

“SALTY” LANGUAGE

Scripture Reading: Read Colossians chapter 4

When you hear the term, “salty language,” what comes to mind? For most people, it’s a stereotypical sailor whose speech is laced with profanities or obscenities. In a comic strip, it would be “\$@#!” in a balloon over the character’s head. Of course, as Christians, such salty language is not to be part of our vocabulary. Paul makes this clear in his epistle to the Ephesians: *“Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.”* Our speech should be pure, godly and uplifting.

On the other hand, there is a type of “salty” language that should characterize believers according to verses 5-6 of today’s chapter reading: *“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”* Paul wanted to make sure that believers made the most of every opportunity they had when connecting the gospel to those who were unbelievers. Obviously, one important aspect of this connection is with our speech. It is always to be full of grace and it’s to be seasoned with salt. What does that kind of speech look like?

Full of grace: Without sacrificing truth, we speak in such a way that hope, healing and wholeness are possible. We let the Holy Spirit convict sinners instead of condemning them with our speech. We give them a message through a vessel of humility rather than sharing in a haughty or condescending way. We honor their personhood, as well as their dignity and worth, but without compromising the gospel. We are graceful and full of grace. When we’re done, instead of knowing hundreds of ways to get to hell, they know the one way through Jesus of getting to heaven.

Seasoned with salt: As the salt of the earth, we are called to season our world for Christ by bearing witness to him through word and deed in such a way that a spiritual thirst is initiated in the unbeliever’s heart. This thirst will provide the opportunity to point them to Jesus, the living water. We rely on the prompting of the Holy Spirit here, for we have discovered that one word from him through us can salt a person better than a hundred words from ourselves. In fact, those whose speech is seasoned with salt recognize that although too little salt can prevent people from thirsting for Jesus, too much can actually turn folks away from him. Just enough salt, and they can be led to Jesus, the only one who can quench their thirst.

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Evaluate your speech today. Is it “salty” the right way or the wrong way? If the wrong way, it’s time to repent and ask the Lord to work in your life so that profanity ceases and your words make people thirsty for Jesus instead. Pray also for the Lord to open doors of opportunity for you to interact with unbelievers in a way that is full of grace and seasoned with just the right amount of salt.

Take-a-way: *“Salty” language can lead sinners to the Living Water!*