January 27, 2018

Victory Everlasting Gospel Church

**“Every Word”**

The title of this sermon is **Every Word**. I want to start this morning’s sermon with the first seven words of Isaiah 1:18, **“Come now, and let us reason together…”** What we will be talking and reasoning about this morning has a lot to do with our words and our actions, that may have a bearing on our acceptance, or our rejection in the judgment, which we know is being carried on in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to this very day. So, let us be wide awake and alert, that the crows do not come and gobble up the precious seed that God has for us this day.

Shall we pray …

Open your Bibles and let us read again, Matthew 4:3, 4. Verse 3, **“And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.** The audacity of Satan, to try to instill doubt in the mind of the Savior as to who He is for Satan well knew that this was the same Son of God that He was before Lucifer’s rebellion and his ultimate removal from heaven.

Verse 4, **But he answered and said,** **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by** ***every word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”**

Let us analyze what these two verses mean in order to understand what we need to know. Jesus was led by the Spirit of God, into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, according to verse 1. He hadn’t had anything to eat or drink for forty days and forty nights according to verse 2, then it says He was afterward hungered.

Although the scripture says he was led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, it was not until after the forty days that Satan approached Him, while Jesus was in a weakened physical condition. That leads us to believe that that precious time of forty days He was in constant communion with the Father, in preparation for the most important ministry that He was beginning, the salvation of mankind.

 He, the Son of Mary was leaving the only life that He was familiar with for the previous 27 years, first as a child and now as a Man. He was a carpenter by trade and a step-brother to His older siblings. In spite of the numerous temptations as a child and a teenager, Satan could never influence Him to sin, especially when there was peer pressure. At those times, He would usually ignore their taunts and begin singing. Before long, His tempters would join in singing with Him as there was something special and refreshing about being in His presence.

So, as we just read in verse 4, where Satan said, “If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. Although Satan had been given the highest intellect ever given to a created being, he surely must have lost his edge after almost 4,000 years of easily tempting most of mankind to sin, with so little resistance to his subtleties. First of all, he knew full well that Jesus was the Son of God, but by saying “If thou be the Son of God” hoping that he could instill doubt in the Savior’s mind, which would be ridiculous on Satan’s part, for Jesus just spent 2 days short of six weeks with the Father, preparing for the awesome task ahead. Physically tired yes, but Spiritually Jesus was a powerhouse.

Satan’s statement, “… turn these stones to bread, …” was to try to get Jesus to use His Divine power for His own benefit, which would have short circuited His ministry to be mankind’s Savior. If He had done as Satan asked Him to do, it would have been game over, Satan the victor.

However, that was not to be the case, for Jesus said with calm assurance, “**It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”** Every word. This is for our understanding.

John Bradshaw is the moderator of the program, “It is Written.” He has a segment in the weekly broadcast, called “Every Word,” where he generally gives a short reflection on a faith building scripture, to help grow the faith of his viewers.

I want to ask a soul-searching question. Do we really understand the magnitude of Christ’s statement? It was not only a rebuke to Satan, but it was also a command to everyone who would ever consider him or herself a follower of Christ. As you read your King James Version of the scriptures, with its 810,677 words, there are many words spoken from the mouth of God, with many of those words in the form of a command. Jesus said what He did to every follower of Christ. That we are to live by every word that God has given us to live Christ-like lives, that includes commands.

Let me ask you, what commands of God, that apply to us, do we justifiably have the right to ignore? Of course, the answer is none. It is by rejecting God’s commands that the first lie was told. That would be the ninth commandment, which covers any false witness. There is no wiggle room which we might call a little white lie or a fib.

Talking about every word, I do believe that even idle words would be covered by the 9th commandment as well. Jesus said in Matthew 12:36 **“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.** Verse 37 **For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” NO** second chance to relive our lives to get it right.Idle words. Think about it, what are they? The dictionary says idle is without purpose or effect, pointless. I would have to conclude that if we have any members with a bent toward jesting and joking, that would include yours truly, it would be advisable to take these two verses under advisement, for they are strong food for thought. What words classified idle words could be more fittingly described as such, than gossip? If we are not lifting up our brothers and sisters with kind words, then maybe we are using words that attack their character. Who ever gave a professed follower of Christ the authority to pass judgment on another human being? Returning tithe is a good thing, faithful Sabbath attendance that is admirable, but still in heaven’s sight, we can be condemned by our words.

Proverbs 6:16-19, **“These six [things] doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, *a lying tongue*, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A *false witness* that *speaketh lies*, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

Two of these seven things apply to the ninth commandment: a lying tongue and a false witness speaking lies. Are these idle words? They are words God hates. Why do you suppose? Could it be because it was the ninth commandment that Satan broke in bringing false charges against the throne of God and causing good angels to be swept up in the false witness of the other angels? Listen …

*“False speaking in any matter, every attempt or purpose to deceive our neighbor, is here included. An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood.* (Now listen to this) *By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood. This precept forbids* *every effort to injure our neighbor's reputation by misrepresentation or evil surmising, by slander or tale bearing. Even the intentional suppression of truth, by which injury may result to others, is a violation of the ninth commandment.”* {PP 309.3}

In particular, I want to look at what we read in Proverbs 6, the part that says **“An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations… ”** or we could rightfully say that this means evil surmising. Sister White, we just read, said the 9th commandment forbids “…*every effort to injure our neighbor's reputation by misrepresentation or evil surmising, by slander or tale bearing.* We all need to do self-examination here.

Turn in your bibles to 1 Timothy 6:3-5 **“If any man teach otherwise, and consent *not* to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: *from such withdraw thyself*.** According to what we have just read, what is the command? “*from such withdraw thyself!”*

I want to talk about gossip and what it is and why it’s so evil. By definition gossip is casual conversation about other people involving details that are not confirmed as being true.

Why does God hate gossip? Because Satan and his angels, that joined him in rebellion against God and His Son, spread malicious lies that had no foundation in truth, until half the angels in heaven believed the gossip as truth, and in the end, it got Satan and one third of the multiplied millions of angels cast out of heaven. Now listen to what I am about to say:

Even though the negative facts about an individual may have proven true, does God really give us a green light to spread that sensitive information, that in effect amounts to an attack on the guilty person’s character? what gossiper thinks that God has changed, and will thereby give such a tale bearer entrance to heaven? If the character has not been purified before hand, then salvation will only prove to be a cherished dream, but never a reality. This is so serious.

Then as far as what comes out of our mouths, clearly shows a picture of what is in our hearts, if it is not uplifting, true, positive, encouraging and with heaven’s approval, then maybe it should be left unsaid, considering the fact that every idle word will be examined in the judgment. When you are about to say something and there is strange feelings being experienced, the Holy Spirit is telling you, DO NOT say it!

I believe that every word that comes from our lips should be words that we would never be ashamed to utter in the presence of Jesus Himself. Otherwise, silence is golden.

There was a time that when you sent a telegram, you had to pay for every word. Therefore, you did not want any words that did not support the meaning of the topic of the telegram. Would we be careful of our own choice of words if we had to pay $100 for all the idle words? According to the scripture we just read, those words could be brought up in the judgment and have eternal significance.

Maybe we should call for a fast. Not a fast for food, rather a fast on idle words. And maybe we should keep the fast going until Jesus comes. Would you join me in such a fast?

Now back to the subject of the sermon. Man shall live by **“… every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”** Let’s look at some of God’s specific commands and see if there is any areas that might not be applicable to us.

I Peter 1:16 **“Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”** Peter was quoting Leviticus 19:2. Since God, through Moses and Peter, commanded us to be holy, aside from the fact that God said you are to meet this requirement because, **“I am holy,”** the question begging to be asked is, does that mean we can pick and choose times where we can be unholy?

Did you ever get down on your knees at the end of a day, talking to Father and reflecting on all the little trials where you blew the impatience test? If you say Lord, I asked for your help. Father can say, “I gave you the help and the power, but you did not cooperate, you overruled my Spirit and you gave into the temptation to give the telephone solicitor a piece of your mind, or shaking your fist at the driver that cut in front of you, or being upset with the cashier who double charged you, or losing it with a relative, something you were determined not to do anymore, etc., etc. Maybe we forget that, that telephone solicitor, or that other driver, or that cashier, or that relative is someone God loves and Jesus died for. Even the most unlovely person that we may shy away from, is someone Jesus would approach as a possible candidate for the kingdom. So, when He checks us for fruit, does he find nothing but leaves? When He says “Be ye Holy …” does He see holy in us? Every word …

John 13:34 **“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”** Here’s a test.Can we say Lord, I love every member in my church unconditionally? If circumstances required it, I would lay down my life for that person? Jesus might say, “Yes, I know, Peter said that before he denied me three times.” Well that command does not require us to die for a fellow church member, but it tells us to love that person just as Jesus loves that person. To really love that person means that you would not dare say anything negative about that person behind their back to another person. That would be gossip and that is a sin God hates. We are all striving for the same prize, let us have the love and unity among us that would please God.

I’m talking to each one of us and especially to myself today. Listen, we all want to be saved, don’t we? So we have to know what could disqualify us from that happening. Don’t you agree? What is it then that could cause us to be lost? For one most important thing, there has to be no other gods in our lives that divert our thoughts from having a constant connection with the God we profess to love. It just can’t be God *and* the gods of this world. That is an unworkable combination. Jesus often commanded His followers to, **“Seek ye first the kindom of God and His righteousness….”** Seek what first? Not the world?

 **“… every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”**

That includes 1 John 2:15, and I need to read this slowly, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.** **If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”**

Pastor Vaughn you have read that scripture so many times in previous sermons. Yes, that is true, but Father says, keep reading it until you and the people understand it and do something about it. I am therefore to read it carefully and explain it in my own words. Okay, so, **Love not the world**. What does that mean? Well since we live in the world it must have a deeper meaning. What is it that the world loves? Well they love amusements like Disneyworld. They love to be entertained with their movies and TV programs and sports. What is wrong with those things? Simply said, whatever, besides your love and worship of God, whatever gets your time, your attention or focus, and your money, is a diversion from God and is therefore another god. It breaks the first commandment. That is why God’s Spirit, inspired John to write, **“If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

If some judge said that you must give up this faith in a mystical God or you must die, what would be your response? Would it be something like this, “Oh I love God more than anything and I would choose to die before I would give up my faith in God.” I think God’s response might be, why do you love the things that the world loves, when I specifically commanded that you love not the world?

I am not trying to minimize the importance of 1 John 2:15 because of the last 9 words of that verse, the very words that Satan would want you to think do not apply to you. **“… the love of the Father is not in him.”** When we meditate on those 9 words it should terrify us. That we would ever consider loving something at the risk of losing the Father’s love?

How hard would you fight and resist anyone who would prevent the love of God from being in you? It’s not Satan. He only provides you with the temptation, which requires you to make the choice. According to Father in this verse, YOU are the only one who can prevent the love of God from being in you. Now listen carefully with your understanding, when you choose to love what the world loves, be it entertainment TV or any form of sports, powerful diverters in their own right, and then try to convince yourself with some lame reasoning that justifies your wrong action, blocking out the Holy Spirit’s convicting plea to change direction, then to proceed with what you know to be a wrong course of action for a truthful Christian, then *you* are solely responsible for preventing the love of God to be in you. You see Father cannot by His Spirit dwell in the heart of a double minded man or woman.

James 4:8 commands us, **“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”**

I don’t think there is anyone here this morning who has not at some point wrestled with this problem and it is a problem. I know it’s a problem because God keeps bringing this scripture to my mind. God provides us with the power necessary to leave the world’s things to those who love the things of the world, and for us to concentrate on those things that will help us in preparation for the time of trouble, such as has never been, which is coming before Jesus comes. The sheep are being separated from the goats, who are the world lovers. Are we trying to fool God by being a world loving goat in sheep’s clothing? It’s easy to fool people, but God knows what is in the heart. How can we honestly convince God that we love Him supremely, while we are so willing to waste precious hours of preparation time in nonsense?

I close with Philippians 4:8, **“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”**

Let us pray…