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"5 Things You've Gotta Know About Life"

#3 Your Words Can Ever Hurt Me

James 3:12

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[Dr. McKinley, message, *Your Words Can Ever Hurt Me*]

Thank you brother Rick. Thank you Mike. Thank you dear Prestonwood family. As many of you know who were here last week right as we started our worship service a defining moment of transition occurred in my life as my mom stepped into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, right as we were singing the opening hymn of worship. My mom taught me to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. She's a godly woman with a great life influence for Christ, 4 weeks ago taught her 7th grade girls Sunday School Class and has spent her life influencing others for the Lord Jesus Christ and the gospel that we love and share and I was here last Sunday to preach a..., knowing that we were walking through what had become 3 weeks of a..., a journey a..., toward death. But as we were making that journey God's grace was evident all along the way and certainly no one would have ever chosen to have to been in the public platform of last Sunday here, but it was all in the providence of God and it was in your love and prayer that we were able to go and to be there with my dad and my brother and our family and just to make this journey and it has been a journey of tender trials, a lot of grief, but tremendous grace and God's grace is overwhelming and amazing. I must also say that in the providence of God last Sunday as I stepped away it was such a joy and a comfort to know that in God's providence Neal Jeffrey was ready to step to this place and to preach and I thank God for Neal and his life and faith and the ministry that so many of you receive. Now I know some of you today are guests and you've just kinda walked into this and your wondering what's happening but this is a journey that the church family has made with me in recent days and I'm just thankful for a dear friend and brother and I just have one thing to say about what Neal said last Sunday, he's not 3rd string anything he is...he is a spiritual champion. [pause for applause] He is and has been a hero and a champion in my life and in my faith. In these days like no other time in my life I've been aware of the fact that words are very powerful and over these last few days and weeks I have to say to you that in ways like never before whether it's been written, spoken or expressed I have found great help and great comfort in many words. Of course 1st and foremost there has been the Word of God. The Bible says in the book of Romans chapter 15: [verse 4]

...whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and the comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

And while I have grieved greatly I have found great hope in the living

hope that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's not just something we say, it is something that we embrace, believe and count on and I thank God for the hope that we have in Christ. But I also have found incredible strength and comfort through so many of your words and expressions of love. The writer of the book of Proverbs said: [Proverbs 25:11]

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.

And I have to tell you dear Prestonwood family, your words, through cards, through calls, through e-mails, your faces, meals, our wonderful women's ministry under the leadership of Debbie Stewart just covered us up with wonderful food in these days. I think I know what comfort food is afresh and anew in these days and our dear pastor who got back from Italy last Sunday afternoon, a beautiful wonderful trip that you as a church family had given to he and to Deb for their 15th Anniversary, but who quickly jumped a plane to come and be at my side in Memphis and I will forever be grateful that he made the final steps to the gravesite and closed that service and buried my mom and that is a part of a life and a friendship and love and a fellowship that can never be adequately expressed in joy and thanksgiving, but I am grateful. I am so very grateful for our church family and a..., I wish I could just have one big group hug right here at the pulpit, just pull you together and say let's just hug, let's just love. But I'm telling you I have been ministered to and on behalf of my dad Harold McKinley and my brother Rick; my dad is here with me this morning. He was there with my mom as she stepped into the presence of Jesus last week. But he's here with me today as I've come to preach and today I can't think of anything more fitting that I could speak about or talk about than the power of our words and so I'm gonna ask you to take God's Word and open it to the book of James chapter 3 and there I want us together to look and to share the 3rd of the life lessons from the book of James on the power of our words. In this book of James we've been talking about *5 Things You've Gotta Know About Life* and we've tried to take each chapter from the book of James and to really distill the lesson and of course week 1, just as I began this journey in my life we talked about how our outlook determines our outcome and how that life is filled with heartaches and hurts, but it's the way that we see them that makes all the difference and I preached to you that message really nothing more than a message that I was preaching to my own heart that day and God used it in great ministry to me and last week I did preach on Saturday evening a message that I entitled *Actions Speak Louder Than Words*. I did not get to bring that message to you but I did preach the 2nd message last Saturday, it is available, of course, by tape or by CD, but I just a..., shared there again the 2nd chapter of the book of James. But today we come to the 3rd chapter of the book of James and I want us to take time to read together these words beginning in verse 1:

¹*My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.* ²*For we all stumble in many things and if anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.* ³*Indeed we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.* ⁴*Look also at ships; although they are so*

large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. ⁵Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless God our Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of the likeness of God. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not be so.

Father, this morning, I pray that You would let this word speak to our hearts. I pray that You would let the words of my mouth and of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be found acceptable in Your sight, oh Lord our strength and our Redeemer and Father I pray that You would help us to embrace this lesson and this truth and Lord to leave this place changed today by the power of the word of God and the testimony of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

When I was a little boy I learned a little rhyme, a little proverb that goes something like this:

"Sticks and stones may break my bones..."

Does anybody else know that? If you know the rest of it say it with me.

"...but words will never hurt me."

How many of you believe that's true? Hum? It's not true is it? How many of you have ever been hurt by words? Hum? Isn't it amazing how we can learn a little jingle that so easily flows off the tongue, but the reality of life is that the power of the tongue is one of the greatest and most significant formidable forces in all of the earth that can create great impact and great damage. I believe that the Bible has much to say about the tongue, because the tongue has so much to say about you and about me and the condition of our lives and yet of all of the passages of Scripture and there are many that speak on the subject of the tongue none compares with James chapter 3 because in James chapter 3 we have the most thorough and the most complete statement concerning this matter of the tongue. Now the reality of what James did in chapter 3 was to give an enlargement to a lesson to a principle that he had already stated back in James chapter 1, for there in James chapter 1 and back in verse 19 in a very succinct fashion he made a statement of truth when he said:

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

James was very clear and th...very straight forward in saying that human

passion unguarded, human wrath released through the gateway of human lips can create many destructive and unrighteous things and therefore God has given us an incredible picture in human anatomy to help us to learn the significance of the power of the tongue. As you know God has given us two ears and one mouth. Indeed we are to listen twice as much as we speak, but even then God is put within...within that mouth the tongue, He's put it behind the walls of the mouth and even there put it behind a cage of teeth to say hey, this thing is dangerous, be careful how you use it and so James picks up on the idea of the tongue and of the importance of the tongue and he uses some incredible word pictures to help us to understand something of the influence and something of the impact of our words and of the use of our tongue. Now the tongue is an amazing instrument, in many ways it's nothing more than a small mass of muscle, but it is a way that God has given us to be able to give expression to our thoughts and to our feelings. Already today we've been able to engage our tongues as we have expressed our hearts and our emotions in praise and worship and adoration to God and one of the great things that we can do with our tongue is to lift up our voice and to give praise to the Lord Jesus Christ and yet this tongue that can be used to praise God can also be used to condemn and to destroy others and so in many ways for those of us in this building this morning one of the things that we need to see and to understand is that the tongue can be your greatest asset in life or it can be your greatest liability. It can be that which enables you to be the source of blessing in the lives of many and to bless God or it can be the very thing that is the source of injury and destruction in the lives of many. That's why the writer of the book of Proverbs says in Proverbs 18 in verse 21:

Death and life are in the power of the tongue,...

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Indeed the tongue has the ability to give life. As I stand in this place this morning, I stand merely as a man, a human being with faults and with weaknesses, with all sorts of things shared with you as other men and women in this place, making the journey on this road of humanity. But God is chosen to take men, men like me and many other men and to let us stand and open the Word of God and to give proclamation to the gospel of Jesus Christ and through human instrumentation and human voices God works by the power of the Holy Spirit to call people to Himself and to use the preaching of the gospel, even the foolishness of preaching, that people may come to know life in Jesus Christ and I thank God for that incredible privilege and honor and calling in my life to be able to use words to be words of life. But just as much as this can be a moment of life, it can be a moment of death, it can be a moment of death if for one I fail to preach the truth of Jesus Christ, if I do nothing more than give you my words, my thoughts, my opinions, there is no life in human knowledge, in human wisdom. Life is in the power of the Word of God and whenever a tongue stands in any pulpit, in any place and fails to preach the truth of the gospel, the words that go out are words of death and of condemnation for people will go out of that place and out into a Christless eternity. Death and life are in the power of the tongue is true in preaching, but it's

also true in a church. Churches are built when there is life giving power and friendship and fellowship, love and unity and when we come together and share together and grow together and encourage each other, there is life to be challenged and built. But when there is division and when there is injury and when there is contention and strife and gossip it can bring death and church houses all across America have been destroyed because of divided hearts and divisive tongues. It's true in a home. It's true in a family. Husbands and wives can speak to one another in a way that can empower and give love and life and significance and satisfaction but those same tongues can be twisted and turned and those tongues can be used as weapons of assault and many, many people have known the injury and the battery of a tongue unchecked and unleashed, it brings life and death. It's true with our children, children can be empowered and enabled to live and to sour through the life and the blessing of their parents and the words of others and yet those same words can be used to cut and to ultimately injure and immobilize the spirit of a child. Yes, death and life are in the power of the tongue and therefore understanding the power of the tongue means that we need to see and to respond in such a way that what we do with the words of our mouth would all be brought under the authority of God in our lives. It is estimated that the average person speaks enough words in the course of a year to fill up 66 books, 800 pages in length. That's a lot of words. In fact studies have even been done to determine something about the way that we speak and how we use words and in particular they've done some studies to determine the difference between men and women and how they speak and did you know that it has been determined that the average man speaks between 15 and 20 thousand words a day? That's enough to make you tired isn't it? The average woman [pause for congregation laughter] speaks about 30 thousand words a day. I heard about a guy who was reading this study as it was published in a newspaper and he was excited to prove to his wife that his point had always been that she talked too much and so he got her and he said here I want you to see this scientific study, the accurate study shows that I only speak 15 to 20 thousand words and you speak 30 thousand words, what I've said to you is true, you just talk too much. She sat there for a moment, she said the reason women speak so much is they have to repeat everything that they say. [pause for more laughter] To which he replied what? [more laughter] Well, today what I wanna do is I wanna give you 3 words, 3 simple words in the 3rd chapter of James to help you with your words, to help you to learn the lesson that your words can ever hurt me and my words can ever hurt you and therefore if we'll take these 3 words and put them in check they can be a great source of help in our lives as we live out what God's Word intends for us with the use of our words.

Now the first word that I share with you is really right out of verse 1 and 2 and it's the word, **ACCOUNTABILITY**. The word accountability, it's kind of a buzz word in Christian circles today to talk about being accountable to one another and it's a good word it's a word that means that men with men, women with women, families with families try to sharpen one another and challenge one another to high standards and accountability simply means that you help keep someone else in check. Well, the Bible gives us here in James 3 a spiritual perspective of accountability that

helps us with our words. Of course James begins with the ultimate form of verbal discipline when he speaks to teachers, but he says here:

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

The further you go in communication and the larger your platform of influence in life, the greater the sense of judgment to be measured out in your life of the words that you say and the way that your words influence and impact the lives of others and so James begins specifically in the spiritual arena by talking about teachers and preachers and he says if you're gonna stand up you need to understand that what you say can matter now and forever. That's why Paul wrote to Timothy pay attention to your life and to your doctrine, because what you teach and what you preach influences others for life or for death. But it's not only true of teachers and preachers it's true of all of us, for the Bible goes on to say in verse 2:

...that we all stumble in many things, but if anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man,...

Now don't trip over that word perfect, it doesn't mean that you are without sin, it means that you are undertow. It means that you are mature, that you are complete and so the Bible is saying that if you can be accountable with your words, you are reflecting the reality of the faith in your life and one of the greatest things that we have to understand is that when the Bible says that there is judgment for the words of our mouth that there is a strong word of accountability. Certainly you know that in the human courts of law, that if you go to be a witness in a trial you stand before the judge and you stand before the jury, you place your hand upon a Bible and you promise to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God and the reality is, is that when you are sworn in as a witness if you in any way fail to give witness that is true you can ultimately be guilty of perjury. You can become a criminal yourself just by failing to be a good witness and so words can count and words do matter in a court of law. Well, in much the same way the Bible is saying that when we speak we are accountable for the words that we say. You know that in our criminal justice system when a criminal is arrested that they are always read their rights and you know that rights begin in this way; you have the right to remain...what? Silent, and if you do say anything, what you say can be used against you in a court of law. You see, there is in this world and our system a legal responsibility for what we say when it comes under law. Well, in much the same way James is saying listen to me, you are accountable for what you say, and James being the half brother of Jesus Christ had surely heard the words of our Lord Jesus spoken in Matthew 12 that said: [verses 36-37]

³⁶ "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak they will give account in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

What I'm saying to you this morning is that you are accountable for your words and talk may be cheap on earth but talk will count in heaven. So if you're going to learn the importance of weighing your words the first principle is the principle of accountability. Every one of us will answer to God for the words that we speak.

Secondly there is the word **AUTHORITY**. The word authority, look down again beginning in verse 3:

³Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. ⁴Look also at ships; although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. ⁵Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

And then he goes on to describe the destructive power of the tongue. But what he's talking about here is the **POWER OF THE TONGUE** and yet when we think of the power of the tongue, as I've already mentioned the tongue is small, it's not mighty in mass, but it is great in influence and that's really the difference between power and authority. Power in and of itself is just it's own strength, but authority is strength leverage and strength influential. I could go out this morning and go to a freeway, to 635, I could get out of my car in my suit and I could run out in front of a...a big 18 wheel truck coming down the road and wave at him and tell him to stop and maybe out of the mercy of his heart if he saw me he might stop just to keep from running over me, but I have no power against that truck. On the other hand if a uniformed officer of the law were to step out and to step in front of a truck he can do nothing more than put up his hand and that truck is gonna stop. Why? Because of that's man's power, no because of that man's authority. I don't have any authority to stop a truck, but that man wears a little badge, a little shield on his uniform that represents the power, the might, the influence and the significance of the county, of the state, of the a..., city, of the community, of the nation and of all of the court system of America and therefore that man has authority to leverage power in that moment and in much the same way as that little badge you tongue like a rudder on a ship, your tongue like a bit or a bridle ~~in the house of a...~~ in the mouth of a horse ultimately has authority to leverage in the lives of others and that's why we need to very carefully weight our speech.

Now James says it clearly here, your tongue and my tongue has the **POWER TO HELP**. Your tongue and my tongue has the power to help. Just as a horse is undisciplined and is wild and...and just energy out of control, when you put a bridle and a bit on that horse you bring that horse under control and it can become a powerful tool, a mighty mobilized force for good. In the same way there can be a ship that is out there adrift, but you put a rudder in the water and though the winds and the seas may be contrary, that small rudder has the ability to help to steer that ship to a course that is good and that is beneficial and while our tongue indeed has negative potential it does have positive potential and please today understand and harness the positive power of your tongue. I love what Warren Wiersbe said in his

Bible Commentary when he said:

"Both the bit and the rudder must overcome contrary forces. The bit must overcome the wild nature of the horse and the rudder must fight the winds and currents that would drive the ship off its course. The human tongue also must overcome contrary forces. We have an old nature that wants to control us and make us sin. There are circumstances around us that would make us say things we ought not to say. Sin on the in...inside and pressures on the outside are seeking to get control of the tongue and so yes there is a sense in which my tongue can astray, but there is a ton...sense in which my tongue can be mobilized, can be used for God and for good."

In the last century, one of the greatest voices and one of the most...greatest figures in all time in history was Winston Churchill and the amazing gift of Churchill was his ability to use and to shape his words to mobilize the will and to galvanize the hearts of the British people in days of great opposition. He said on one occasion:

"The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and it's commonwealth should last for a thousand years, men will rise and say, 'This was their finest hour.'"

While Germany was greater in might and number, Churchill mobilized the people in heart and spirit and his words were able to help them to be able to do good. Your words and my words have the authority and the power to help others. How are you using your words?

But let's quickly see the other thing that James says and that is that our words have the **POWER TO HURT**. Our words have the power to hurt. Beginning in verse 6 he says:

...the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and has set on fire in the course of nature and is set on fire by hell.

And then he says in verse 8:

But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

He talks about the tongue hurting others as a fire and as a poison. Just a little spark! I read, or saw last night some 40 plus thousand acres have burned through wildfires in California in recent days and yet just a spark can start a fire that will ultimately enlarge and consume and destroy. The Bible says the tongue is like a poison, a corrosive, an acid that can begin to be poured out and can become destructive in the lives of others and one of the things that I realize as I stand in this place this morning is that before me are hundreds of people, hundreds of people whose lives have been bruised by words, who bear the scars and the injuries of corrosive conversations that are being lived out in your life every day

and you know and I know that words hurt and therefore we've got to look and to ask the Lord; Lord what is it in me? What is it through me that would let my heart and my life and my words be destructive in the lives of others? Someone has ~~widely said~~...wisely said:

*"If your lips would keep from slips, 5 things observe with care:
To whom you speak,
Of whom you speak,
And how,
And when,
And where."*

Do you just open your mouth in casual conversation? Do you open your mouth in callous conversation? Are you a person who has failed to let God undertow and in check the power of your tongue? Because the tongue ladies and gentlemen, is one of the most destructive forces on earth. You can say something in 10 seconds, you can't take back in 10 years. Some of you are bearing those things today and the word of God calls us to account and calls us under authority to realize that the authority and the power of the tongue needs to be brought to the glory of Jesus Christ.

There's one other thing that James tells us here about the authority of the tongue and not only that our tongue had the power to help and the power to hurt, but listen your tongue and my tongue has the **POWER TO HEAL**. To heal, he talks about the tongue in contrast of a fountain and a tree. Now the contrast is a fountain that at the same time brings sweet water and bitter water or a tree that at the same time brings good fruit and bad fruit. But the reality is when he talks about the tongue being like a...a fountain he's talking about a fountain that gives water to refresh, to replenish and to restore and so it is that God has given us the ability to heal others with the power of our time. Proverbs ~~15~~ or 12:18 says:

...the tongue of the wise promotes health.

And when your tongue and my tongue is being used rightly the outcome of the use of that tongue is the promotion of health. Again Proverbs and I love the way it's said in The Message, Proverbs 10 and verse 11 says:

The mouth of a good person is a deep, life giving well,...

Is your mouth a fountain? Can people come to you for drink and refreshment for renewal and strength because the words of your mouth are given out as sources of renewal and of healing in their lives?

*A careless word may kindle strife.
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill.
A brutal word may smite and kill.
A gracious word may smooth the way.
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress.*

And a loving word will heal and bless.

Let your words be healing words, words that are like a fountain. But he also describes it here like a tree. He says in verse 12 that a..., there's a fig tree that can bear a..., figs and it doesn't bear olives and that there's a grapevine that brings the succulence of grapes but it doesn't bear figs or other fruit. It does bear its character and its nature and there is refreshment in the good fruit. Is your life a fruitful vine?

I just have to pause and while these have been days where I've had to struggle with tears and sorrow, they've also been days where I've just had to pause and praise God for the great and godly influence of a mom who loved Christ and who prayed for her family. One of the most precious things that I did this past week was to have the opportunity while in those days in my family home to open my mom's journals and there to read in her handwriting wonderful expressions of praise and incredible petitions of prayer for her family and for our friends. Yes, she prayed many times for Prestonwood, she prayed many times for Pastor Graham and she's prayed for so many that she's met along the way. But one of the sweetest things that happened as my brother and I were talkin the other day about her life and about her faith and there in the pages of that journal my brother found some words, words written on the 15th of May, just a few weeks ago. She wrote these words:

"Lord, thank you today that I get to see my son Rick turn 40."

Yeah, I'm the big brother, he's the little brother and then she said:

"Lord, thank you that he is a godly man."

Do you have any idea what the impact was on the heart of my brother to see in her handwriting that expression, that she saw him as a godly man? You see that is words that are like a tree of life, like a fountain of water and God used those words to empower life and faith and I can tell you that whatever else my brother does for the rest of his life, he will never want to be seen as anything less than the godly man that his mom saw in him. Power to help, power to hurt, power to heal! There is authority in our word, spoken, written, expressed. So 2 words, what the first word we've learned today about our tongue? It is the word accountability. We will all answer to God for what we say. The 2nd word, what is it? Authority, that there is authority in influence in the power of the tongue and we'd better recognize it for good and for evil.

There's a 3rd and a final word that I want you to see and that is the word **ASSOCIATION**, the word association. You say, what do you mean by that word? Well, let's just look again at what James said. He said in verse 9:

⁹With our tongue we bless God and then if we curse men who are made in the se...similitude of God. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing...this shouldn't be so.

Something is wrong if my tongue is not reflective of what I say is true in my heart about my love for God and my faith in Him. What is the association? The association is this, that what comes out of your mouth is a reflection of what's really in your heart. The real issue of the tongue is the issue of the heart. You see it's not just that we say things, we say things from a source and the source from which everything that we say comes ultimately comes from the heart and what we are is inevitably revealed in what we say. Therefore nothing is of greater significance when we talk about the tongue than talking about and embracing what the Bible says about the condition of the heart. Now you know that sometimes when you're sick and you go to see a doctor he will try to determine the condition of your health by taking one of those little oversized pop cycle sticks and saying, "Stick out your tongue." And by looking at your tongue they examine to determine the health and the well being of your body. Well, in much the same way Jesus said you wanna know how you are spiritually, stick out your tongue. Look at your tongue. Listen to the words of Jesus. In Luke 6:45 He says:

"A good man, out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

And if there is any principle that is of ultimate significance in any discussion of the tongue it is that you and I must first and foremost say, what is the condition of my heart, because when my heart is right with God, my mouth will be right towards others, but when my heart is wrong towards God and there is malice and hatred in my heart towards others then it will inevitably come out of my tongue. Therefore there is an association that we cannot miss or overlook today, but an association that has to be drawn that who we are and what we are and how we treat others and how we live out lives is ultimately a reflection of our hearts. Did you know the Bible makes a major association between the tongue and salvation? Did you know that? Did you know that? That what you say with your tongue is ultimately a part of the experience of the grace of God in your life. In the book of Romans chapter 10, verses 9 and 10 we are given a clear understanding of what it takes to go to heaven and not anyone of us in this room can ever do one thing to ever earn God's grace or to merit God's favor. There is no stairway to heaven where you go to church and live a good life and ~~treat others by the a...10 comm...or~~ treat others by the Golden Rule and live by the 10 Commandments and one day you worked your way to heaven. We can't go to heaven that way. But how can we go to heaven? Listen to what the Bible says:

⁹That if you confess with your...

What?

...mouth the Lord Jesus Christ...

Literally, that Jesus is Lord.

...and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart when a person believes ~~resulting in sal...~~in ~~salvation excu...~~resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation.

When you believe on Jesus you're made righteous from the heart. But there's an expression of that and that is the mouth that says Jesus You are Lord and therefore there's an association spiritually between what I say to God and what happens in my life to experience His grace. Now you can do that now. You can do that today and if indeed you've heard what I've talked about today, about the words and your words and maybe you've even been convicted, I need to change my words, listen to me today, you can't change your words unless you change your heart and the only one who can change your heart is Jesus Christ and the confession that changes you is not just the saying of words, but a heart that is convicted of sin and a mouth that confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord and if you've never made that confession in just a moment I wanna give you an opportunity to do that, to let your heart be expressed in faith and to let salvation be a reality to you today as you confess Jesus as Lord. But may I also say to you that there is an association with this in the final judgment. For the Bible tells us that the final instrument of all humanity that will be surrendered in the presence of God will be the human tongue. For the Bible tells us that 2000 years ago God ~~sent hea...~~sent Jesus Christ His Son to come from heaven, to come to earth, that Jesus came and walked among us as the sinless Savior, a substitute to die on the cross for our sin, to be buried and to taste death for every one of us, but then that He rose and is ascended to the right hand of God and God has highly exalted Him and God has give Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, one day, every knee is going to bow and every tongue is going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. One day you will confess Jesus. You may not confess Him now, though today and right now you have an opportunity to confess Him unto salvation, but one day, every tongue will confess Jesus Christ is Lord and so I ask you today to be ready for that day so that when you stand before God what you confess that day will be an expression of the worship of your life and of the faith of your heart to say I belong to Jesus and Jesus is my Lord. I did not say that friends, Jesus said that, His Word says that, that all of life and all of the future has to do with that supreme confession and today if you've never confessed Him I wanna give you an opportunity to do it right now.