



July 26, 2026

Our Words

As a preacher, I use a lot of words, and that's probably one reason this passage has always puzzled—and frightened—me. Perhaps it's bothered you as well.

"I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:36-37).

I'm fairly certain I speak quite a few "careless" words, probably every day. Don't you?

Maybe it's an offhand remark to your spouse or child, or an off-the-cuff comment to a coworker. Some of our words are carefully considered, but many of them aren't. Did Jesus mean that innocent conversation is wrong, such as talking about last night's rain or next week's game?

I don't think so.

It helps to notice what Jesus said just before:

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.... For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil" (Matthew 12:33-35).

Jesus is teaching that our words matter because they reveal our hearts. Just as fruit reveals the condition of a tree, our speech reveals what's growing within us.

There's an unsettling implication here: we may learn more about our hearts from the words we speak without thinking than from the words we carefully rehearse.

You might learn more about who I really am by hearing how I speak in ordinary conversation than by reading this article or listening to me preach. When I speak publicly, I try to choose my words carefully. But my "careless" words—the spontaneous words I use when I'm tired, irritated, disappointed, or relaxed—may reveal the real condition of my heart.

What do your words reveal?

Are they consistently critical? Do they encourage or discourage? Do they heal or wound? Are they filled with gratitude, patience, and grace—or with resentment, complaint, and contempt?

We can't permanently repair our speech merely by learning to sound nicer. We may restrain our tongues for a while, but lasting change must begin deeper within us. Our words change as our hearts are changed by Jesus.

That means spending time with him, listening to his word, praising him, loving him, and allowing his Spirit to reshape our desires and attitudes.

Jesus' warning should certainly make us think before we speak. But it should do more than that. It should make us pray: "Lord, take control of my heart."

Because sooner or later, whatever fills the heart will come out of the mouth. —Chuck

3248 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL 35216
(205) 822-5610 Office
www.hoovercoc.org
jtroughton@hoovercoc.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

ELDERS

Reggie Arnold	602-4211
Steve Cotney	531-7517
Jimmy Lyles	616-1109
Harold Rhodes	876-9296
Kyle Wadley	792-5922
Chuck Webster	586-5610
Rick Williams	706-5735
Donnie Winningham	222-7635

elders@hoovercoc.org

MINISTER

Chuck Webster

(205) 586-5610 (cell)
cwebster@hoovercoc.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Kyle Wadley

(205) 792-5922 (cell)
kwadley@hoovercoc.org

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER

Marcus Williams

(615) 710-2319
Marcus@hoovercoc.org

Worship Assignments

Elder to Contact in July for Needs:
Chuck Webster

Sunday AM and PM

Greeters:

Connie Morrison (Handicap Entrance)
Melony Webster (Back Entrance)

Usher: Donnie Winningham

Nursery: Jamie Starns

AM Singing: Kyle Wadley

Scripture Reading: C.T. Dodd

AM Opening Prayer: Quincy Collins

AM Sermon: Chuck Webster

AM Communion: Jeff Melton

Announcements: Harold Rhodes

AM Closing Prayer: Avery Davis

PM Song Leader: Paul Kirby

PM Opening Prayer: Wade Warren

PM Speaker: Wade Warren

PM Closing Prayer: Paul Kirby

Audio/Cameras:

Clint Richey/Grant Dalton

Video: Drew Spivey

Security: Daniel Warren/Stephen King

Contribution Baskets: Garrett Vick, Derick Bush, Carter Williams, Noah White, Brady Aultman, Campbell Vick, Kai Sugita, Aiden McQuillan

Revelation 4:11

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.



Today

Visitors, welcome to our worship service this morning—we're glad you're here! Please **scan the QR Code** that's on the next page of our bulletin or the card that's in the pew. We would like to know where you are from.

Adult classes for the Summer Quarter are described below:

Steve Cotney is teaching the Auditorium class, and his topic is *God's Grace, Patience, and Providence; A Look at Solomon and Ecclesiastes*. **Merv Prince** is teaching a class in the Library, and his subject is *Becoming Unoffendable*, and he will be using material from the book by Brant Hansen: *Unoffendable: How Just One Change Can Make All of Life Better*. On Wednesday evenings, we will meet in the auditorium for our *Summer Series*.

The AHEPA 3 devotional is at 3:30 p.m. **Kyle Wadley** is presenting the lesson.

This evening at 5:00, our **Knit Together Groups** will meet in homes to worship and fellowship together. You can also meet in the auditorium for a lesson presented by **Wade Warren**.

News and Events

All men are invited to go fishing at the Gaithers' lakehouse in Ashville, AL on Saturday, August 8. Contact **Brent Reaves** with any questions.

Sisses and Misses: On Sunday, August 9, after our morning worship service, we will meet in the fellowship hall to eat lunch and to play games. Please let **Lucy McKeown** know if you can attend.

Our Ladies Bible class will start back on Monday, September 14, from 11:30 a.m.--12:30 p.m. Their topic is **"The Commandments of the Lord: From Sinai to Sunday."** If you have any questions, please contact **Leah Covington** or **Denia Petruzella**.

Bible Reading Plan for July 26-August 1

- ♦ **Sunday, July 26:** Esther 6-10; Psalm 52
- ♦ **Monday, July 27:** Daniel 1-3; Psalm 53
- ♦ **Tuesday, July 28:** Daniel 4-6; Psalm 54
- ♦ **Wednesday, July 29:** Daniel 7-9; Psalm 55
- ♦ **Thursday, July 30:** Daniel 10-12; Psalm 56
- ♦ **Friday, July 31:** Ezra 1-3; Psalm 57
- ♦ **Saturday, August 1:** Ezra 4-6; Psalm 58

Youth

- ♦ **Sunday-Friday, July 26-31:** Backwoods Christian Camp—7th Session.
- ♦ **Saturday, August 1:** Game Night and Devotional with the Young Professionals Group from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- ♦ **Sunday, August 2:** Area-Wide at the Fort Payne Church of Christ; the bus will leave at 2:15 p.m.

Happy Anniversary

Yoshi & Karen Sugita July 30

Happy Birthday

Grace Rutland	July 27
Stan Tippins	July 27
Hayden Richey	July 28
Lilly Aultman	July 29
George Faison	July 29
Donnie Winningham	July 30
Ben Vick	July 31
Paul Kirby	August 1
Sue Ann Myers	August 1

Carelines

Greg Nobles had hip replacement surgery last week at Grandview Medical Center. He is doing well.

Willard Worthington, Virgie Banks' brother, is at Princeton Hospital and has been moved to the cardiac unit.

Richard Lawson, Alyssa Long's dad, continues his battle with cancer and has a lot of upcoming scans and procedures. Please keep him and the family in your prayers.

Kellie Covington, Corey Covington's sister, is being treated for breast cancer. She is now on the second phase of her chemotherapy.

Moranda Garrett, a friend of Jayne Ivy, suffers from severe back pain and also has a tumor on her pituitary gland that is causing health problems.

Remember our shut-ins: Joyce Baker, Nancy Griner, and Sylvia Huffman.

Remember our church family: Mollye Melton, Bob and Joy Brooks, Gail Powell, Sondra Moss, Jean Prince, Sharon McCraw, Linda Graham, Judy Smith, Betty Crawford, Celestine Hicks, Diann Tippins, and Tyler Tippins.

Remember our family and friends: Scarlett Smith (JoAnn McDonald's daughter), Russ Stringer (Nancy Griner's son-in-law), Doug Williams (Landyn Williams' dad), Greg Wright (Felicia Arnold's cousin), Brother-in-law, Cousin, Brother, and Friend of Doyal Newsom, Doug & Cathy Abbott (Joel Abbott's parents), Betty Shackelford (Chè Abbott's mother), Don Cicero (Matthew Cicero's father), Jeremy Schopper (Alyssa Long's cousin), Rex Anderson (former member of Hoover), and Kathy Culbertson (former member of Hoover).

The Case of the Missing Lap

When I was my father's son, tender and the only one in the sight of my mother.
Proverbs 4:3

I watched as the young father cuddled and fed his new baby.

His older child was about two, not much more than a baby himself. He was trying to climb into his father's lap beside his newborn little brother—but there wasn't room.

The look on the older child's face was desperate—he had to get into Daddy's lap. Such anguish! Children are capable of so much suffering that adults brush aside, laugh at, or simply ignore.

I was sitting on an opposite couch, and I offered him the services of my lap. At first the suffering child wouldn't hear of it—his father's lap was the only one he wanted. But finally, he must've thought, "Any port in a storm," for he came to me. I put my arms around him, and he smiled just slightly. I pulled him into my lap and held him there for a little while. He became very still and rested his head against my chest.

Finally peace and serenity settled over his features. He beamed a warm grateful smile my way that I will never forget. I don't think that little boy and I will ever forget each other.

All over the world there are missing laps. There just isn't enough love to go around, especially for those who do not know God. A major work of the church is to show forth the love of God to a very deprived world.

My fellow Christians, it is up to you and me to pour the oil and wine of perception, understanding, and compassion on the wounds of the world. We cannot pass by on the other side and still make our claim to be the children of God. —Bert Mercer

Wise Son

Father: "Son, when Lincoln was your age, he was earning his own living."

Son: "Yes, father, and when he was your age he was President of the United States."

Attendance and Offering July 19, 2026

Attendance

Bible Study: 180

AM Worship: 263

PM Worship: 103

Wednesday: 153

Contribution: \$13,198.79

Weekly Budget: \$15,380.77

Weekly Average: \$15,950.75

Contribution to Date: \$462,571.66

Hoover Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

Mission Trips

- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*
- *Peru*

Oversight

- *Christ Happy Childhaven, Philippines*
- *Tanzania Missions*

Visitors and members, please scan the QR Code below to log your attendance.



Stir One Another Up (Hebrews 10:24-25) We must _____ to one another. We must _____ one another toward love and good works. We must not _____ from the gathered body. We must live in light of the _____.	GriefShare Class So many people in the world have experienced significant losses in their lives, so we're thankful to be able to offer this GriefShare Ministry. It is organized around a thirteen-week small-group program where participants meet together for around two hours each week and watch professionally-designed videos featuring professional grief counselors and also people who are grieving. These presentations are coupled with discussions that are designed to internalize what participants learn in the videos. This class will begin on Saturday, August 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We have additional information for GriefShare Sessions offered on other days and times in the Birmingham area. Please see Harold or Donna Rhodes if you have any questions regarding GriefShare. You can also find additional information at https://www.griefshare.org/.
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3248 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL 35216

Place Postage
