

3. Grace filled gospel saturated talk.

6

Note the connection or closeness of speech to behavior. Conversation in this verse means talk or speech. The third of these 3 dyno-mite investment tools, your speech, is incredibly powerful (James 3:1-0). In a world that tries to maintain a veneer of sanity through fine sounding arguments and empty chatter, gracious, seasoned, truthful talk is an excellent way to invest the gospel in lives.

Characteristics of gospel saturated talk:

- Consistent with the gospel. 'always'

All times; all situations our talk matches our profession of truth.

James 3:9-12 illus 2Cor. 9:13 – matching of obedience with confession

- Grace filled, like the gospel. 'full of grace'

3 options with leanings toward #1:

- speech is controlled by grace as the element which controls and affects life

- speak in a gracious, acceptable and pleasing way/manner.

- speak thankfully; with gratitude.

Cmp Col. 1:2, 6; 3:16; 4:18

- Sensitive to the advance of the gospel. 'seasoned . . . answer everyone'

Sensitive to the destructive power of words.

James 3:1ff Eph.4:29 unwholesome talk Titus 2:8

Sensitive to the needs of the hearer.

Eph. 4:29

1Cor. 9:22

Take Aways

1. Identify and repent of speech patterns that dishonor the gospel.
2. Renew your gratitude for the gospel of grace in your life.
3. Identify people that you have sinned against with your speech and make it right.
4. Determine who you will target with grace filled speech this week.
5. Accept the gospel of Christ by grace through faith today.

Study Questions

1. Share some ways your understanding and practice of prayer has changed since our study of Col. 4:2-4 two Sundays ago. Has your investment in the gospel through prayer grown?
2. Read Matthew 5:13-16 and Ephesians 5:8-16. What do these passages teach regarding the power or influence of a person's behavior?
3. Discuss the differences between living life by the clock and living life buying up opportunities. Is it possible to do both? What opportunities are we to be interested in according to Col.4:5?
4. Who are the 'outsiders' referred to in Col.4:5? Why should we consider them when making decisions in our daily lives?
5. Make a list as a group of the various 'sins of the tongue' mentioned in the Bible. Which ones tend to discourage you the most when you hear others speak that way? Why? What ways do 'you bless God and curse man' in your speech?
6. Discuss this statement and then relate it to today's lesson of speaking with grace. "Grace is the element in which the believer lives and moves." What is grace and what about it should be evident in the way you talk?
7. Read 1Corinthians 9:19-23. What truths from this passage relate or connect to our study of speech in Col. 4:6? Do the same with Eph. 4:29-30.
8. Pray with and for each other about specific areas of growth in our prayer, behavior and speech that the gospel will be advanced in our lives and community.
9. What do you want to do, use or remember from the study today?