

Is Jesus the Only Way? March 26, 2023

1. The Emotional Envelope and Tone of Response

Galatians 5:22-23, *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”*

Proverbs 16:21-28; 32, *“The wise in heart will be called understanding, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness. ²² Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it, but the discipline of fools is folly. ²³ The heart of the wise instructs his mouth and adds persuasiveness to his lips. ²⁴ Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. ²⁵ There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. ²⁶ A worker’s appetite works for him, for his hunger urges him on. ²⁷ A worthless man digs up evil, while his words are like scorching fire. ²⁸ A perverse man spreads strife, and a slanderer separates intimate friends. ³² He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.”*

Luke 6:39-45, *“Jesus spoke a parable to them: ‘A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye. ⁴³ For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. ⁴⁴ For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. ⁴⁵ The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.”*

Ephesians 4:15, *“Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Christ who is the head.”*

2. The Gospel Response

2 Peter 1:20-21, *“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

2 Timothy 3:15-16, *“The sacred writings are able to give you wisdom that leads to salvation... All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”*

John 14:6, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

2 Peter 3:9, *“The Lord is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”*

Colossians 1:16-17, *“For by Jesus all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Jesus and for Jesus. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together.”*

2 Corinthians 9:15, *“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”*

Revelation 1:18, *“I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys to death and of Hades.”*

John 14:9, *“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”*

John 10:30, *“I and the Father are one.”*

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, *“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”*