



**"WORDS – LIFE OR DEATH" BIBLE STUDY**

**ROBERT MORRIS – GATEWAY CHURCH**

**LESSON #1 – "THE VALUE OF WORDS"**

**Lesson #1- Words – "The Value of Words"** Robert Morris teaching series -Scripture Verses, Commentary notes and Review Questions by Salt Shakin Sister Ministry:[www.saltshakinsister.com](http://www.saltshakinsister.com)

# Lesson #1 – The Value of Words

Scripture Verses for this lesson

Proverbs 18:20-21

John 1:1

John 1:14

Psalms 107:20

Romans 10:8-10

Romans 10:13

Matthew 12:31-37

Proverbs 18:20-22

Ephesians 5:25-26

## NKJV – SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Proverbs 18:20-22-A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; *From* the produce of his lips he shall be filled.<sup>21</sup> Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

John 1:1- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14-.<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Romans 10:8-10-<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13-<sup>13</sup> For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Matthew 12:31-37-<sup>31</sup> "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. <sup>32</sup> Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

<sup>33</sup> "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit. <sup>34</sup> Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. <sup>36</sup> But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

## Lesson #1 Studied with Commentary/Notes

Proverbs 18:20-22-*A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.*<sup>21</sup> Death and life are in the power of the tongue  
*And those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Commentary Notes: A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

Here is wisdom to find fulfillment and peace in life: learn to talk better (Pr 18:21). This proverb has many figures of speech, but the lesson is simple. If you will improve your speaking, you will be blessed in many ways by God, by others, and even by your own soul

Your belly here is your heart, soul, spirit, and conscience

They are fulfilled and satisfied, when you speak well . The fruit of your mouth is gracious and wise words, which is the good trait of speaking correctly You may also bring prosperity and success to all parts of your life by your words. David and Peter made proper speech one of the means for a blessed life Solomon also taught this fact in other

The increase of your lips in this proverb is the improvement that you make to your speech by learning the rules of wisdom for the tongue and lips Solomon had much to say on this subject, and you can increase the sweetness and value of your speech by ruling your words for the glory of God and profit of man.

How many times have you later said to yourself, "Why did I say that?" If you have a conscience (all good men have strong consciences), then you have grieved for foolish or hurtful words you let escape from your mouth. It is this frustrating pain in life that you can eliminate by learning gracious speech. Solomon knew the chance of sin increased with much speaking, so he recommended fewer. This saying is wise: If you cannot say anything kind and helpful, then say nothing at all.

How many times have others said, “Why did she say that?” Have you left others bleeding from the piercing of the sword in your mouth (Pr 12:18)? Your tongue is for the health and wealth of others, but you often leave them angered, grieving, or confused. Sometimes they tell you about it; most of the time they just suffer in silence. When you find out the pain and damage you have caused, it is a burden on your soul. God gave you a tongue for more than swallowing food. **He named it your glory** (Ps 30:12; 12 *To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever.*) ( Ps 108:1).

By proper use the tongue can glorify God. You can be a tree of life to others by helpful and encouraging speech (Pr 15:4; Eph 4:29). The person who graciously teaches truth and wisdom to others is rare and

**Is it easy to change your speech habits? It is easier to train a cobra to sip milk from a bowl and purr on your lap** (Jas 3:1-12). *But God gave you Proverbs. Guard your speech. Cut your words in half. Think before you speak. Rule your spirit. Love graciousness. Make every word helpful and kind. Despise harshness. Hate talebearing. Purify your thoughts. Reject foolish indiscretions. **Work harder at listening. Build others up.***

**John 1:1-** In the **beginning was** the Word, and the Word **was** with God, and the Word **was** God. – (God has ALWAYS been here – WAS is past tense)

**John 1:14-**<sup>14</sup> And the **Word became flesh** (Jesus came in the flesh-the image of the invisible God) and **dwelt among us** (Jesus and the Holy Spirit dwells inside of us) , and **we beheld** His glory, *the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14 - \*What does “the glory of the only begotten of the Father mean? Let’s look it up Commentary Notes:

*But now that the fulness of time was come, he was, after another manner, God manifested in the flesh. **But observe the beams of his Divine glory, which darted through this veil of flesh.** Men discover their weaknesses to those most familiar with them, but it was not so with Christ; those most intimate with him saw most of his glory. Although he was in the form of a servant, as to outward circumstances, yet, in respect of graces, **his form was like the Son of God His Divine glory appeared in the holiness of his doctrine, and in his miracles. He was full of grace, fully acceptable to his Father, therefore qualified to plead for us; and full of truth, fully aware of the things he was to reveal.***

Romans 10:8-10<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? “The (1)word is near you, (2) in your mouth and (3) in your heart” (that is, the **word of faith** which we preach): <sup>9</sup> that **if** you **confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus **and believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will **be saved.** <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13<sup>13</sup> For “**whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.**”

Matthew 12:31-37<sup>31</sup> “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, **but** the *blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men*.

<sup>32</sup> Anyone who speaks a **word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him**.

but *whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him*, either in this age or in the *age to come*. <sup>33</sup> “Either make the **tree good and its fruit good**, or else make the **tree bad and its fruit bad**; for a **tree is known by its fruit**. <sup>34</sup> Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks**. <sup>35</sup> A **good man** out of the **good treasure** of his heart brings forth **good things**, and an **evil man** out of the **evil treasure** brings forth **evil things**. <sup>36</sup> But I say to you that for **every idle word** men may speak, they **will give account** of it in the day of judgment. <sup>37</sup> For **by** your words you will be **justified**, and **by** your words you will be **condemned**.

### Matthew Henry Commentary:

Matthew 12:33-37 Men's language discovers what country they are of, likewise what manner of spirit they are of. **The heart is the fountain, words are the streams. A troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring, must send forth muddy and unpleasant streams. Nothing but the salt of grace, cast into the spring, will heal the waters, season the speech, and purify the corrupt communication.** An evil man has an evil treasure in his heart, and out of it brings forth evil things. Lusts and corruptions, dwelling and reigning in the heart, are an evil treasure, out of which the sinner brings forth bad words and actions, to dishonor God, and hurt others. Let us keep constant watch over ourselves, that we may speaking words agreeable to the Christian character.

### Commentary Notes:

#### **Our Words Will be the Basis of Our Judgment, vv. 36-37.**

Here is where it gets serious! Jesus says that we will give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word which we speak! How many careless words have you spoken? If you're 10 years old, consider nearly 700 books filled with your words. If you're 40 years old, then you can imagine a library of nearly 3,000 two-hundred-page books containing the words spoken in your lifetime. If you're 60, imagine almost 4,500 such books. We have a lot to give an account for.

Jesus says in verse 37 that our words will either justify or condemn us. We need to realize that no matter how careful we have been with our words in our lifetime, there is more than enough evidence to condemn us to hell forever. If this is the final word, then we are all hopeless condemned sinners. But I like the glimmer of hope of justification that is hinted out in verse 37. Some commentators take a lot of pains to explain why the gospel word “justified” is used here. They say that it is being used in its technical sense to refer to an acquittal in a court of law. That is certainly true, but I think there is at least a foreshadowing of the justification that comes through the “word of faith” which Paul talks about in Romans 10:5–10.

*For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

These verses state the same truth in a positive sense that Matthew 12:33–37 states negatively. Namely, your words reveal the state of your heart and your words will be the basis of your judgment. But here we are told that belief in the heart that is confessed with the mouth results in being justified/saved!

There is, therefore, hope for sinners whose hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked. There is hope for sinners whose words should result in eternal condemnation. The hope comes from the fact that there was One who lived a sinless life. As the apostle Peter, one who knew Jesus, said, “He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.” Because He was sinless in his words yet suffered in our place the punishment we deserve for our wicked words and hearts, we can be forgiven/justified by one word! The “word of faith.”

## Question: "What are idle words (Matthew 12:36)?"

**Answer:** For sure, [words are powerful things](#). God’s words were so powerful that they actually created everything ([Genesis 1](#)). But even the words of us humans can do powerful things. Solomon wrote in [Proverbs 18:21](#) that “death and life are in the power of the tongue.” The power of life and death can be seen in [jury](#) trials, where witnesses and jury members can speak words that might literally determine whether a defendant lives or dies. Less extreme, but no less real, are the power of encouraging words to give hope and joy and the power of discouraging words to spark dismay and depression.

Jesus said, “I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken” ([Matthew 12:36](#)). The KJV translates “every empty word” as “every idle word”; the ESV says, “every careless word. In [Matthew 12:37](#), the significance of words is that they will be used to gauge a person’s spiritual condition in the judgment:

“For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” Jesus was speaking to a group of Pharisees who had just accused Jesus of being demon-possessed (verse 24). Jesus calls them a “brood of vipers” and asks them, “How can you who are evil say anything good?” (verse 34). Just as vipers have a mouthful of poison, so the Pharisees had evil words concerning the Savior.

Then Jesus warns the Pharisees of the coming judgment, at which they will be held accountable for their words ([Matthew 12:37](#)). There is no better judge of a person’s heart than the words he allows to come forth from his mouth. Just like good trees produce good fruit and bad trees produce bad fruit, so does the mouth reveal the heart’s condition (verse 33).

Other passages give additional insight. [Ephesians 4:29](#) sets the standard: “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.” [James 3:8](#) advises us on how hard it is to control the tongue: “No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” Then in [James 4:11–12](#), “Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?”

## NLT Scriptures

**Proverbs 18:20-21-NLT**<sup>20</sup> Wise words satisfy like a good meal; the right words bring satisfaction. <sup>21</sup> The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

**John 1:1-NLT**<sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**John 1:14-NLT**

<sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unending love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

**Psalms 107:20-NLT**<sup>20</sup> He sent out his word and healed them, snatching them from the door of death.

**Romans 10:8-10-NLT**<sup>8</sup> In fact, it says, "The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart. "And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: <sup>9</sup> If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

**Romans 10:13-NLT**<sup>13</sup> For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

**Matthew 12:31-37-NLT**<sup>31</sup> "So I tell you, every sin and blasphemy can be forgiven—except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which will never be forgiven. <sup>32</sup> Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this world or in the world to come. <sup>33</sup> "A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. <sup>34</sup> You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. <sup>35</sup> A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. <sup>36</sup> And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. <sup>37</sup> The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you."

## Lesson #1 – The Value of Words – “Scripture” Review Questions

1. In Proverbs 18:20-22, it says “A mans \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_ from the fruit of his \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. What is the main them and portion of Proverbs 18:21 that this series is built upon? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In John 1:1, how many times is the word “WORD” mentioned? \_\_\_\_\_ How long has God been in existence? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In John 1:14- what four things are the “action words” in this verse?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
5. In Romans 10:8-10 We have several questions:
  - a. Where is the Word?
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What do we need to do to be saved?
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. With the \_\_\_\_\_ one \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_ and with the \_\_\_\_\_ confession is made.
6. Romans 10:13- Who can be saved? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In Matthew 12:31-17 we have a few questions:
  - a. How many sins will be forgiven man? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. “But” the \_\_\_\_\_ against the Holy Spirit will \_\_\_\_\_ be forgiven.
  - c. A \_\_\_\_\_ tree brings forth \_\_\_\_\_ fruit
  - d. Out of the abundance of the \_\_\_\_\_ the mouth \_\_\_\_\_.
  - e. A \_\_\_\_\_ man brings \_\_\_\_\_ things and treasures from his heart.
  - f. An \_\_\_\_\_ man brings forth evil \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Everyone will give \_\_\_\_\_ for every idle word spoken.

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Robert Morris Video Teaching

