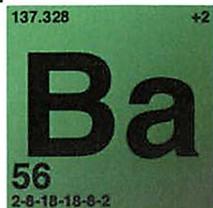


Breaking



Bad

“ 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. ”

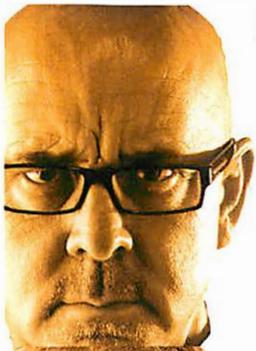
(Matthew 12:36-37)

1) Curses of Death & Destruction

- A) Everyone struggles with destructive language (James 3:6-11). The words we use come from the depth of our identity (Matthew 12:33-35). Since the words we use reveal the truth of our identity, they are a justified foundation for eternal judgment (12:36-37).
- B) All of us can recall harsh hurling wicked words at another person in anger, pain, or an explosion of rage. In these moments, voicing our emotions or convictions can seem very satisfying, despite its destructive nature. **BEWARE!** This kind of reckless and unbridled verbal wickedness is addictive and self-destructive (Proverbs 18:20-21, 7).
- C) We have all been "marked," often painfully, by words spoken to us (Proverbs 12:6). The "deadly poison" of the tongue is the ungodly self-justifying and self-defensive pouring out of words (Proverbs 10:18-20), often in anger (10:10-11, 14:17, 29).

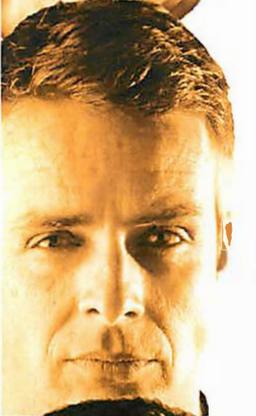
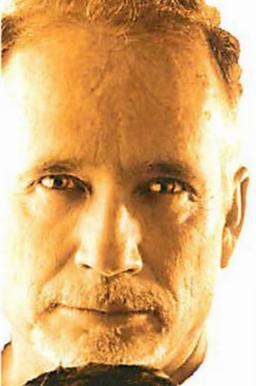


ALL BAD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END



2) *Reminder: The Gospel Breaks Bad*

- A) The "normal" method for dealing with this kind of sin in our lives is to fight against it, defeating evil and breaking bad in our lives through self-control and restraint. We even find justification in the Bible, with partial readings of God's Word, and a misapplication of "Just Do It" (Romans 6:12-13a, James 2:17).
- B) Our best efforts toward fighting the good fight through self-willed hard work leaves us frustrated, exhausted, and confused (Romans 5:15-25). The bottom line is simple. Only a genuine and ongoing grace relationship with Jesus can relieve our tendency to face obstacles as though working harder solves our sin problems (Romans 8:1, 5, 11).
- C) Without an ongoing/constant Gospel dependence, we are destined for frustration (Philippians 2:12-13). The Gospel demands we submit our lives to God for salvation. Do not be fooled! Trust your life to Him, and continue to grow in Spirit filled faith (Galatians 3:1-3).



3) *The Unbelievable Power of Blessing*

- A) Our lives are called to a blessing to others, especially in the words we use (Proverbs 15:1-4).
- B) Gospel words are life giving words (Proverbs 16:24), coming from God's Spirit through the mouths of His children (Romans 12:1-2). This is a passionate call to each of you to intentionally and actively bless one another (Colossians 3:12-17).
- C) This is especially significant for Fathers with their wives and children. For Single Mom's/Dad's with your kids. For mentors with mentees. The strong with the weak. Tenderly bless with words of life, healing, and grace for the hearer (Ephesians 4:29)!

