

Words

The other day I heard the Television people talking about the importance of the President's State of the Union Speech. Some were building it up as the most important speech of Obama's Presidency. Then another asked an experienced reporter a pretty good question, "How many previous speeches do you remember where something important really was said?" The reporter admitted that of all the speeches he could only remember one or two lines from one or two speeches. There are lessons here for us to learn.

We tend to forget what we and others have said. That is why we have to learn and re-learn many lessons. We forget what we have learned. On occasion I have preached the same lesson at the same place a second time. Most of the time by accident other times on purpose. Most people either did not pick up on it or they did not say anything about it. "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today," (Deut. 8.11).

We will be judged by what we say. "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment." (Matthew 12.36) The temptation is to think they are "just words" and not pay attention to what we are really saying. Our words reveal what is in our hearts. "So then, [fn] my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1.19).

The words of Jesus will stand. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Mark 13.31). We will be judged by the words of Jesus. Therefore, we ought to pay attention to what He says to us today. Study His Law, understand His Word, and render obedience to Him. People tend to not pay attention to what Jesus actually said and how it applies to them today. They think the Bible does not really matter. We hear sayings like "do what your heart tells you" or "let us not be legalistic" as reasons to not do what the Bible says. But Jesus will judge us by His word and we need to be ready for that judgment.

Logical question is what Jesus said about salvation. In short, we must obey His Word, Hebrews 5.9. – Dennis Tucker