. I probably should have canceled this week's chat room, but I really thought I would have enough time by the end of the week to get something together. But it didn't work out that way. I ran into a lot of problems with my new situation. So tonight, I just have a few thoughts that I'd like to share.

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 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. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Matthew 12:34-37

I'd like to point out a few important concepts that are found in this one passage—concepts that *directly contradict* the false message of “grace” and/or “faith” that’s being propagated all over this planet right now. This will not be new for you guys. It’s more of a reminder to help us walk softly, soberly and righteously before our God, who is holy, and who will one day *judge us* according to the words we have spoken and how we have lived our lives on this earth.

Notice in this passage that Jesus is talking to the *leaders* of God’s people. He was talking to the ones who were given the responsibility to transmit the Law and the requirements of God to his people. But these men, the Lord called “vipers”. In using the term “viper”, Jesus was not just likening them to serpents in general, which are cunning and deceitful. He was in fact highlighting the fact that these men were extremely dangerous. He didn’t simply call them “serpents”; he called them “vipers”.

There is a Greek term for “serpent”—it’s “*ophis*” (of-is); Strong’s # 3789. It means “a snake”. It also contains the idea of “sharpness of vision” and figuratively, it implies a type of sly cunning; an artful and malicious person. Also, the idea of danger is contained in this term because many kinds of snakes are poisonous. Jesus used this term to describe both the *craftiness* and the danger of a snake.

*Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore **wise as serpents**, and harmless as doves.*

Matthew 10:16

*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; **They shall take up serpents**; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

Mark 16:17-18

In the passage we are looking at, Jesus does use the “*ophis*” (serpents) to describe the leaders of Israel. But He goes even further and *adds* another Greek term—“*echidna*” (ekh-id-nah); Strong’s # 2191—which is the Greek generic term for a “poisonous” snake. It was an “*echidna*” (viper) that bit the apostle Paul on the island of Miletus:

*And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, **there came a viper [”echidna”] out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.** And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when **he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.***

Acts 28:3-6

So when Jesus called these men “serpents” and “vipers”, you can be sure He was exposing not just their hypocrisy and their cunning, but also, just *how dangerous* they were to the people who had been placed under their care. These men were supposed to be leading the people of Israel into a walk of obedience to Jehovah that would usher them into the kingdom of God. But instead, they were doing just the opposite! Listen to what Jesus says of them:

*And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye **shut up the kingdom of heaven** against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, **neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.***

Matthew 23:12-13

The very leaders who were supposed to be leading the people of God into His kingdom, were neither entering into that kingdom themselves, nor would they allow those who were trying to enter it, go in! These leaders were *spiritual poison* to the people under their care. They were destroying them *spiritually*, just like a poisonous snake destroys a person. To these men, who were spiritual poison to everyone around them, Jesus said: “...*how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh*”. This is one of those verses Calvinists love to refer people to in order to prove their false doctrine that the heart of man will *always* be wicked, even after it has been converted and filled with the Holy Spirit. Their two other favorite passages are Matthew 15:19-20 and Jeremiah 17:9:

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Matthew 15:19-20

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

By “comparing scripture with scripture”, deluded preachers and Bible teachers have seduced multitudes of people, convincing them that their “hearts” will *always* remain wicked, regardless of how long or how faithfully they serve the Lord. But if you will “rightly divide” the Word of truth, you will see that this whole idea error. After telling the Pharisees that their hearts were wicked and that only evil things can proceed out of them, what did Jesus say next? He said: “*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*”.

Did you hear that? A GOOD man, out of a GOOD heart, bringeth forth GOOD things. But an EVIL man, out of an EVIL heart, bringeth forth EVIL. This one sentence destroys the very foundation of Calvinism because John Calvin believed and taught that we will Never be “good”. The heart of man; the will of man; the emotions of man; the desires of man; the thinking process of man; they will *all remain evil* as long as you and I live. The Calvinist sees no difference between a “Christian” and an unregenerated “pagan”. He looks at *both* of them and says: “*Your heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked and it will always remain that way*”. In his blind arrogance, he totally ignores what Jesus said in our opening passage—that people can be “good”, that they can have a “good” heart, and that they can bring forth “good” things out of that good heart!

Now, I want you to stop and consider how all these deceived Calvinists are going to feel when they stand before the Lord on judgment day, and they realize that they have ignored the very words of Christ and choose to preach just the opposite message instead? Regardless of what God does with them eternally, can you imagine the embarrassment, the shame, the humiliation, the grief and the sorrow that will sweep over them like a tidal wave? Not only will they see how arrogant and deceived they were. They will have to live with the knowledge that they were *used by Satan* to deceive literally *hundreds of thousands* of other believers! Just imagine the guilt they will experience as they are forced to acknowledge and accept the truth.

Of course, these same Calvinist’s don’t really believe *they* will be judged like *that*. Even though Jesus and every apostle in the New Testament warned us that we (Christians) will be judged according to our “works” (meaning: deed), these people reject that truth and teach just the opposite. They teach anyone who will listen to them that if you are a genuine Christian, you will never be judged by God for how you lived in this life. How blind do you have to be to read the following words of Jesus, and yet *ignore* them and believe just the revers?

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Could Jesus have said what He meant any clearer? Is there any vagueness in this statement? Is His meaning not crystal clear? Everyone—Christian and pagan alike—is going to give an account for what they have said with their mouth in this life! And the term “give account” doesn’t just mean that Jesus is going to

“review” the things we said with us, and then we will be sent on our merry little way. That term carries in it the meaning of *being judged by* what we have said. For you see, Jesus goes on to say: “...*by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned*”. But that doesn’t line up with the “gospel of grace” or the “message of faith” that’s being propagated all over this planet right now—does it? The gospel that’s being preached all over this planet is that God’s being save means we abide under God’s “grace”—and that means we will never have to experience the judgment of God. I mean, doesn’t the bible say it’s only the *unsaved* who will have to stand before God and be judged “according to their works”? Well, we have a choice, don’t we? We can believe the people who are spreading this false gospel all over the world; or we can believe what the Lord Jesus Christ *actually* said.

Again, I want you to consider how all these deluded leaders—theologians, pastors and Bible teachers, are going to feel when they stand before the Lord realize that they have *ignored* the very words of Christ and choose instead to preach a gospel that is just the opposite? Regardless of what God does with them eternally, can you imagine the humiliation, the grief, and the sorrow that will sweep over them? They will stand in the shining light of God’s truth and all the darkness they have lived in, and propagated, will be revealed. There will be no excuses. There will be no hiding from the light. They will be forced to stand there, in the holy presence of Almighty God, and let the light of truth flood their dark and wicked beings!

Added to all this will be the pain of knowing that they were *used by Satan* to deceive literally *hundreds of thousands* of other believers, and that many of those believers will be lost eternally because of the deception they so arrogantly propagated. No wonder the Lord said there will be “weeping and gnashing of teeth” on that day!

We, as God’s people, need to start living our lives in the *light of eternity*. We must begin to live in the reality that one day soon, we are all going to have to stand before a holy and a righteous God and “give account” for the things we have said and done in this life. Jesus plainly said: “...*every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment*”. Do we really believe this? Do we really believe that on that day, we will have to give account for every “idle” word we have spoken; or are we still being influenced (without realizing it) by Antichrist’s gospel, which tells us that we will NOT have to give an account of the “idle” words we have spoken?

What is an “idle” word anyway? The Greek word that’s translate “idle” is “argos” (); Strong’s # 692. It’s a compound Greek term—a = without + érgon = work. It literally means “without work” or “without labor”. It means, “doing nothing, as one not working the ground and so living without labor. In the New Testament, *argos* always describes something “inoperative” or “unserviceable”. It describes that which is not working, ineffective, barren, yielding no return or worthless, not accomplishing anything.

Argos was also used to describe money that was yielding no interest or of a field lying fallow. It conveys several ideas depending on the context—(1) unemployed (without anything to do; *Matt 20:3,6, I. Tim. 5:13*); (2) being unwilling to work (wanting nothing to do, shunning the labor which one ought to perform, lazy); and (3) unproductive (useless, unprofitable or worthless; *James 2:20, II. Pet. 1:8, Matt. 12:36*). In the passage we are looking at tonight, Jesus said: “...*every careless (literally “not working”, barren, unproductive) word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.*” Jesus meant for us to read these words and think about the implications of what comes out of our mouths. Are our words “working” (*ergon*)? Are they words that are productive with regards to the kingdom of God?

Well, what about “idle” DEEDS?

If the Judge is going to make us give an account for every idle “word”, don’t you think He will *also* make us give an account for all our idle (*barren, unproductive*) “deeds”? How much of our lives is taken up by frivolous, non-essential things? How much of our lives is consumed with the things of this world? Don’t we remember what the apostle John said?

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

I. John. 2:15-17

How much of “the world” is part of our lives. Do you realize how many “Christians” LOVE this world and the THINGS OF this world? Yet they claim they love the Father too? They are deceived! They are liars! We cannot love this world or the things of this world and love God too. We have to choose one or the other. If we try and cling to both, we will end up and terrible religious deception. And remember this—those who love this world and the things of this world, also love *the Prince* of this world. You can’t *separate* the Ruler of this world from the world he rules and the things of the world which are his! Many Christians are in for a very rude awakening on Judgment Day because on that day they will realize that not only did they NOT love the Lord who died for them; they DID love His enemy. They loved Satan because they loved *the things* of Satan—which are the things of *this world*!