Words

Intro: Words are important. It is through the use of words that we convey to others the thoughts and emotions of our lives (1 Cor. 2:11 “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”) Thus, words are extremely important to us. I want us to notice in this lesson words.

I. GOD’S WORD.

A. Is revealed in the Bible.

1. John 10:34-35 “Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;”

2. 1 Cor. 2:9-13 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

3. 2 Pet. 1:20-21 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

B. Is Truth

1. John 8:31-32 “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

2. John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

3. John 18:37 “Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”

4. Eph. 1:13 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,”

5. Jam. 1:18 “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

6. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

7. Notice these points.

   a. It is revealed in Christ.
      (1) John 1:17 “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”
      (2) John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

   b. It can be known.
      (1) Eph. 3:3-4 “How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)”
      (2) Eph. 5:17 “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is,”
(3) 1 John 5:20  And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

c. We are to live according to it.
   (1) Acts 14:22  *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."
   (2) Col. 1:23  *If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and* be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereinof I Paul am made a minister;"

d. It saves us, both from past sins and eternally.
   (1) from past sins
      (a) Mark 16:15-16  *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. *16* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
      (b) Rom. 1:16  *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
   (2) eternally
      (a) Jam. 1:21  *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engraven word, which is able to save your souls."
      (b) 2 Pet. 1:3, 10-11  *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*... *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: *11* For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

II. MAN’S WORD.

A. Proper use of words.
   1. Speaking truth
      a. Mat. 5:37  *But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."
      b. Jam. 5:12  *But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation."
   2. Preaching the Gospel
      a. Mat. 28:19-20  *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: *20* Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *ever* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
      b. Mark 16:15-16  *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. *16* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
   3. Edifying
      a. Eph. 4:29  *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."
         (1) Edifying is from the Greek οἰκοδομή (oikodome).
         (2) Vine says of the verbal form: “promoting the spiritual growth and development of character”
      b. Words that bestow pleasure or delight; Col. 4:6  *Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”
B. Improper use of words.

1. Sowing discord
   a. Pro. 6:16, 19*a* These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:... 19* A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”
   b. Jam. 3:14-16 *But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but it earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”

2. Backbiting
   a. Rom. 1:30 *Backbiters, haters of God, despitful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,”
   b. 2 Cor. 12:20 *For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envying, wraths, strifes, backbittings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:”

3. Gossip
   a. Lev. 19:16 *Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.”
   b. Pro. 18:8 *The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”

4. Lying
   a. John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
   b. Eph. 4:25 *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

5. Profanity
   a. Exo. 20:7 *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”
   b. Mat. 6:9 *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

C. Jam. 3:1-12 *My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it deflieth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.”

D. The basis for judgment; Mat. 12:36-37 *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.”

Conclusion: Let us be careful about the words we use. Use only those words that would be pleasing to God and in harmony with His word.