

## LET YOUR SPEECH BE WITH GRACE

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

1. **Context.** The Christian life and the world: (1) Pray for doors be opened for the acceptance of the word (4:2-4); (2) Walk in wisdom, making the most of our time (4:5); and (3) Speak so as to answer each person properly (4:6).
2. Words inflame strife (Prov. 26:20-21) or we can bridle tongues (Psa. 39:1).
3. Text involves 4 things: Christians must: (1) be called upon to answer, (2) know how to answer “each one,” (3) speak with grace, (4) season speech with salt.

### A. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED UPON TO ANSWER.

1. The gospel is propagated by words and it is defended with words. Christians:
  - a. Must answer inquirers and be able to defend against gainsayers.
  - b. Must be able to give an answer (1 Pet. 3:15) Answer = “make a defense of.”
  - c. “Answer” in Colossians 4:6 is the ordinary word. Must be able to do both.
2. Our text stresses how (the manner) we must give an answer. We must be care-ful how we say the truth. God was so concerned with apostles (Matt. 10:19).

### B. DIFFERENT PEOPLE REQUIRE DIFFERENT TREATMENT.

1. Know how to answer “each one.” Some are sincere, some seek to entrap.
2. When to “come with a rod” or “in love and spirit of gentleness” (1 Cor. 4:21).
3. Important that we are able to make the proper assessments (Prov. 26:4, 5).
4. Why is it important to know how we answer? Because (1) “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Prov. 18:21); (2) Words can heal or hurt, stimulate or quench truth, soothe or generate strife, turn us on or off, draw us closer together or cause alienation; (3) is important to edification (Eph. 4:29).

### C. OUR SPEECH IS TO BE ALWAYS WITH GRACE.

1. Two qualities: (1) must be with grace and (2) must be seasoned with salt.
2. With “grace” means with “pleasantness.” When people agree, this is easy; but when people differ, “Watch out!” Bitter, irritable, often vindictive and caustic.
3. Proverbs 15:1 and James 1:19-20 are two passages to remember (always).

### D. OUR SPEECH IS TO BE SEASONED WITH SALT.

1. Various qualities of salt: (1) preserves and conserves purity, (2) makes food tasty and palatable, (3) can irritate. Which one is meant? No. 2--- “tasty.”
2. “With salt” enhances our speech to make it more palatable, easy to swallow!
3. “Just a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down” (*cf.* Prov. 16:24).
4. Saints, elders, preachers must develop this skill (2 Tim. 2:24; 1 Tim. 3:2-3).
5. Yet, there are times to “*rebuke sharply*” (Tit. 1:13; 2 Tim. 4:2).