

Luke 11:27-28

"Keep the Word"

June 15, 2025

1. Intro

- a. Typically, this would be the point where I would tell you to turn in your Bibles to our passage for this morning's sermon... BUT...
 - i. Today, I'd like for you to open your Bibles back to Luke chapter 1
 1. Now don't worry... we aren't restarting our sermon series on Luke's Gospel
 - a. But in order to really understand our main passage for today, we do have to briefly look back to where we began about 18 months ago
 - ii. The reason for this is simple...
 1. When we get to Luke 11:27-28, we are faced with the question, "What does it mean for Mary, the mother of Jesus, to be BLESSED?"
 - a. This is a question of utmost importance
 - i. We as Evangelical Protestants would answer this question MUCH differently than most of our Roman Catholic friends, wouldn't we?
 - iii. And so, I want us to look at some key passages, and then we'll briefly unpack some of the different views on Mary
 1. So first, starting in Luke 1:28, we have the glorious revelation by the angel, Gabriel, to the young virgin, Mary,
 - a. *"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"*
 - i. Mary initially, and understandably, is troubled by the angel's words, but Gabriel goes on and says,
 1. ³⁰*"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*
 - a. THAT is a pretty incredible announcement, isn't it?
 - ii. Mary then asks a perfectly natural question,
 1. *"How will this be, since I am a virgin?"*
 - iii. And Gabriel replies,
 1. ³⁵*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be borne will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."*
 - iv. And then Mary gives her beautifully humble response...
 1. ³⁸*"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."*
 2. One of the most pivotal moments in Scripture, when an angel from the Most High God, comes down to a young peasant girl in the village of Nazareth...
 - a. And tells her that she is to bear the very Son of God in her womb
 - i. The Son who will sit on the throne of David

- ii. The Son who will rule over the house of Jacob forever
 - iii. The Son of whose Kingdom there will be no end
 - 1. Have no doubt about it, Mary was TRULY blessed by God
 - a. For God Himself had bestowed His favor upon her
- iv. Luke then goes on to tell how Mary traveled to the hill country to stay with her relative, Elizabeth, who was carrying in HER womb the last of the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist
 - 1. And when Mary entered Elizabeth and Zechariah's house, as soon she said "Hello!", John leapt in Elizabeth's womb
 - a. And Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaimed with a loud cry in verse 42,
 - i. *⁴²"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."*
 - b. As Elizabeth realized through the revelation of the Spirit, Mary was TRULY blessed by God
 - i. For Mary had believed what was spoken to her from the Lord
- v. And then, in joyful celebration, Mary burst out into song in verse 46,
 - 1. *⁴⁶"My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, FROM NOW ON ALL GENERATIONS WILL CALL ME BLESSED; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."*
 - a. Mary was TRULY blessed by God
 - i. For He who is mighty had done great things for her, and holy is HIS name
 - 2. The Scriptures are clear, no other woman in history will ever receive the favor of God...
 - a. To the extent of getting to be the mother of the Son of God
 - i. No other woman in history will be blessed in such a way...
 - ii. No other woman in history will shown the MERCY of God in such a way...
 - b. It is GOOD and RIGHT for all generations to look at Mary, and call her blessed!
 - i. For this is what the Word of God CLEARLY says
 - 1. As we've seen, the blessing of Mary is ALL OVER this first chapter of the Gospel of Luke
 - a. But here is the key idea when it comes to Mary's blessedness
 - 3. All of these proclamations about the blessedness of Mary are contained in Luke 1...
 - a. And they all END in Luke 1
 - i. Jesus will briefly mention the blessedness of his mother in Luke 11

1. But, other than that, throughout all the rest of the Gospels, Mary is seen as being, well...
 - a. STRIKINGLY ordinary
- b. And it is here that we can learn and apply a VERY important principle from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:6
 - i. As he's warning the believers in Corinth about the dangers of our foolish pride, Paul writes these words...
 1. *⁶I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us NOT TO GO BEYOND WHAT IS WRITTEN, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.*
- b. My friends, there is GREAT danger in going beyond what is written in the Scriptures in regard to ANY doctrine
 - i. But I would argue that we are quite possibly in EVEN MORE danger when we go beyond what is written in the Scriptures regarding the mother of our Lord
 - ii. And I'll illustrate that danger by giving you just a few things that the Roman Catholic church currently teaches about Mary
 1. And just so we are all on the same page that this isn't just a minor issue in a small sect of the quote/unquote "Christian" religion...
 - a. Roman Catholics number around 1.272 BILLION people all around the world,
 - i. Which makes up almost HALF of all the people in the world who identify as Christian
 1. Evangelical Protestants, which is what WE are, only number around 900 million, or about 37% of the people who call themselves Christian
 - ii. Just let that resonate with you...
 1. Nearly HALF of all professing Christians around the world believe in the teachings of the Roman Catholic church
 - iii. The Roman Catholic church would have us believe that, in order for Mary's virginity to be TRULY sacred, then her virginity must be PERPETUAL
 1. In other words, she and Joseph didn't just abstain from marital relations during her pregnancy with Jesus...
 - a. But they abstained throughout THE ENTIRETY of their marriage
 - i. And therefore, when the Scriptures talk about Jesus' "brothers and sisters" in Matthew 12, and Matthew 13, and Mark 3, and Luke 8...
 1. Well, what they actually MEANT to say was that these were just his cousins, or other close relatives
 - a. Because there is no way that Mary could have had any more kids after Jesus
 - i. For her virginity was, and is, EVERLASTING
 2. The problem is, this isn't supported ANYWHERE in the Scriptures
 - a. The proof text that is often used to argue for this doctrine is John 19:26-27, where Jesus is on the cross, and he looks to his mother standing next to the Apostle John, and he says,
 - i. "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold, your mother!"
 1. And the argument is, if Jesus had had other brothers and sisters, he wouldn't have needed to pull John in to take care of his mom

- ii. Friends, that could hardly stand as any kind of evidence to support such a massive statement that Mary is eternally a virgin
 - 1. Especially thinking about the fact that, in those last moments of Jesus' life, all the men in his life had fled the scene
 - a. And John was the only one left, along with Mary and a bunch of other women
 - i. The evidence to support the perpetual virginity of Mary simply is not there
 - b. Friends, we must not go beyond what is written in the Scriptures
- iv. The Roman Catholic church would also have us believe in the Assumption of Mary, which is the belief that Mary didn't ever die, but was taken up into heaven
 - 1. Just as Enoch was taken up by God in Genesis 5, and Elijah went to heaven in a chariot of fire in 2 Kings 2
 - a. The argument here is that the Scriptures don't ever say anything about Mary's death
 - i. In fact, Mary isn't even mentioned in the Scriptures again after the day of Pentecost
 - ii. Centuries AFTER Pentecost, there were two tombs discovered that were supposedly Mary's tombs...
 - 1. One in Jerusalem and one in Ephesus
 - a. But when they opened up the tombs, NEITHER of them had any evidence of a body
 - b. So, naturally, God MUST have brought Mary straight to heaven, because of how tremendously blessed she was
 - i. Except... the Bible doesn't say anything even HINTING at that idea
 - 1. Friends, we must not go beyond what is written in the Scriptures
- v. The Roman Catholic church would also have us believe in the Immaculate Conception... not JUST of Jesus, but of Mary as well
 - 1. In other words, by the grace of God, Mary was born SINLESS
 - a. Without the stain of Adam and Eve's sin...
 - b. Without the curse brought upon us all by the Fall in the Garden
 - i. Again, Roman Catholics WILL stress that this was an act of God's grace
 - 1. But nevertheless, Mary was born without sin
 - 2. For the Holy Son of God could never dwell in the temple of Mary's womb, if she had been sinful just like the rest of us
 - 2. And here's the great news...
 - a. Because Mary was sinless, she can now redeem the sin of Eve, just as Jesus redeems the sin of Adam
 - i. According to many Roman Catholic theologians, Mary is CO-REDEMPTRIX with Jesus...
 - 1. As she brings our prayers before him, and he then brings them before the Father
 - a. And because Mary is so highly favored and so highly blessed, she now lives as the great Queen of Heaven, affirmed as recently as 1954 by Pope Pius the XI
 - 3. But again, we must ask, if Mary is indeed given such a majestic title, and she is indeed to be prayed to on a regular basis, and venerated as the greatest of the saints...

- a. Then why are the Scriptures utterly SILENT on ALL of these things?
- vi. This is the great danger of going beyond what is written in the Scriptures, especially in regard to Jesus' mother
 - 1. For, according to these teachings, we now no longer have direct access to the Father through His Son
 - a. But we must instead first go through Queen Mary
 - i. Well at this point we are preaching a DIFFERENT gospel than what the Bible proclaims
 - 1. And the Bible has some SERIOUS words of warning about preaching different gospels
- vii. But isn't this our natural tendency, as people who are still deeply sinful in our flesh?
 - 1. We know that the Scriptures say that we are saved by the grace of God...
 - 2. We know that the Bible says that Jesus is the ONLY way to the Father...
 - 3. We know that the Word is clear that Christ's atoning sacrifice was enough to reconcile us to our Father...
 - a. And we can now approach the throne of grace with confidence – because of HIS finished work
 - i. But that never is quite enough, is it?
- viii. We always tend to drift toward "Jesus PLUS something else"
 - 1. We always want to take something of this world, and exalt it to the heavens alongside of Jesus
 - a. For the prosperity gospel churches, its Jesus PLUS health and wealth and finding your destiny
 - b. For the giant megachurches across the world, its Jesus PLUS fame and influence and followers on social media
 - c. For the Roman Catholic church, its Jesus PLUS the co-redeeming work of his mother, Mary...
 - i. Who resides as the Queen of Heaven, interceding on our behalf to her Son
 - 1. We are CONSTANTLY trying to elevate the worldly into the heavenly
 - a. And that is what we find in our short passage for this morning
 - ii. NOW, you can turn to Luke 11, verses 27-28, and we'll look at these two verses together
- ix. After Jesus finishes his teachings on the problems with divided kingdoms, and the activities of unclean spirits, we read this in verse 27...

2. Luke 11:27

- a. *²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!"*
 - i. Now, we've already proven that this woman IS NOT necessarily wrong, is she?
 - 1. Luke chapter 1 confirms that Mary truly was blessed by God, and that ALL generations can, and SHOULD, call her "blessed"
 - a. But its almost as if Jesus knows the tendencies of our hearts, isn't it?
 - b. It's almost as if he knew that we would have the proclivity to want to lift his mother to the heavens
 - c. It's almost as if he knew that one day we might try to make an idol out of Mary
 - ii. And so, look at how he redirects this unnamed woman in verse 28...

3. Luke 11:28

a. ²⁸*But Jesus said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"*

i. Now, it's interesting that there is some debate over this word that is translated as "rather" in this verse

1. Some scholars translate this word in the negative sense, as "rather," or "on the contrary"

a. So they would have Jesus disagreeing with this woman, and saying, "No, ON THE CONTRARY, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it."

2. But this word for "rather" can also be translated POSITIVELY, as "indeed," or "doubtless"

a. So verse 28 could also read,

i. *"Blessed INDEED are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"*

ii. And I would argue that reading this verse from the POSITIVE perspective is actually the BEST perspective

1. Being not only the perfect Son of God, but also the very human son of Mary, there is no doubt that Jesus would have had an incredibly deep love for his mother

a. And he – more than anyone else on the earth – would have understood in that moment how truly blessed his mother was

i. So it doesn't make sense AT ALL to read this verse in a way where Jesus DENIES the blessedness of his mother in a negative way

1. Can you really picture Jesus saying to this lady who just paid a tremendous compliment to his mother...

a. "Oh no no no... you are mistaken. ON THE CONTRARY, THIS is who is TRULY blessed..."

2. That is hardly in keeping with his character, is it?

iii. But here's the beauty of it...

1. We can fully affirm the blessedness of Mary in a positive sense, and still steer FAR AWAY from theological error, IF we just pay attention to what Jesus DID say

a. This woman shouts out, *"Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!"*

i. And Jesus replies, *"INDEED! Blessed are those (PLURAL) who hear the word of God and keep it!"*

b. Do you see?

i. TRUE blessedness before God IS NOT reserved for Mary the mother of God

ii. TRUE blessedness before God is not reserved just for the Apostles or the "super saints"

1. In one simple statement, Jesus absolutely LEVELS the playing field...

a. And now, THE VERY SAME BLESSEDNESS is available to ALL...

i. All who HEAR the word of God

ii. And all who and KEEP the Word of God

iii. So let's unpack these two requirements together...

4. First, in order to experience the true blessedness of God, you first have to HEAR the Word of God

a. Nowhere is this stated more clearly in the Bible than in Romans 10:14-15

i. Paul spends the preceding verses talking about the requirements of salvation...

1. That in order to be saved, you must confess with your mouth that Jesus Lord, and you must believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead

- a. According to Paul, EVERYONE who does these two things, and who callus upon the name of the Lord, WILL be saved
2. But then he goes on in verses 14 and 15 with these all-important questions...
 - a. *¹⁴How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*
 - i. And then in verse 17, he concludes with this statement...
 1. *¹⁷faith comes from HEARING, and hearing through the word of Christ.*
- ii. Blessed are those who first HEAR the word of God
 1. Friends, God most certainly CAN use dreams and visions to spread the Gospel
 - a. We hear stories of this happening to Muslims in the Middle East, or to people in cut-off countries like North Korea
 2. God most certainly CAN use angels to spread the Gospel
 - a. If you think about the meaning of the word "Gospel", which literally means "Good News," then clearly we have evidence in the Scriptures of angels bringing the Good News to men
 - i. We already talked about the exceedingly good news that Gabriel brought to young Mary
 1. But before he went to Mary, he went to Zechariah, and he proclaimed to him the good news of the coming Messiah
 - b. In fact, Revelation 14:6-7 tells us that this is EXACTLY what will happen when the time of the final judgment arrives, as the Apostle John wrote these words...
 - i. *⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."*
3. So... CAN God use dreams and vision to cause people to hear the word?
 - a. Yes, He can
4. CAN God send angels to cause people to hear the eternal Gospel?
 - a. Yes, He can... and there will come a time near the end when He will
5. BUT, until then, God's primary means causing people to hear the Word of God is YOU... and it is ME
 - a. According to the counsel and plan of His own perfect wisdom, God has entrusted His Word, and the PROCLAMATION of His Word, to a bunch of struggling sinners called "the church"
 - i. How will your neighbor down the street hear the word of God that could very well transform their life for all eternity?
 1. It very well could be from YOU, as you become the beautiful feet that take the Gospel just down the road
 - a. How will your neighbor HEAR, if no one ever GOES to them?
 - b. And how will they believe in him of whom they have never heard?

- c. And how will they call on him in whom they have not believed?
 - ii. Or what about the approximately 7000 or so unreached people groups that still exist out in the world today...
 - 1. People groups who have NO IDEA what the eternal Gospel of God is,
 - a. Because no one has EVER gone to tell them
 - 2. How will THEY call on the name of Jesus, if they've never been TOLD the name of Jesus?
 - a. Every single one of those unreached people groups will remain unreached, until WE, the CHURCH, begin to devote our time and energy and resources...
 - i. To GOING and SENDING those who WILL proclaim Christ to them
 - b. As the church is obedient to the command to GO into all nations, THEN these groups will begin to be blessed, for they will begin to HEAR the word of God
 - 6. But it's not enough to just hear the Word of God, is it?
 - a. No, Jesus is absolutely clear here in Luke 11...
- 5. In order to TRULY be blessed, you must hear the Word of God, AND you must KEEP the Word of God
 - a. We read Romans 10:14-15, about the beautiful feet that GO and preach the Word to the lost...
 - i. And we read verse 17, that said that *"faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ"*
 - 1. But sandwiched between these verses is verse 16, where Paul laments the unbelief of his fellow Israelites, and he says this...
 - a. ¹⁶*But they have not all OBEYED the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"*
 - 2. The Israelites heard the Gospel as John the Baptist came in the wilderness proclaiming the coming Messiah
 - a. They heard the Gospel when Jesus himself walked throughout all of their towns and villages, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God
 - i. They heard Peter and the others stand up on the Day of Pentecost and explain the wonders of the Gospel, each in their own native language
 - 1. And now they had been hearing from this rebellious traitor named Paul, who had once been on track to be one of the greatest Jewish religious leaders of their day
 - a. But now he had thrown it all away to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - 3. The Israelites had HEARD the Word of God proclaimed FOR DECADES
 - a. And yet the vast majority of them would never choose to KEEP the Word of God
 - i. And therefore, they were not counted worthy of being a disciple of Jesus
 - ii. This is the mark of a TRUE disciple, isn't it?
 - 1. You hear the word of God, and you keep the word of God
 - a. Jesus himself taught us this in the Great Commission, in Matthew 28:18-20
 - i. ¹⁸*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰TEACHING*

THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- b. Disciples are those who have HEARD
 - i. And disciples are those who OBSERVE – or keep – all that Jesus has commanded

6. So, what does it mean to “keep” the Word?

a. Obviously, it means to OBEY the Word

i. Surprisingly, it even means that we obey THE GOSPEL

1. Again, this was what Paul said in Romans 10:16, after talking about how beautiful the feet are of those who preach the good news,

a. He then said, *“But not all have OBEYED the Gospel”*

2. In 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, as Paul is speaking about the coming judgment of God, he says this, that God will...

a. *⁷... grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who DO NOT OBEY THE GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus.*

3. Peter speaks of these very same things in 1 Peter 4:17, when he says,

a. *¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who DO NOT OBEY THE GOSPEL OF GOD?*

ii. So, what does it mean to obey the Gospel?

1. According to John the Baptist, and Jesus, and all the other writers of the New Testament,

a. To OBEY the Gospel, you first must REPENT of your sin

i. If you do not understand that you are a sinner, then you will never understand that you need a Savior

1. So the first step in obeying the Gospel is to REPENT of your sinfulness against God Almighty

b. Second, to obey the Gospel you must CONFESS with your heart that Jesus is Lord

i. Jesus is not your get-out-of-hell-free card

1. He is not your ticket to the golden streets of heaven

a. He is KING

i. And you must surrender EVERYTHING to him as Lord

c. And third, to obey the Gospel you must BELIEVE in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead

i. We don't follow a dead prophet like Muhammed or Jospheh Smith

ii. We don't follow lifeless pagan gods like Baal or Allah or Buddha

1. We follow the risen Christ, who God raised from the dead, to ascend into heaven, and to sit on the throne at His right hand, where he rules and reigns over EVERYTHING!

iii. And when you repent of your sin...

1. When you confess that Jesus is Lord

2. When you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead

a. You WILL call on the name of Jesus

i. And you WILL be saved!

- iv. For you have OBEYED the Gospel
 - 1. You have heard the Word of God, and you have KEPT it
- iii. Now, in the mystery working of God's providence, all of this repenting and confessing and believing and calling comes as a result of the GRACE of God
 - 1. Ephesians 2:8-10 is clear on this
 - a. That it's by GRACE you have been saved – not by works, lest any man should boast
 - i. But AT THE SAME TIME, the imperatives – the commands – remain
 - 1. You MUST repent
 - 2. You MUST confess
 - 3. And you MUST believe
- iv. And as the Holy Spirit does his work of removing your heart of stone, and replacing it with a living, SPIRITUAL heart, THEN you move beyond just obeying THE GOSPEL
 - 1. And you move into a life of obeying ALL THE REST of the words of God
 - a. That starts with obeying and observing all that Jesus has commanded
 - i. Just in case you haven't read the four Gospels, rest assured, you will spend the rest of your life learning what it means to truly obey the commands of Jesus...
 - 1. Let's ask a few simple questions to prove this point...
 - a. How many of us loved our enemies well this week?
 - b. How many of us kept our minds completely free from lustful thoughts this week? Or from coveting over something we saw on the internet?
 - c. How many of us stayed free and clear of worry and anxiety over money, or clothes, or bills, or retirement funds?
 - d. How many of us loved the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength this week?
 - ii. As it turns out, keeping the commands of Jesus is truly a lifetime endeavor, isn't it?
- b. But the beauty of it is, the same grace that enabled us to obey the Gospel, ALSO enables us to keep the word of God!
 - i. In 1 Corinthians 15:10, Paul talks about how hard he has worked to deliver the message of the Gospel to so many different people
 - 1. Think about all that he endured in his life, after he surrendered his life to Jesus
 - a. Beatings, shipwrecks, ridicule, stoning, imprisonment
 - i. Paul was willing to do WHATEVER it took to KEEP the word of God
 - b. But in 1 Corinthians 15:10, Paul says this...
 - i. *¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*
 - ii. Paul experienced the truly blessed life, because, by the grace of God, he heard the Word of God
 - 1. And by the grace of God, he KEPT the Word of God
- iii. Mary was also truly blessed, because, by the grace of God, she heard the word of God proclaimed by the angel Gabriel
 - 1. And by the grace of God, Mary KEPT the Word of God, as she replied to Gabriel, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word."

- iv. Brothers and sisters, YOU ALSO are JUST AS BLESSED as Paul, and JUST AS BLESSED as Mary, and JUST AS BLESSED as every other saint that has walked this pilgrim road before us...
 - 1. If, you HEAR the Word of God
 - 2. And, if you KEEP the Word of God
 - a. And at the end of the day, if you've somehow managed to do both of those things well, then know that it was simply by the GRACE of God that you were able to do so
 - i. Blessed INDEED is the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - ii. But blessed are ALL who hear the Word of God, and who keep the Word of God!