

THE SEASONING SALT OF GRACE

BY J.P. TIMMONS

September 3, 2016

©2016 CCI PUBLISHING

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

“Let your speech always be with
Grace, seasoned with salt, that you
May know how you ought to
Answer each one.”
† Colossians 4:6

How's your speech? Is it seasoned with the salt of grace? Do you exhibit the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to other people when you speak with them? The Bible in both the Old and New Testaments has much to say about our words and the power of them not only to affect our future but also the future and lives of others.

The scripture above has been one I think about often, especially during the last 7 years. As the world is becoming darker and darker and sin is becoming not only more open but actually glorified in exhibitions like “Gay Pride” it seems that it becomes more difficult for

me to express grace rather than anger in my speech. And while “hating sin” is part of having the Spirit of Fear of the Lord, we must be careful that we understand James 1:20, “The anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God,” to be certain that our anger is righteous, holy anger—there is a big difference.

So we must understand and always be aware before we speak of the power of our words to bless or inflict pain on others. That is where the key text for this teaching comes in—it focuses our attention on an important spiritual fact that we don’t think about much or even hear sermons preached on—speaking words of grace. Now the Greek word for grace means “unmerited favor” and it is one of the key principles of the New Covenant. The Old Covenant was given, as Paul wrote, to be a “schoolmaster” to bring us to Christ. While the Old Covenant teaches us many principles of God it cannot “save” anybody because nobody can keep the Law.

Those today who hold church on Saturday because they want to “keep the Sabbath” are ignorant of the Scriptures in many ways. Mainly, as Paul so strictly warned the Galatians, you cannot just keep part of the Law—you have to keep it all if you expect to live under the Law. But nobody could or can ever keep the Law nor are we required to today. That is why it’s a schoolmaster. Jesus fulfilled the Law but as Paul points out the Law doesn’t “save” anybody; it took the New Covenant and the Blood of Jesus to bring salvation to the human race.

So salvation is by grace through faith. We must appropriate saving faith to receive the grace extended to us by the Father through the sacrifice of the Son. Once we do this then we are born again into the family of God but we still have a problem with the old sin nature, especially our tongues as James points out in his epistle.

Many years ago when I was reading the book of Revelation the Lord spoke to me when I was reading about the Tree of Life in Revelation 22:2 and He said, “The Tree of Life in the world today is my Church.”

We are supposed to be the Tree of Life to a sin-sick, crying, dying world. Yet most Christians don't live like they're the Tree of Life—their speech is not “seasoned” with the salt of grace. The Church today does not even closely resemble the Church in the Book of Acts not only in the area of grace but also love—the *agape* love of God.

Our lives are supposed to be an extension of the Lord's grace to the unsaved and to fellow Christians but we've become a selfish, self-centered Church mostly thinking about ourselves and material things. This is grievous to the Lord who has extended such favor (grace) to each of us and showered us with His love.

In 2 Kings 4 we read the testimony of a widow who was married to one of the sons of the prophets. In fact, Josephus the Jewish historian identifies her husband as the prophet Obadiah. She had a problem with debt when her husband died unexpectedly—the creditor that she owed money to had come to take her two sons as indentured servants to work off the debt. So she went to Elisha who gave her a solution.

But you'll notice that she only had faith to receive for herself and her family. The prophet told her specifically, “Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.” So why didn't she procure more vessels to contain the oil? Then she would have had more than enough for herself and those the Lord wanted to bless through her. Remember this very important fact about Jesus as typed in the miracles of the loaves and the fishes—Jesus is always more than enough. He has more than we expect and He's only limited by our faith and ability to believe.

God wants to use you to bless others. Let it begin in your speech. Let your speech be seasoned with grace. I pray that this teaching will cause you to focus on the grace of your speech and allow you to seek the Lord about what changes He would have you make in that area.

MARANATHA

