

Salt-Seasoned Speech

How Searching Aids Understanding

“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt,
that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” – Col 4:6

1. Savour, spice, and seasoning

- a. Savour = Taste/Flavor, smell/odor – 63 times in 62 verses (sniffs and snacks)
- b. Salt not only spice – SOS 4:10, oils/balms, incense, cooking, etc. since beginning – Gen 43:11
- c. Why salt? (it was not the only thing available or used, see above point)
 - i. salt does things: enhances/boosts the sweet and savory; preserves, cures and tenderizes
 - ii. salt makes food able to eat, gives taste (egg white), makes bland potent – Job 6:6
- d. Seasoned = flavored for savoring, to relish, take pleasure in, and enjoy

2. Salt throughout the Bible

- a. Salt (35) and forms: salted (3), saltiness (1), saltpits (1) – 47 times in 37 verses
 - i. Most referencing the salt sea as a place or border (a few the valley of salt), a couple regarding Lot's wife and Sodom and Gomorrah, some regarding salt as a crop killer preventing the earth/ground from producing or barren place, a couple about Elisha and the water and barren land in Jericho, Salt given to Israel when they returned to the land by Cyrus' and Artaxerxes' decrees for the priests use in the house of God
- b. Salty works for Israel:
 - i. For offerings (sweet savour to the LORD) – Lev 2:13, Ezr 6:9, 7:22, Eze 43:24
 - ii. Covenants of salt (preservation/forever) – Num 18:19, 2 Ch 13:5
 - iii. Salt of the earth (their good works): Mat 5:13, Mark 9:50, Lk 14:34, James 3:12

3. Salt-seasoned speech (not works)

- a. Salt for savour, not salty – cussing, cajoling, performative, or pejorative – 1 Co 2:1-3, 1 Th 2:3-7
- b. The right flavor, speaking truth in love – 1 Co 13:1-7, Eph 4:14-15
- c. The truth, the word of God – 1 Th 2:13, 1 Tim 2:3-7

4. How you ought to answer

- a. First, speak:
 - i. What: Faithful word, sound doctrine, Titus 1:9-14, Eph 6:19, Col 4:3
 - ii. Preach Reprove, rebuke, exhort, teach, sing – 2 Tim 4:1-5, Col 3:16
- b. Always with grace (Christ's is sufficient)
 - i. Not eloquent speech, but patient, longsuffering, gentle – 2 Tim 2:24-26, 2 Co 6:1-10
- c. Seasoned with salt (the savour of life unto life ... and death unto death)
 - i. The truth, uncorrupted – 2 Co 2:14-17
- d. Provide the Answer
 - i. Message: the mystery, the gospel and grace of God – Eph 3:1-9, 6:19, Col 1:25-28, 4:3