

Christian Conduct: What we should and should not be doing

By Duane A. Linn

Mt 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.

Eph 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Here is a topic that I don't believe, has been preached on faithfully in our generation. Since this is most likely my farewell sermon, I will hold nothing back.

The verses above are a terrifying indictment on us as human beings. For we all are guilty of committing these infractions of God's Law. Speaking idly and in vanity; and not so much that, but the things we do and observe; calling it "Christian living" .

Whether it be frothing from the lips with cuss words, or even the most uttering the most innocent of phrases in which no foul word is utilized, we sleepwalk through life saying and doing the most ridiculous of things; things that border on Biblical absurdity.

Notice that I did not grant any leave for levity in this. Excessivity of speech, or verbosity, are not exempt from this; nor are the unbiblical traditions that we keep; year in and year out.

Let me first break down the two verses I have given in the opening to the message and then we'll move on to more examples of what is entailed in idleness of speech and vain words.

The context of Matthew 12:36, is the event in which the Pharisees declared that the Lord Jesus received His power from the Devil.

Let us read.

Mt 12:22 ¶ Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

Mt 12:23 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

Mt 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

Mt 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

Mt 12:26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

Mt 12:27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

Mt 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Mt 12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

Mt 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Mt 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

Mt 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

Mt 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

Mt 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Mt 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Mt 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.

Mt 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

This passage of Scripture should give every single hearer cause to tremble; Elect or not.

Here, out of vanity and jealousy, the Pharisees have falsely accused the Lord Jesus Christ of gaining His power from Beelzebub; the Lord of the Flies. Essentially, that the Man Jesus was a full of it.

Now here, we read that Christ says that these Pharisees have committed the unpardonable sin... the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Not murder, not rape, not theft nor any other thing that we would associate with sin.

Words.

Our proverb, "Sticks and stones may break our bones but words can never hurt me" is surely a lie based on this evidence. The phrase itself is an example of "idle words" and "vain speech".

According to the Lord, sticks and stones may break our bones and words can damn our souls beyond forgiveness.

Let us have a look at “the tongue”. A small member of our bodies, yet capable of the most vile things.

Job 5:21 Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.

Job 15:5 For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou chooseth the tongue of the crafty.

Job 20:16 He shall suck the poison of asps: the viper's tongue shall slay him.

Ps 12:3 The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

Ps 39:1 To the chief Musician, even to Jeduthun, A Psalm of David. I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

Ps 57:4 My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

Ps 109:2 For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue.

Pr 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

Pr 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Isa 57:4 Against whom do ye sport yourselves? against whom make ye a wide mouth, and draw out the tongue? are ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood,

Jas 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

Jas 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

I think that these verses shall suffice for usage of the word, “tongue” in the Scriptures. Examine them. Consider seriously what they entail.

The tongue is spoken of as being “like a sword”; “a kindling fire”; a “viper’s tongue”; a “scourge”; an “unruly evil” et cetera.

It can be used for good and evil.

The tongue can give life to the spirit with Godly words or it can kill the spirit in an instant.
Such a small thing that causes so much damage and also can lift up the spirit.

This is why we will be held to account for every “idle word”; every bit of “vain speech” ... it is because of the damage that can be done in the one breath that it takes to unleash it.

Let us have a look at some more Scripture that relates to Ephesians 5:6.

Jer 29:8 ¶ For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

Jer 29:9 For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

Jer 29:31 Send to all them of the captivity, saying, Thus saith the LORD concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite; Because that Shemaiah hath prophesied unto you, and I sent him not, and he caused you to trust in a lie:

Eze 13:10 ¶ Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:

Eze 13:11 Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.

Eze 13:12 Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it?

Eze 13:13 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it.

Eze 13:14 So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Eze 13:15 Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon them that have daubed it with untempered mortar, and will say unto you, The wall is no more, neither they that daubed it;

Eze 13:16 To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD.

Mic 3:5 Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

Mt 24:4 ¶ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Mt 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

With the vain speech of the false prophet, that is, the hireling in the pulpit that teaches lies and Gnosticism as the true Gospel, many shall be led astray.

Mr 13:5 ¶ And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

Mr 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

We are told twice in the Gospels not to be deceived by a lying tongue, yet no one has listened to them nor have they believed our report.

Ga 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Ga 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

The Apostle Paul tells not to be deceived by a lying tongue as well.

Col 2:4 ¶ And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

Like getting your best life now, for instance; or living a “purpose driven life”.

Col 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

2Th 2:3 ¶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

Oh yes, brethren... it is in our day as the Lord and His Apostles, the Prophets as well, have told us.

Yet, we have ignored their warnings. How so? By the way we conduct our lives.

Here now, is where I will get into some of the daily things that we have all done and still do that would be considered “abominable” to God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Seemingly innocent things that we sleepwalk through without the slightest knowledge of what we are saying or doing.

Example 1. Sitting around the break room or lunch table at work listening to the ungodly telling jokes using subject matter that we know to be offensive to God and we laugh, or worse, engage in it.

Example 2. Expressing road rage while driving.

Example 3. Going on in idle gossip (which the Bible calls, “backbiting”)

I could go on with these types of examples, but that would be redundant. These are obvious examples of what we shouldn't be using our tongues for.

Here are some subtle examples.

Saying, “Merry Christmass”

This, is probably 1 or 2 in the rating of things we say that are most odious to God.

For starters, the Roman Catholic Mass is an utter blasphemy. In it, the priest has the power to command the Son of God to come down from the throne to become the physical presence of the Eucharist. Essentially being re-crucified at the whim of any man who is a priest in this religion; God the Son at the beck and call of the creature.

Secondly, that this is an occasion to be “merry” where there is the idol of the tree, the Nativity scene, lights, party décor, and the like to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus on a day in which

1. He was not born

2. It is the pagan birthday celebration of Thor, Hercules, and Father Christmas who is based in Norse mythology.

Which leads us into the close second of “harmless” usage of words; “Happy Birthday”.

Why someone who calls themselves a Christian would say this phrase is beyond me.

For starters, the day of our physical birth is something to be abhorred; it is the day we enter physically into the world under the curse of Original Sin.

Job has this to say about the day of his birth...

Job 3:1 ¶ After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day.

Job 3:2 And Job spake, and said,

Job 3:3 Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived.

Job 3:4 Let that day be darkness; let not God regard it from above, neither let the light shine upon it.

Job 3:5 Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it; let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.

Job 3:6 As for that night, let darkness seize upon it; let it not be joined unto the days of the year, let it not come into the number of the months.

Job 3:7 Lo, let that night be solitary, let no joyful voice come therein.

Job 3:8 Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning.

Job 3:9 Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark; let it look for light, but have none; neither let it see the dawning of the day:

Job 3:10 Because it shut not up the doors of my mother's womb, nor hid sorrow from mine eyes.

Job 3:11 ¶ Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?

Job 3:12 Why did the knees prevent me? or why the breasts that I should suck?

Job 3:13 For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest,

Now some may argue that Job was grieving about his circumstances and that gave cause for him to curse the day of his birth.

I tell you that the Scriptures do not ONCE tell of Hebrews, or Jews, or even Christians of celebrating birthdays. We see Herod and Pharaoh celebrating them. Pagans.

Here is another tidbit about holiday (holi day) observations like the birthday and Xmass that will horrify you.

I have taken the liberty to repost an article from Still Waters Revival Books on the subject matter of the Satanic origin of the birthday celebration. All links to the very articles I would've given are displayed here for your consideration. I have taught on these things for a few years now on social media, but did not decide until now to bring it to a recording. I did not learn this from the article that I'm about to share, but since it was easier to just use this than to redo all the work again, I give you this.

BTW, for anyone who wishes another source for Puritan and Reformed resources, you can visit the old SWRB under their current name; Puritan Downloads. www.puritandownloads.com S

There is an affinity of such commemoration among the wicked as recorded in The Satanic Bible (Anton LaVey, (Air) Book of Lucifer – The Enlightenment, Avon Books, 1969, Ch XI, Religious Holidays, p. 96) regarding Birthdays:

"The highest of all holidays in the Satanic religion is the date of one's own birthday. This is in direct contradiction to the holy of holy days of other religions, which deify a particular god who has been created in an anthropomorphic form of their own image, thereby showing that the ego is not really buried. The Satanist feels: 'Why not really be honest and if you are going to create a god in your image, why not create that god as yourself.' Every man is a god if he chooses to recognize himself as one. So, the Satanist celebrates his own birthday as the most important holiday of the year. After all, aren't you happier about the fact that you were born than you are about the birth of someone you have never even met? Or for that matter, aside from religious holidays, why pay higher tribute to the birthday of a president or to a date in history than we do to the day we were brought into this greatest of all worlds? Despite the fact that some of us may not have been wanted, or at least were not particularly planned, we're glad, even if no one else is, that we're here! You should give yourself a pat on the back, buy yourself whatever you want, treat yourself like the king (or god) that you are, and generally celebrate your birthday with as much pomp and ceremony as possible."

<http://www.mashiyach.com/Misc/birthdays.htm>

It is interesting that birthdays are considered the most important holiday to these Satan worshipers (the founding of their "church", called Walpurgisnacht, and Halloween are the other ones of importance to them).

Of course, early Christians did not celebrate birthdays nor did the early Jews. Nor have real Christians ever celebrated Halloween.

<http://www.cogwriter.com/news/doctrine/the-satanic-bible-and-birthdays/>

Origen of Alexandria, writing over two centuries after the death of Jesus follows this same line when he recorded a diatribe against the memories of birthdays, indicating that at the time of his writing, a day to remember the birth of Jesus was not part of the church calendar. In his Homilies on Leviticus, speaking on the aspect of birth, Origen states:

. . . not one from all the saints is found to have celebrated a festive day or a great feast on the day of his birth. No one is found to have had joy on the day of the birth of his son or daughter. Only sinners rejoice over this kind of birthday. For indeed we find in the Old Testament Pharaoh, king of Egypt, celebrating the day of his birth with a festival, and in the New Testament, Herod. However both of them stained the festival of his birth by shedding human blood. . . . But the saints not only do not celebrate a festival on their birth days, but, filled with the Holy Spirit, they curse that day (, after the example of Job, Jeremiah and David).

(Barkley, Homilies on Leviticus: 1–16 / Origen, 156.)

<http://firstfollowers.vision.org/public/blog/170001?archive=Weekly+.2007-50> &
<http://snipurl.com/8zkwz> [books_google_ca]

What is the origin of birthday celebrations?

Birthday celebrations are actually rooted in paganism.

Encyclopedia Americana (1991) states:

"The ancient world of Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Persia celebrated the birthdays of gods, kings, and nobles."

Authors Ralph and Adelin Linton reveal the underlying reason for this. In their book *The Lore of Birthdays*, they write:

"Mesopotamia and Egypt, the cradles of civilization, were also the first lands in which men remembered and honoured their birthdays. The keeping of birthday records was important in ancient times principally because a birth date was essential for the casting of a horoscope."

So, there is a direct connection between the Pagan practice of birthday celebrations and astrology (horoscopes and fortune telling).

Not surprisingly then, the ancient Jews did not celebrate birthdays, regarding them as Pagan.

Also, World Book Encyclopedia (3:416) states:

"The early Christians did not celebrate His [Christ's] birth because they considered the celebration of anyone's birth to be a pagan custom."

http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_the_origin_of_birthday_celebrations

Down to the fourth century Christianity rejected the birthday celebration as a pagan custom.

<http://www.abcof.org/birthday.htm>

To satiate this point, notice also the record of the first century historian Josephus: The Jews in Christ's day knew God's attitude toward birthday celebrations, "Nay, indeed, the law does not permit us to make festivals at the births of our children" (Josephus, Against Apion, II:26).

<http://ow.ly/eVu75>

History of celebration of birthdays in the West

It is thought that the large-scale celebration of birthdays in Europe began with the cult of Mithras, which originated in Persia but was spread by soldiers throughout the Roman Empire. Before this, such celebrations were not common; and, hence, practices from other contexts such as the Saturnalia were adapted for birthdays. (Wikipedia. Birthdays. July 12, 2007).

Christmas is also relevant because December 25th was the day of celebration of the birthday of the sun-god Mithra.

... World Book Encyclopedia notes,

Christmas... In 354 A.D., Bishop Liberius of Rome ordered the people to celebrate on December 25. He probably chose this date because the people of Rome already observed it as the Feast of Saturn, celebrating the birthday of the sun (Sechrist, Christmas, Vol. 3, 1966, pp. 408-417).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birthday>

Long ago, the average person never paid any attention whatsoever to the anniversary of their birth. The initial pattern that developed concerned the celebrating of the birthday of their deity, once each year, at the winter solstice. This is the origin of Christmas, since the winter solstice was considered the "re-birth" or "birthday" of the solar deity (Natalis Sol Invictus, or the Nativity of Sol, the unconquerable). This alone marks the behavior as originating from the rebellion against YaHUaH, Who is the one and only Elohim of Heaven and Earth. Remember that YaHUaH commanded that we not learn the ways of the heathen (Dt. 12). Later, people began to celebrate the annual birth of their king at the same time as their deity, aligning their ruler with the same honors given to their deity. In their minds, their ruler became an anthropomorphic version of their deity. In the east, average people slowly began to celebrate their personal "birth day" once each year on what they believed to be "new year's day." Eventually, people developed the custom of observing their personal birth day on the annual day they were actually born.

<http://www.fossilizedcustoms.com/birthday.html>

Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts; Origen, glancing perhaps at the discreditable imperial Natalitia, asserts (in Lev. Hom. viii in Migne, P.G., XII, 495) that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday; Arnobius (VII, 32 in P.L., V, 1264) can still ridicule the "birthdays" of the gods.

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03724b.htm>

In their essay titled "Birthdays, Jewishly," Lisa Farber Miller and Sandra Widener point out that the Encyclopedia Judaica is very blunt on this topic:

"The celebration of birthdays is unknown in traditional Jewish ritual."

... Originally, even as more and more Gentiles began to profess Christ (so much so that they outnumbered those of Jewish heritage that did), the early Gentile leaders also did not endorse the celebration of birthdays. No early church writer endorsed the observance of birthdays by Christians, nor are they ever listed in the early observances of the Christian church.

Therefore, the celebration of birthdays, was clearly not part of "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

No early religious/church writing from the second century that I have seen (and I have read most that are available) seems to endorse (or even suggest) the celebration of birthdays by any who professed Christ.

Although he was not part of the Church of God, the writings of the early third century Catholic theologian Origen of Alexandria show that, even that late, Orthodox Catholics were against the celebration of birthdays. The Catholic Encyclopedia states:

Origen, glancing perhaps at the discreditable imperial Natalitia, asserts (in Lev. Hom. viii in Migne, P.G., XII, 495) that in the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday (M.C. Christmas, 1908).

<http://www.cogwriter.com/birthdays.htm>

Christmas is coming! Quite so: but what is "Christmas?" Does not the very term itself denote it's source - "Christ-mass." Thus it is of Roman origin, brought over from paganism. But, says someone, Christmas is the time when we commemorate the Savior's birth. It is? And WHO authorized such commemoration? Certainly God did not. The Redeemer bade His disciples "remember" Him in His death, but there is not a word in scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, which tells us to celebrate His birth. Moreover, who knows when, in what month, He was born? The Bible is silent thereon. It is without reason that the only "birthday" commemorations mentioned in God's Word are Pharaoh's (Gen. 40:20) and Herod's (Matt. 14:6)? Is this recorded "for our learning?" If so, have we prayerfully taken it to heart?

- A.W. Pink, Xmas (Christ-mass) (of which can also be heard by clicking this link <https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=1225151533240>)

The point, I hope is clear; birthday keeping is an abomination to God.

How about this phrase...

Man can choose Christ (outside of regeneration) according to his own free will.

How about the doctrine of the pre-tribulation Rapture?

How about Arminianism? Antinomianism?

The false doctrine of “common grace”?

The list is endless. All without utilizing a single cuss word.

I hope that this message has given you all cause to pause in just talking for the sake of talking.

For we will indeed all be held accountable for the things we say and do.

I will leave you with the words of King Jesus as He gave them to The Apostle John in His final address to the seven churches of Asia.

This is the Lord Jesus Christ NOW. As King and Judge.

Re 1:1 ¶ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Re 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Re 1:3 ¶ Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Re 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Re 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Re 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Re 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Re 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Re 1:9 ¶ I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Re 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Re 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Re 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

Re 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Re 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Re 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Re 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Re 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Re 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Re 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Re 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Re 2:1 ¶ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

Re 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

Re 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Re 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Re 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Re 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Re 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Re 2:8 ¶ And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

Re 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Re 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Re 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Re 2:12 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

Re 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Re 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Re 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Re 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Re 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Re 2:18 ¶ And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

Re 2:19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Re 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Re 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Re 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Re 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Re 2:24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

Re 2:25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

Re 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Re 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Re 2:28 And I will give him the morning star.

Re 2:29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Re 3:1 ¶ And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Re 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Re 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Re 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

Re 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Re 3:6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Re 3:7 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Re 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Re 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Re 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Re 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Re 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Re 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Re 3:14 ¶ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Re 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Re 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Re 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Re 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Re 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Re 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Re 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Re 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

These are the final words of Jesus, the King. They are not suggestions or recommendations to be pondered over and then you make a decision as to whether or not you're going to comply.

I would recommend listening to Bill Mencarow's sermon series on Revelation to get a historical perspective on these sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ. They can be found on Sermon Audio. Here is the link for them.

<https://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?sourceOnly=true&currSection=sermonsource&keyword=reformation&subsetcat=series&subsetitem=Book+of+Revelation>

I have given his Sermon Audio series link instead of mine.

In closing,

Let us be mindful of where we are and what we are doing at any given time.

We are called to be witnesses to the Truth. We are called to raise up our children in nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord

Let us be examples in this evil day of idolatry and self-absorption.

Let us pray,

Father,

I thank you for this day in which we are drawn to come together to hear the preaching of Your Word.

I have been guilty in the past of doing these very things that You Hate and I am certain that we all are guilty of the same.

However, I pray that You will grant us pardon for our sin and forgive our iniquity; that You, in grace, may permit our pardon and grant us forgiveness. We pray that You will cause us to repent of any known wickedness.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen