



Anchor of the Soul
P.O. Box 401
Spruce Pine, NC 28777



Anchor of the Soul

Vol. 5, Issue 8

September 2010

Your Speech Makes You Known

Joe R. Price

A person's speech is an identifying trait. Even though it has been almost twenty years since I lived in Texas people still identify my origin by listening to me speak. Peter was from Galilee, and his speech made him known, too (Matt. 26:73).

Our speech makes known our moral values. God's word teaches to "let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4:29). When something is corrupt it is rotten and putrefied. Much of the language used today aptly fits that description. Remembering that our speech reflects the heart, how can expect to be "pure in heart" when our words are defiled?

Our speech makes known our spiritual values. Most people talk about what interests them. It follows that if the gospel holds a significant part of our interest we will talk about it to others (Rom. 1:15; 2 Tim. 2:2). Jeremiah could not keep himself from speaking in the name of God (Jer. 20:9). How easy (or difficult) is it for you to talk about Christ and His truth to others?

Our speech makes known our eternal values. By confessing Jesus in word and deed we proclaim our interest in things eternal (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33). To be confessed by the Father we must confess Jesus here on earth.

Our speech makes known our value of others. Speech seasoned with grace will increase our opportunities to truly help those around us (Col. 4:6; Prov. 15:1-2). If we speak against one another we do not show brotherly love, only self-interest and contempt for our fellow-Christian (Jas. 4:11-12).

Yes, your speech makes you known!

Things I Wish For My Child As He Becomes an Adult

By Sally Ann Perz

I wish for him to remember that he was cherished every hour of his childhood...

I wish for him to live in the sunshine even when storm clouds hover...

I wish for him to have rainbows after every storm...

I wish for him to serve others, to befriend those in need and to do good to all men...

I wish for him to find a wife who will love him as much as I love his father...

I wish for him to cherish that wife as I am cherished by his father...

I wish for him to love his own children as much as he is loved by his parents...

I wish for him to provide for his family as he has been provided for...

I wish for him to stand strong when others are weak...

I wish for him to seek wise and godly counsel and to avoid the chatter of fools...

I wish for him to know that I believe in the soundness of his mind, the goodness of his heart and the strength of his character...

I wish for him to remember that no matter where he goes or what he does he will have my unconditional love...

I wish for him to look to the scriptures for answers to the questions in life and to walk with God every step of the way...

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Devil’s Beatitudes

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1. Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend even an hour once a week with their fellow Christians –they are my best workers.
2. Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and and expect to be thanked --I am using them.
3. Blessed are the touchy who stop going to church –for they are my missionaries.
4. Blessed are the trouble makers –for they shall be called my children.
5. Blessed are the nit-pickers –for their complaints are music to my ears.
6. Blessed are those who keep a list of the preachers mistakes --for they get nothing out of his sermons.
7. Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to the local church of which he is a member –for he is a part of the problem instead of the solution.
8. Blessed are those who gossip --for they shall cause strife and divisions that please me.
9. Blessed are those who are easily offended --for they will soon get angry and quit.
10. Blessed are those who do not give an offering to carry on God’s work –for in stealing from God you steal **for** me.
11. Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister --for he shall be with me forever.
12. Blessed are you who, when you read this, think that it refers to someone other than you –for I’ve got you right where I want you.

Is The Lord Your Shepherd?

By Byron Smith

Psalm 23 is a favorite Psalm of many. The so called "Psalm of Psalms", is a masterpiece of divine inspiration. It has served to graciously comfort and console the believer through the ages. In this Psalm David emphasizes the blessed life and hope of one who has the Lord as their shepherd. He describes a season in which an itinerant shepherd takes his sheep from the lowlands up through the valleys to the high pastures. In this journey of life the shepherd **provides** (vs. 1-3), **protects** (vs. 4-5), and **preserves** (vs. 6) His sheep. The Psalm also serves to remind Christians of the confidence and assurance they have if they follow, as sheep, the "good shepherd", Jesus Christ, Whom this Psalm typifies. (Jn. 10:11)

David herein doubtlessly gleams portraits and draws spiritual parallels from his own experiences as a shepherd boy. There are two characters in the Psalm, a sheep (the speaker) and the shepherd (the Lord). In verses 1-3 the sheep expresses himself as graciously provided for by the shepherd and then in verses 4-6 the sheep turns and addresses the shepherd directly extolling his goodness. Verses 1-5 speak of present provisions and protection given by the shepherd and verse 6 speaks of future hope. These verses clearly explain what makes this shepherd so praiseworthy. The Psalmist speaks of the relationship he has with the shepherd with a sense of devotion, gratitude, and submissiveness. As a sheep he views himself as privileged, living under the watchful oversight of a wise, caring, and loving shepherd. The well-being of sheep does depend upon the character of their master.

David confidently declares "The LORD **is** my shepherd", not "was" or "will be", but "is", present tense. Though Psalm 23 is familiar to many and greatly loved, it is often misunderstood and misapplied. Being well acquainted with the text, even being able to recite it from memory, does not guarantee the relationship set forth therein. The peaceful reassurance and the confident assertions of the Psalmist belong only to those who are truly "the sheep of His pasture". (Ps. 100:3) Please understand the significance of the analogy. The purpose of a shepherd is to feed, tend, and care for the sheep. (Isa. 40:11; cf. 1 Pet. 5:2; Ac. 20:28) The responsibility of sheep is to follow, trust, and submit to the shep-

Ten Commandments for Wives

Steven Rudd

1. Expect not thy husband to give thee as many luxuries as thy father hath given thee after many years of hard labor. (Phil 4:11; Amos 4:1)
2. Thou shalt work hard to build thy house with the husband that you have, not fantasizing about "the one that could have been". (Prov 14:1)
3. Thou shalt not nag...hit him with thine frying pan, it is kindlier. (Prov 27:15; 21:19)
4. Thou shalt coddle thy husband and be a warm wife. (1 Cor 7:3-5)
5. Remember that the frank approval of thy husband is more to thee than the side glances of many strangers. (Ezek 16:32; 2 Pet 2:14)
6. Thou shalt not yell at thy husband but will be a gentle and quiet spirit. (1 Pet 3:1-4)
7. Permit no one to assure thee that thou art having a hard time of it. (1 Pet 5:9)
8. Thou shall not fail to dress up for thy husband with an eye to please him, as thou didst before marriage. (Sos 4:9-11)
9. Thou shalt submit to thy husband from thy heart and allow him to be head of the household. (Col 3:18; 1 Pet 3:6;)
10. Thou shalt assure thy husband and others that he is the greatest man alive. (Phil 2:3; Sos 5:9-16)

Ten Commandments for Husbands

Steven Rudd

1. Thou shalt not take thy wife for granted, but will honour and respect her as thy equal. (1 Pet 3:7)
2. Thy highest allegiance, except God, shall be to thy wife, not thy relatives. (Gen 2:24)
3. Thou shalt frequently tell thy wife how important & valuable she is to thee. (Phil 2:3; Prov 31:10-11)
4. Thou shalt hold thy wife's love by the same means that thou won it. (Sos 5:10-16)
5. Thou shalt actively establish family discipline with thy wife's help. (Eph 6:4)
6. Remember to do all the little things for thy wife when you say you will. (Mt 5:37)
7. Keep thine eyes on thy own wife, not thy neighbors. (Prov 5:15-20; Job 31:1; Jer 5:8)
8. Thou shalt make every effort to see things from thy wife's point of view. (Gen 21:12)
9. Thou shalt not fail to kiss thy wife every morning. (Sos 8:1)
10. Thou shalt not be stingy with thy wife when it comes to money. (Esther 5:3)

herd. To truly claim the Lord as one's shepherd one must understand the implications. It is equivalent to saying, "The Lord is my master, my manager, my owner, I belong to Him and He is mine. He controls my life and I listen to His directions and follow His lead." Jesus as the "good shepherd" (Jn. 10:11) describes those who are truly His sheep. They hear, believe, and follow Him (Jn. 10:3-4, 14, 26-27) Unless this describes a person, then the words "the Lord is my shepherd", are but empty, meaningless words. **Is the Lord truly and beyond any doubt your shepherd?**

People have a need for one to shepherd their lives. Man is a creature who does not do well on his own. Like dumb sheep, man often has an inclination, to explore, to experiment, to trifle with danger, and to go their own way, which is generally the wrong way. We desperately need guidance! (Isa. 53:6; cf. Jer. 10:23) We need the good shepherd's direction and care! (Isa. 40:11; Mt. 9:36; I Pet. 2:25) David claims to have such a shepherd. He said, "The LORD is my shepherd". Observe the possessive case; not someone else's, but "my" own. He is pleased with the arrangement, perfectly content with the shepherd's care. Reflection upon the Divine Person and character of this shepherd would move anyone to proudly state "Look who my shepherd is". **Is He your shepherd** or are you under the vicious rule and tutelage of the oppressive and malevolent devil? It is with glee that David continues through the Psalm describing the wonderful benefits of having the Lord as his shepherd. Indeed it is a blessed life to have the good shepherd's oversight! What sheep would not covet such a master and without hesitation yield submission and follow Him? We follow His lead through faith and obedience. This is something man must do! Man must surrender his will to the shepherd, following anywhere and everywhere without question—that is faith! (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6)

Again, **Is the Lord Your Shepherd?** Do not merely assert such, know it to be true, follow Him! (Lk. 9:23) If you are not in the Lord's fold of sheep, your lot is with the goats. (Mt. 25:31ff) However, it does not have to be that way. You are invited to share in a blessed life that has a blessed hope! But, you must understand, there is only one way to enter into the fold, Jesus is the way! (Jn. 14:6; Ac. 4:12) Jesus, the good shepherd is also the sacrificial Lamb who laid down His life for the sheep. (Jn. 10:11)

We bid you come to Jesus through faith and obedience!

Can We Understand the Bible Alike?

By Mike Johnson

If we understand the Bible at all, we can understand the Bible alike. The Bible is truth; truth does not contradict itself. There may be two people who disagree on a Bible passage. These two cannot both understand the passage and still disagree. The Bible does not teach two different and conflicting things. *We may misunderstand the Bible differently, but we do not understand the Bible differently.*

What if one person said that one plus one equals two; another said that one plus one equals four, and still another person said that one plus one equals six. Would we just be silent and say that all are right? Certainly we would not; yet that is the kind of attitude that prevails in religion. Actually, only one of the persons understands the equation and the other two misunderstand it.

The Bible is often looked upon as a dark, deep, mysterious book that few people can understand. This is surely an incorrect way to view the Bible. Has God given us a book which He requires us to follow to be saved and made that book so difficult that hardly anyone can understand it? Surely He has not.

The Bible can be understood. Paul said in **Ephesians 3:3-4**, *How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read ye may **understand** my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)".* **John 8:32** says that the **truth** can be known as Jesus points out, *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* God's will can be known and understood (see also II Tim. 3:15, Eph. 5:17, Rom. 10:17). There are many passages and books that are more difficult than others. *The Bible, however, is a book that can be understood.*

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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | 1 Study With Us! 7 PM | 2 Ex. 14-16 Mt. 23 | 3 Ex. 17-20 Mt. 24 | 4 Ex. 21-23 Mt. 25 |
| 5 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM | 6 Ex. 24-26 Mt. 26-1-30 | 7 Ex. 27-29 Mt. 26:31-75 | 8 Study With Us! 7 PM | 9 Ex. 30-32 Mt. 27:1-30 | 10 Ex. 33-35 Mt. 27:31-66 | 11 Ex. 36-38 Mt. 28 |
| 12 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM | 13 Ex. 39-40 Mk. 1 | 14 Lev. 1-4 Mk. 2 | 15 Study With Us! 7 PM | 16 Lev. 5-7 Mk. 3 | 17 Lev. 8-10 Mk. 4 | 18 Lev. 11-13 Mk. 5 |
| 19 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM | 20 Lev. 14-15 Mk. 6 | 21 Lev. 16:18 Mk. 7 | 22 Study With Us! 7 PM | 23 Lev. 19:21 Mk. 8 | 24 Lev. 22-23 Mk. 9 | 25 Lev. 24-25 Mk. 10 |
| 26 Worship With Us! 11 AM & 6:30 PM | 27 Lev. 26-27 Mk. 11 | 28 Num. 1-2 Mk. 12 | 29 Study With Us! 7 PM | 30 Num. 3-4 Mk. 13 | | |