

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
Matthew 12:36-37

11. All My Sins On The Jumbotron

Matthew 12:36-37
Ephesians 4:32
Ephesians 5:1
Matthew 12:33
Proverbs 18:21
James 3:5-6
Ephesians 4:29
James 4:11-12
Romans 8:1
Revelation 20:11-12

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Matthew 12:36-37 is often misunderstood out of context to mean that all of our sins ("every careless word") will be put on display for all to see on judgment day. This verse, in context, is spoken to self-righteous Pharisees who attributed Jesus' miracles to Satan...it was about their rejection of God's work—not a universal principle that our sins will be publicly displayed.

Our words are powerful; they can build up or destroy, they can reveal our hearts, and have life-and-death consequences. Jesus' warning was specifically directed at those rejecting Him. Those who trust in Christ are judged by Christ's righteousness rather than our own words or deeds.

The Gospel results in complete forgiveness. Jesus has already borne believers' shame and sin. In light of Christ's work, we can live boldly in the confidence that our names are written in the Book of Life. Let us trust in Christ's finished work, rather than being paralyzed by fear of judgment. Emphasizing grace provides the foundation for transformed communication.

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