

Sunday, November 21, 2021—Colossians 4:6 Seasoned with Salt

### Colossians 4:6

- **Let your speech be *alway* with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**
- It is important to note that verse 6 is a continuation of the thought that began in verse 5. In verse 5, Paul commanded the Colossians to “walk in wisdom toward them that are without” i.e., those who are not saved or outside of the local church.
- One of the ways one does this is by watching/minding what they say and how they say it. Our speech is the main point addressed in verse 6. How we say things ought not get in the way of what we are saying.
- **Let your speech be *alway* with grace**—the word “alway” is an older form of the word “always” that was sometimes retained in the King James Bible. The entry for “[alway](#)” in Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* simply states, “AL’WAY or AL’WAYS, adverb [all and way].” The same Greek word appears in Colossians 4:12 where it is rendered as “always.” The same word is also rendered as “ever” and “evermore” elsewhere in the New Testament by the King James translators. For more on this topic please see the following resources:
  - [The King James Bible in America](#)
  - [The KJB in America: Alway & Always \(Video\)](#)
- According to Paul, our “speech” needs to always be characterized by “grace” i.e., it needs to be edifying.
  - Ephesians 4:29-31
  - Ephesians 5:4
  - II Timothy 2:24-26
- **seasoned with salt**—our grace motivated “speech” needs to be “seasoned with salt.” This is the only time in his epistles that Paul uses the word “salt.” It is however used a couple times in the gospels.
  - Matthew 5:13
  - Mark 9:50

- Luke 14:34-35
- Colossians 4:6—historically salt has had two primary uses: 1) as a seasoning or 2) as a preservative. Paul obviously has the first concept in mind because he specifically says that our speech needs to be “seasoned with salt.” “Seasoned” means to prepare or to arrange in advance with respect to food and to make savory. In my opinion there are two practical issues in this phrase for us to consider.
  - Our “speech” needs to be prepared, arranged, or thought out in advance. It needs to be measured, moderated, as opposed to being hot and angry. It needs to be intentional. Why? Because we are to be walking in wisdom “toward them that are without.”
  - Our “speech” needs to be palatable to the person hearing it avoiding the extremes of blandness and/or not hot and spicy.
    - Ephesians 4:15
- Why should our speech be with grace and seasoned with salt? So that we know how we ought to answer every man.
- **that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man**—“that” identifies the purpose and intent of what was just said. The word rendered “answer” means to give a judicial answer, to answer, respond, or reply to a question, to answer charges.
  - I Peter 3:15-16
  - Philippians 1:7, 17
- I Samuel 25
- Colossians 4:6—the idea of your speech being season with salt conveys the idea of being prepared in advance for the challenges and questions that people will ask regarding the faith.
  - Titus 2:1