

With Grace, Seasoned with Salt

“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” (Colossians 4:6)

Introduction

1. With this lesson, we bring this series to a close.
2. Colossians 4:6 has been our theme for this entire study for the connect it draws between *grace* and *speech*.
 - a. As the One who made our mouths (Lesson 1), God not only created us with the ability to express our thoughts with words, He imbued that ability with great potential (Lesson 2).
 - b. As with every good gift, He warns against abuses (Lesson 4) but also instructs on how to use it according to its intended purpose (Lesson 6).
3. In this lesson, we will bring all those points together to learn a way of speaking that is both gracious (with grace) and savory (seasoned with salt), bringing benefit to our hearers and glory to our God.

Discussion

I. The Context of Colossians 4:6

A. Read Colossians 4:2-6

1. Vs. 2: Continue _____ in _____, being _____ in it.
2. Vs. 3-4: While doing that, also _____. Why?

3. Vs. 5: Walk in _____ toward _____.
4. Vs. Let your _____ always be with _____ seasoned with _____.

B. Though our behavior and practices are the primary focus, what does Paul emphasize as the desired effect of those things?

1. Walk in wisdom toward _____
2. Know how you ought to answer _____.
3. Who is he referring to?

C. What is the desired effect of both Paul's preaching and our speech and behavior in this context? _____

II. Speech with Grace

A. By God's grace, we have the ability to speak, and we are given the wisdom to do so to His glory.

1. This is His gift to us.
2. When God gives a gift, how is the purpose of that gift completed?
 - a. 2 Cor. 9:10: When He gives seed to the sower. _____
 - b. 1 John 4:12: His love for us. _____
 - c. Luke 6:38: When God gives to us. _____

B. Following this same principle, if we are benefited by God's gift of speech, how then is that grace "perfected" or completed in us?

1. Ephesians 4:29: "... that it may impart _____ to the hearers."
2. Do we see the pattern?
3. Though we are given the grace of speech, our mouths and tongues are not ours to do with as we wish.
4. We ought to consider them as instruments intended to multiply God's grace through us to all who we encounter.

C. Grace for every audience:

1. Who is the audience in the immediate context? _____
2. Prov. 31:26: Mothers _____
3. Eph. 6:4: Fathers _____
4. Titus 2:1-3: Older men and women _____
5. Titus 2:7-8: Younger men _____
6. Eph. 4:15, 29: Brethren _____

III. Grace and Salt

A. "With grace"

1. With favor and benefit.
2. The words spoken consist of knowledge, information, communication that helps, builds up, strengthens, informs, etc.

B. Seasoned with salt.

1. Salt is savory and pleasant.
2. It turns that which is bland or unpleasant into something palatable, pleasant, even delightful.
3. How we present God's word, especially to those who are in the world, is equally important as what we say.
4. Matt. 10:16: "*Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*"
5. Prov. 15:28: The Righteous study, not just what to answer, but also "how" to answer.

Conclusion

1. What an amazing God we have.
2. Having such a gift, let us learn how to use it so that we may benefit, help, and bring healing to those who hear us speak.
3. Let us learn to glorify our God according to His grace for sound speech.