

Does Grace Flow From Your Mouth?

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace...

The tricky thing here is not ‘speech’ nor is it ‘grace.’ It is that word *always!* This is a Greek adverb which means ‘at all times.’ The reason this is so important is that every time you say something, what you say comes from what you are thinking! Ever hear someone say something and then say, ‘I was not thinking of what I was saying?’ Oh, yes they were! The problem was they did not think it through!

Let your speech This is beautiful and emphatic in the Greek, there is no verb here; no *let...be*. Remember, the order of words in Greek syntax is important. The verb may be placed first to emphasize the action of the verb or the subject may be first or the object, whichever is being emphasized. Here, **The speech of you** where we have a definite article in front of the word *logos!* Now this Greek word has been used in all four chapters of Colossians.

Colossians 1:5...**which you previously heard in the word of truth**, where it means doctrine of truth or gospel of truth, or teaching of truth.

Then in 1:25...**that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God**, referring to just that, all the Word of God.

Then in 2:23 where in the margin of the NASV you have the correct *logos*, but in the verse *the appearance of wisdom, or words sounding like wisdom.*

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Then in 3:16 we have yet another important use of *logos*, **Let the word of Christ dwell within you**, where it refers to (1) the teaching **of** or by Jesus Christ and then (2) all the teaching **about** Jesus Christ.

In 3:17 we have the use of our word, *logos*, in a context that goes along with our study in 4:6: **whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**. The use of *logos* here in 3:17 is the same use as in our passage of 4:6.

The speech, that is word or what you say. Words that you utter are formed in the mind then ignited by the tongue. The Greek *logos* can be correctly translated: *speech, words*, or it can refer to your *conversations* or even *the language you use when you speak*. And please be aware that the inclusion of the adverb *always* means this refers to witnessing or all private conversations that you might have at home, or all public conversations. In context, Paul is referring especially to any and all personal witnessing. Staying in the context he is referring to the outsiders of verse 5 and to anyone, unbeliever or believer, who ask questions as in the following phrase right here in verse 6 **...so that you will know how you should respond to each person**. Thus, the inclusion of the adverb *always*. It refers to anyone and everyone that you may be talking with, be they unbelievers or believers, or whether the conversation is on spiritual matters or any and all other subjects.

The speech of you---always in grace –in the sphere of environment of grace. Grace is a ‘rich’ word in the Greek. It can mean and be translated in many different ways: *grace, graciousness, kindness, goodwill, thanks, gratitude, attractiveness, charm, pleasant; speaking favorably and attractively; winning favor; gracious spirit*.

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In his exposition on Colossians William Hendriksen says: “It is the result of God’s grace in our heart and is characterized by truthfulness, love, and a forgiving spirit, and is never abusive or vindictive.”

The prepositional phrase *in grace*---*graciously*.

Before we move on, this should be understood with the preceding: **Walk in wisdom toward outsiders redeeming the time *and with that in mind your speech always with grace***. While the context is our witness to the outside world, by the inclusion of the adverb *always*, Paul of course includes all the words that come out of our mouths, whether we are talking to an outsider (unbeliever) or not.

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A perfect place to see this is in our study of Galatians 6:1-2

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, (addressing believers) **even if anyone** (in context this refers to any believer) **is caught in any trespass**, ((1) is caught actually in a sin; (2) is caught up in a trend of sin) **you who are spiritual**, (empowered by God the Holy Spirit) **restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness**; (That is, let your speech of restoration be of grace!) **each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted**

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Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Colossians 4:6 The speech of you always in grace, We have looked at the various ways this may be translated; graciously; kindly etc., but the point is that what comes out of our mouths should ring with grace---unearned, undeserved and coming from God. Of course, in talking with an unbeliever about the gospel, this stands to reason, and if you are straight on the gospel, your speech will communicate the grace of the gospel. But...how does all other areas of our conversations render grace? Remember that adverb always. So, the question: is what I am about to say going to stand on the grace of God or will it fall?

Immoral conversations of all kinds, between males and females or between males and males and females and females, will certainly fall from the Grace of God as per His word. Words spoken in anger, jealousy, vindictiveness etc. all will fall from grace. Words that damage or hurt another person, certainly falls from grace. Another passage that expresses this point is

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

Let no unwholesome word. Like the adverb always, we have the restrictive negative **no**. And dear people, that is exactly what this means...none, not one, no! **word** our word *logos*.

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Unwholesome. Theologically this word is the opposite of the word **grace** in Colossians 4:6. We often think of ‘law’ as the opposite of grace. And indeed, law is the opposite of grace. But, that which is ungraceful is unwholesome. Only grace is wholesome for the Christian. The Greek word translated *unwholesome* in the NASV and *corrupt* in the King James is an adjective in the Greek and basically means *rotten, useless, unsound, bad, or putrid*. Whichever way you go the word always refers to something that is disgusting and offensive, spiritually, before God and often before man.

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth. Often people will say something that is offensive, unwholesome on immediate response to something that someone has done or said. Sometimes followed by...*I am sorry, I did not mean to say that*. But you did say it and it was in your soul!

People, we must all learn to think before we engage our mouths.

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth. Never forget nor deny that what comes from your mouth, originated in your soul!

but only such a word. In Colossians 4:6 we had the adverb *always*. Here we had the controlling negative no plus *only that word*.

as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, This refers to all circumstances in your life. Let’s say the circumstances are bad. You can still say the right thing in a right way. Don’t hide the truth but say it in an encouraging way.

so that it will give grace to those who hear. God cares what His love *sounds* like. A study of how Jeremiah and Ezekiel communicated is a

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perfect study on saying some very drastic things but in a way that should encourage the Hebrews in captivity in Babylon.

Colossians 4:6 Your speech always with grace as though seasoned with salt. Actually, this is a powerful *perfect passive participle* and best translated **with salt having been seasoned**. Anyone who cooks knows about the importance of seasoning, even if they do not know how to properly season. Here is the secret to our passage, knowing how to season your speech with salt. The *perfect tense* is used to introduce a process—the process of seasoning. The *passive voice* is in itself a grace voice—it says that this speech receives being seasoned.

Seasoned with salt. This tells us two important things our speech should do: Preserve and Prevent. These are two basic concepts of seasoning with salt.

Salt in the Bible

1. Salt is sodium chloride and is very common throughout the world and throughout human history. “**Salt** was highly valued and its production was legally restricted in ancient times, so it was historically used as a method of trade and currency. The word “salad” also originated from “**salt**,” and began with the early Romans salting their leafy greens and vegetables.”

“It is believed that the first war, likely fought near the ancient city of Essalt on the Jordan River, could have been fought over the city's precious salt supplies. In 2200 B.C., the Chinese emperor Hsia Yu levied one of the first known taxes, which was a tax on salt.” “It served as money at various times and places.”

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“Salt was in general use long before the beginning of recorded history, and dating back to around 2700 B.C. The earliest known treatise on pharmacology was published in China. A major portion of this writing is devoted to a discussion of more than 40 kinds of salt, including descriptions of two methods of salt extraction that are similar to processes used today”

“Salt was of crucial importance economically. The expression “not worth his salt” stems from the practice of trading slaves for salt in ancient Greece. Special salt rations given to early Roman soldiers were known as "salarium argentum," the forerunner of the English word "salary." References to salt can be found in languages around the globe, particularly regarding salt used for food. From the Latin "sal," for example, come such other derived words as "sauce" and "sausage."

“Salt has played a vital part in religious ritual in many cultures, symbolizing purity. There are more than 30 references to salt in the Bible, including the well-known expression "salt of the earth." Additionally, there are many other literary and religious references to salt, including use of salt on altars representing purity, and use of "holy salt" by the Unification Church.”

Enough on history of salt, let’s look at the Word of God.

Let’s start with understanding that the Dead Sea has one of the largest salt deposits in the world. Salt was used in the ancient world for a number of reasons, in a number of things, most of which are brought in by way of illustration of the Word of God or of a

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believer living in the Holy Spirit. For a quick example, salt was used in the ancient world for preserving food. Salt was the original system of refrigeration. They had no refrigeration and salt was the means by which food was preserved. Salt was used for prevention of various diseases. So, the believer is referred to as the preserver in history and the prevention of evil in history. Salt was also used for seasoning of food. Eating salt with a king or some VIP meant allegiance to that king. Interesting: enlisting men into the army often included eating salt, meaning I will be faithful to my commanding officer. We give preservation to the world by being faithful to our Savior-friend Jesus the Christ.

2. Let's begin with the use of salt as a seasoning of food. And what is interesting is that this is from Job, the first book God gave to us, around 2000 B.C.

Job 6:6 Don't people complain about unsalted food? Does anyone want the tasteless white of an egg?

Job 6:7 My appetite disappears when I look at it;

I gag at the thought of eating it!

What in the world is Job saying here? Contextually, Job is saying that he would not complain if there were no cause for complaint. Secondly, should he be expected to joyfully partake of his sufferings as a seasoned meal? Absolutely not. So here salt is seasoning of food that makes it enjoyable to eat.

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3. Salt was used in the Levitical offering, that is the food offering of Leviticus chapter 2, which taught propitiation with emphasis on the person of the suffering Messiah, Jesus Christ. Salt was also used in other offerings as well. Salt in the food offerings had a special meaning. It teaches the concept of preservation or eternal security—preserved for all eternity. Salt was used to teach this point of doctrine.

Leviticus 2:13 Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

Here we learn a great deal about ancient uses of salt, and doctrines taught by the ancient worship of our God. We learn two laws which were applicable to all the meat offerings: they were to offer nothing leavened (Leviticus chapter 2 verse 11) and they were to salt every meat-offering (verse 13). Leaven is mentioned because it produces fermentation or a chemical breakdown or corruption. Salt is added for almost the opposite reason. Salt was a preservative and a seasoning. Salt had the power to “strengthen” food and to preserve it. By adding salt, they learned self-surrender to the Lord, taught in the sacrifice by which all impurity and hypocrisy were eliminated. In ancient history, salt also was a picture of purity. “The salt of sacrifice is called the salt of the covenant, because in common life salt was the symbol of covenant; treaties being concluded and rendered firm and inviolable, according to well-known custom of

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the ancient Greeks.” Biblical Commentary of the Old Testament by C.F.Keil and F. Delitzsch; Vol. II The Pentateuch. Salt was used in the ancient world as a sign of a treaty which had been made. “As a covenant of this kind was called a ‘covenant of salt’ equivalent to an indissoluble covenant. So, here salt added to the sacrifice is designated as salt of the covenant of God, because of its imparting strength and purity to the sacrifice, by which Israel was strengthened and fortified in covenant relationship with Jehovah.”

The burnt offering which portrayed propitiation with emphasis on the work of the Messiah-Christ also used salt. Here, salt was used to teach the efficacy of the work of Christ and eternal security.

Ezra 6:9 And that which they (Jews in Jerusalem, rebuilding the city and the temple) **have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven,** (the Persian King was a believer) **wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:** (The offering is not complete without the salt.)

One more of special interest—yet in the future, that is in the offerings in the millennial sacrifices will also require salt.

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Ezekiel 43:24 You shall present them before the Lord, and the priests shall throw salt on them, and they shall offer them up as a burnt offering to the Lord.

Again, the salt has the teaching of purity and holiness of the Messiah and teaches eternal security. Once you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior there is no way you can lose your salvation. The salt teaches of the preservation of the sacrifice of Jesus.

4. Salt is used in three biblical categories of judgment.

It was first used in personal judgment of Lot's wife who was turned into a pillar of salt. Gen. 19:1. Why salt? Lot's wife (un-named in Scripture) chose not to be preserved by the protective Righteousness of God, so she was 'preserved' by the wrath of the righteousness of God.

This is also seen in the judgement of cities.

Deuteronomy 29:23 'All its land is brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.'

All this land is brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unproductive. Like the judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah where Sodom and Gomorrah existed, we now have the greatest deposit of salt in the

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world today. All the salt in the salt sea was where Sodom and Gomorrah existed before it's judgment. When God judged these cities and this area God planted the greatest salt deposits, and Lot's wife was caught up in that which she loved more than the Word of God.

In Judges 9:45, Abimlech did what many did in ancient times. He made sure a city he had conquered would not be rebuilt by covering it with salt.

Salt will be used in Eternal Judgment for those who do not believe God is going to eternally judge the unrighteous. The eternal judgment of the lake of fire is described in terms of salt in

Mark 9:47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,

Mark 9:48 where “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:49 Everyone will be salted with fire.

So, everyone who refuses to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior will be salted with fire for all eternity. People, please grasp the reality of eternity separated from God. It will be real and eternal.

5. Salt is used to describe the spiritual believer who spends maximum time being filled with the Holy Spirit.

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Matthew 5:13 You are the salt of the earth; (or more critically): you are salt for the earth but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

This is not loss of salvation but a wasted life. We are left here on earth after salvation for the earth---that is we are left here to preserve the glory and love of God and to prevent evil from overtaking the earth. Well, you can see that the body of Christ has pretty much lost its saltiness. We have become tasteless in America, we have not preserved the name of Jesus Christ and we certainly have not prevented immorality. By the way, the Greek word translated tasteless is translated fools in **Romans 1:22 claiming to be wise they became fools.**

Mark 9:50 “Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.”

Salt is good; this refers to a believer who walks in the Holy Spirit and walks in the Word of God and when he speaks, grace flows from his mouth.

But, if the salt becomes unsalty. That is, he becomes contaminated by the world—lives in the flesh.

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with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, That is, continue to grow in the Word of God, increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10) and growing in the knowledge of our Lord (2 Peter 3:18)

and be at peace with one another. Result of loving one another as Jesus loves you!

Luke 14:34 “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned?”

Luke 14:35 It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Pay attention! If you do not walk in the Holy Spirit and continue to grow in knowledge of Jesus Christ and God the Father from His Word, you are worthless to the world and even to Jesus Christ. You are saved, but you are worthless. Make every day of your life count! Grow in the word, let grace flow from your mouth.

Colossians 4:6 Your speech always with grace with salt having been seasoned

You are the salt for the earth