

Speech Seasoned With Salt

by Wayne Goff

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

The last presidential race has been marked by a great amount of rude, hateful speech thrown back and forth by all sides of the political spectrum – and I’m not just talking about the candidates! Since the election results, we have seen even more scathing accusations and charges, full of hate once more. It isn’t surprising because our nation’s heart has been turned away from God and His benevolent heart which He displays and which He asks of us. But who *regulates* the words and deeds of the people of the world? The people themselves, as it suits their fancy.

Christ teaches His followers that graceful speech which respects the hearts and ears of all people can accomplish good. The verse before states that we should *“walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time”* (v. 5). Our lives should be a shining light for Jesus to the world, and our tongues should reflect God’s gracious disposition. Brethren, do not get caught up in the world’s rhetoric. Be gracious in victory and in defeat.

Words spoken to others reflects our respect for them, or the lack of it. We need more **human respect** in our nation today, and Christians should be the number one display of this.

“The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice. The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide” (Psalms 37:30–31).

“The wise in heart will be called prudent, and sweetness of the lips increases learning” (Proverbs 16:21).

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear” (Proverbs 25:11–12).

May God give us the wisdom to remember that we have two ears with which to hear, and one mouth with which to speak. Therefore, let us be *“swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”* (James 1:19). It will do the world, the church, and the Christian a world of good.

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