

## ***The Words of Christ***

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*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,<sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, [how?] through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, - 2 Peter 1:2-3 NKJV*

***My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. – Hosea 4:6 NKJV***

***That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;<sup>11</sup> If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. – Philippians 4:10-11 NKJV***

**INTRODUCTION: It is imperative that we understand Jesus Christ.**

- \*We really have to understand him.
- \*We need to know him; his identity, his words, his Spirit, his message, and his person.
- \*We also need to experience him. This is what the Bible means by “knowing him”.
- \*Our knowledge of Jesus has to be more than a superficial “head knowledge” that we get by passively listening to a sermon or even by casually reading the Bible.
- \*Jesus spoke about this knowledge John 14.

*“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.<sup>20</sup> At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. – John 14:19-20 NKJV*

**THE WORDS OF CHRIST:** Over the next few weeks, I want to preach about knowing Jesus Christ; (1) his words, (2) his signs, (3) his person, and (4) his message. **Today, I will tell you something about Jesus’ words. READ John 6:48-69.**

*I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”<sup>52</sup> The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” – John 6:51-52 NKJV*

*[Scripture text] From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.*

*<sup>67</sup> Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”*

*<sup>68</sup> But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” – John 6:66-69 NKJV*

**\*The things Jesus said (his words) point us to himself and to eternal life!**

**THE POWER OF SPEECH: Some people treat the things they say very lightly. That should not be so!**

\*People lightly make promises and easily break them. They lie and then they forget their stories, so they lie yet again to cover their first lies.

**\*The things people say provide evidence for who they are.**

\*Their language and their speech testify to their character and to their eventual destiny, either good or bad.

*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.*

*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 12:34-37*

**If the things we say have impact and even eternal consequences, how much more consequential are the words of Jesus Christ?** His words testify to his character and integrity. The things he said point us to eternal life. Jesus spoke with (1) authority, (2) compassion, and with (3) insight.

#### **AUTHORITY OF JESUS' WORDS**

**READ DEUTERONOMY 27:15-20 (12 curses)** and contrast with Matthew 5:1-10 (blessings).

**\*Jesus didn't defy the commandments of God.** The character of God never changes.

\*People who do abominable things are still under curses whether or not they know it!

**\*What Jesus did was to suffer the penalty of sin for us and to give us power to overcome sin.**

\*The curses are still there if you want to live in them. But now, Jesus promises blessings if we want to live in him!

*For the law was given through Moses [the law is truth], but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. – John 1:17 NKJV*

**\*Both Revelation 22:18 and Deuteronomy 4:2 pronounce stern warning** not to add to the word of God or to take anything away from it.

*For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. – Revelation 22:18-19 NKJV*

**\*How is it that Jesus would dare to start making commandments of his own?** How can he say “Blessed is this person or cursed is that person ...”?

**\*Jesus could add something to the commandments of God only if he is God!**

\*When Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, he embellished upon the commandments of God because he had authority to do it.

*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,  
2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things,  
through whom also He made the worlds; - Hebrews 1:1-2 NKJV*

**STORY from Matthew 8:1-8** (The centurion’s servant and the authority of Jesus’ words)

*The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” – Matthew 8:8-9 NKJV*