



**Forest Hill
Church of Christ**

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VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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THE MATTER OF SPEECH

Bill Jackson

As, from the beginning of Christian service, we are to watch and guard our thoughts, we are of course then to watch and guard our speech. It should be speech "seasoned with salt" (Col. 4:6)-yes, designed to cause men to appreciate the fact that Christ is in us. This is such a vital area for all, and so important for young people to consider, for much of our speech pattern and content are formed early in life. Those brought up to speak profanely and with vulgarity will very often continue such throughout life, and are encouraged in this because of the companionships chosen, who also speak in the same fashion. We here list some categories of speech that must be avoided if one is going to please God.

- (1) **Lying Speech**-God is Truth, His Son is Truth, and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. God's Word is truth (John 17:17), and those who are Christians became as such in obeying the truth (1 Pet. 1:22). Surely it is clear that God's children are to speak the truth. As the new person in Christ, with the old man of sin put away, "lie not one to another" (Col. 3:9). All liars, God said, will have their part in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8). Always speak the truth!
- (2) **Profane, cursing speech**-This type speech will often bring the name of God into it. How different it is from the speech, also making use of God's name, in Bible teaching, in prayer, and in singing praise to God. This forbidden speech is that often used in anger, or in personal and verbal attack on some one or some thing, and is designed to hurt, to shock others, or to be "cute." It is totally unbecoming of the child of God!
- (3) **Lewd and lascivious speech**-This type is that of vulgarity, wherein one will speak, often in the sexual area, and often in the context of a filthy joke or story. Again, reference is often made of those matters between husband and wife in God-ordained marriage, and now it is brought, in this speech, out away from God and prostituted into a lewd and vulgar display. Too often this type filthiness is used outright, and sometimes when it is not plainly used, the same vulgarity is presented by the hint, the insinuation or the "double-meaning" utterance. We again urge against allowing your speech to so degenerate.
- (4) **Hurtful and harmful speech otherwise**-We have merely to list some of these: Whisperings, backbitings, maliciousness (Rom. 1:29-30), busybodying and tattlers (1 Tim. 5:13) and talebearing (Lev. 19:16). In the latter case, we'd sum it up as **GOSSIP!** Certainly these categories of hurtful and harmful speech are sufficient to let us know that we are to use our tongue, mouth, and lips in such a fashion as to refrain from harming others, harming our own influence, or harming the kingdom of God.

(continued on page 2)

(5) **Profanity-substitute speech-** There is yet another category of speech that we urge you to consider, simply because in its origin it develops as a substitution for profanity, cursing, or swearing. Correctly called “euphemisms,” this category nevertheless comes from the dispositions of mind and heart, and from attitudes, known by God. Let us look at some of these:

For:	The Substitution is:
God	Gosh, Good-Gosh, Golly, Good-Golly, Gad, Egad, etc.
Jesus	Gee, Gee-Whiz, Gee-Whillikers, Gee Whillikins, Be-Jesus.
Things of God	Goodness, Gracious, Goodness-Gracious, Gracious-Me, Holy Smoke, Holy Cow, Holy Moses, Heavens to Betsy, Great Heavens, Heaven Help Us, Mercy, Mercy-Me.
God’s Condemnation	We will not list these, except to note that several expressions, beginning with the letter “D” work into our speech, and often using a substitution for God in conjunction with it: Hence, Dad-Gum, and on to others in the category.
The Place of Condemnation	Beginning with the loose use of “Hell,” there are substitutionary expressions beginning with “Heck,” then to What-the-Heck, What-the-Hey, etc.

Surely it suffices to point out that God has condemned the taking of His name in vain (Exo. 20:7; Lev. 19:12), and warned that all will give an accounting in the Day of Judgment for their idle words (Mat. 12:36). We urge young people, now, that they control the thinking and control the speaking, that the speech will adorn the doctrine of God!

(from Brother Jackson’s book, “In the Days of Thy Youth”)

JESUS THE RECRUITER

Most college coaches recruit in about the same manner. They write letters and make calls and visits. They send overnight packages. They bring good players in for a visit and show them the advantages of coming to their particular school. They may also point out why they shouldn’t go to other schools. Jesus Christ once ran a “school;” and, of course, He had to recruit students. He was the most unusual recruiter who ever lived.

▶ He was unusual in that He wanted only twelve men (Mat. 10:1). He did not want a hundred or a thousand.

▶ He was unusual because He did not look at physical size or speed or prior experience. He looked at the heart (John 2:25).

▶ He was unusual because He recruited not for four years, but for a lifetime. He asked each to give th rest of his life to His cause (Luke 9:62).

▶ He was unusual because He recruited men that no one else seemed to want. The world could not see the value in these men (Acts 4:13).

▶ He was unusual because when He invited them for a visit, it was a lowly place-not some grand facility (John 1:39).

▶ He was unusual because He chose men in spite of their flaws and their weaknesses. He wanted to teach and train them (John 1:42).

▶ He was an unusual recruiter because of what He offered them. Jesus said, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the heavens have nests, but the Son of Man hath not place to lay his head” (Mat. 8:20). Ultimately, He told them they would have eternal life.

▶ He was unusual in that He told the twelve the truth. Most coaches have to promise they are going to be there for years. Jesus told them that He would have to die and they would have to carry on (John 12:32-33). He told them there would be hardships and persecutions (Mark 13:9).

▶ He was unusual because of what He recruited them to do—to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).

▶ He was unusual in that He told them He would be with them until the end of the world (Mat. 28:20). Many coaches are pretty well through with players when they graudate.

▶ He was an unusual recruiter in that no team ever achieved such success and became immortalized in the process (Col. 1:23).

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“WORDS FROM THE MASTER”
 Forest Hill Church of Christ
 Wednesdays: 5:00-5:30 P.M.
 Time Warner Cable - Channel 17

**AM I CONTENT,
NO MATTER WHAT? (Part 2)**
Matthew Martin

What was it that Paul understood, that allowed him to be content in his circumstances?

HE KNEW TO WHOM HE BELONGED

Paul could be content (Phil. 4:11) in life, because he understood that he belonged to Christ. He said:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds **through Christ Jesus** (Phil. 4:7).

He understood that he was the servant of Christ. And as the servant of Christ, he would be protected from all harm. That gave him peace, and contentment.

Imagine a person who does not belong to Christ, and thus, does not have that “peace” and “contentment.” Every day would be 24 hours of fear: wondering what is around the next corner; wondering if the day will be good, or bad.

With Paul, there was no worry. He belonged to Christ. Whatever happened, good or bad, God was going to be there. Because of that, Paul was content.

HE KNEW HIS LIFE WAS NOT PRIORITY

Paul could be content in life, because he understood that his life was not priority. He wrote:

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand (Phil. 4:4-5).

He understood that his mere life was not his chief concern anymore. He had other things that were more important. Because of that he could rejoice always. Even when things seemed bleakest; even when his own life was on the line: He could rejoice.

The phrase “the Lord is at hand” probably is a reference to a commonly used phrase by early Christians. It was said as a way to keep their minds focused (prioritized) on Christ, and his promise to return.

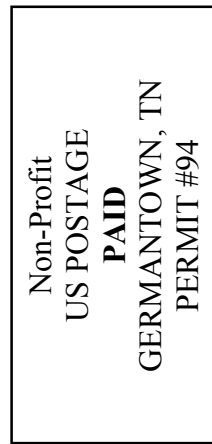
HE KNEW TO TRUST THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

Paul could be content in life because he understood that God’s providence was with him. Such assurance allowed him to write:

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Phil. 4:6)

Only a person who was truly content in life could say he never worried, and was never anxious.

(to be concluded...)



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