

“CHRIST CENTRED COMMUNICATION”

To **address** our minds to the vital **importance** of this issue, I will be **focusing** on James chapter 3.

A key passage of Scripture in the exercise of **monitoring** our speech and its **advancement** for **edification**

James **inspired** by the Holy Spirit gives clear **guidelines** as to what constitutes - **good** or **evil** speech

Speech described as being that from **above** being **pure**, or that from **beneath** evil being **evil**!

Thus reminding us of the **solemn responsibility** as to **how** we **speak**

How we must **understand** the **power** of the tongue

A bodily organ to be used as a **tool** for **good** or **evil**

A tool used for the **Lord**, or a tool used for the **devil**.

Thomas Brooks: “Of all the members in the body there is none so serviceable to Satan as the tongue”

The **exercise** of **Christ Centred** speech with the **enabling** of the Holy Spirit -

Is **foundational** to our walk of **Holiness**

It is absolutely **crucial** in the **ministry** of the Lord’s servants

It is **evident** that James is **dealing** with believers, experiencing **difficulties** in the profitable use of speech

A **number** of times in his letter he **focuses** on this **issue**.

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” 1:19-20

“Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of [his] brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.” 4:11

“But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and [your] nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.” 5:12

Here in chapter 3 James deals with the **taming** of this **troublesome** tongue

Then leads us on to a positively wise, **Christ Centred** alternative

Inspired by the Holy Spirit he does this in **four steps**:

Gives a Pastoral **Warning** 1

Gives a Vital **Principle** 2

Gives Key characteristics of the **Problem** 3-12

Gives Christ Centred Direction as to the Proper Holy Spirit enabled **Use** of the Tongue 13-18

A PASTORAL WARNING 1

“My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.” Jas 3:1

A **number** of the brethren wanted to be **teachers** and have **influence** with their speech in the Church

These readily **assumed** the role with a **confident** view of their own - **knowledge** and **wisdom**.

Were ready to give their **view**, **opinion** and **judgement** upon matters **especially** concerning the members

*John Calvin teaches here: That James is warning those who are too ready to **censure** others in speech*

Too ready to be a **critic** of others, having **fault finding** speech, that gives an air of **superiority** over others

However with such **overbearing critical** speech, we bring upon ourselves God's **severer** Judgement

For teachers are **accountable** to the Lord, for how they speak, give **advice** - **teaching** – **counsel**

So James must **warn** of the **solemn responsibility**, of using the **tongue** in being a **master** over others

A VITAL PRINCIPLE 2-4

“2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same [is] a perfect man, [and] able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. 4 Behold also the ships, which though [they be] so great, and [are] driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.” James 3:2-4

We all sin and stumble in **many** ways

In relation to this **great problem** the tongue is a chief **organ** of offence.

Thomas Manton “Most of man's sins are in his words”

Tongue has the **power** to *divide – interfere - devour – destroy – deceive - threaten – hurt – offend*.

Therefore **restraint** in speech so as not to sinfully **offend** or **damage**, must be a chief **virtue** and **benefit**.

The right Christ centred use of the tongue in **harmony** with a **tender** conscience positively **affects**:

Our *peace* – our *liberty* – our *joy* – our *attitude* – our *lifestyle* – our *actions* – our *demeanour*

Such a testimony shows a spiritual maturity described here as the *perfect* man.

Here James teaches us another **profound truth**!

Wise **restraint** of the tongue with the **enabling** of the Holy Spirit **actually**

Positively helps the **control** of the whole body, as we live **according** to the New Nature.

Using **picture** language

James **reminds** us: the **small bit** in the horses mouth, maintains **obedience** & **direction** of **whole** body

The great ships in a storm are **controlled** by a very **small helm** wherever the steersman commands

Again something **small** has a crucial **effect** on the direction & safety of the **whole** ship.

From these two illustrations we see the **significance** of the **tongue** under the **control** of the new nature

As the horses bit is **controlled** by the **rider** and the ships **helm** or **rudder** by the **governor** steersman.

So the tongue is **controlled** by either the **old** or the **new** nature – either the **flesh** or the **spirit**.

If we **embrace** the teaching of James and **realise** the **powerful influence** of the tongue -
Then we will know how **important** it is that the tongue is **controlled** by the **new nature**

This must be our **objective** as Christian believers *“to be those who control our tongues”*

The **undisciplined** use of the tongue in the Church is another form of **worldliness** like **worldly music**
Many believer’s lives have been **misdirected** or **confirmed** in worldliness by **undisciplined** conversation
The tongue in speech is capable of doing a great **deal of hurt** and **misdirection** upon people’s lives.
Rather in **contrast** we are **called** to be those who:

Bridle and **steer** the power of the tongue in **speech** to affect our **life & others** in a **positive** manner

“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.” Proverbs 21:23

Quote: “The Christian should learn two things about the tongue – How to hold it and how to use it!”

In this exercise, how important it is too **remember**, that if Jesus Christ is the **Lord** of our Life
The Holy Spirit will **help us** in our battle to **govern** our tongue with the **honour** of Christ in view
This is the **objective** amidst this **battle** against **sin** which **oppresses** us in so many ways.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TROUBLESOME TONGUE 5-16

Matthew Henry “We are taught to dread an undisciplined tongue as one of the greatest and most pernicious evils”

John Calvin: “The vice of the tongue spreads and prevails over every part of life. It is as active and potent for evil in old age as ever it was in the days of youth”

Boastful - Defiling 5-6

“5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6 And the tongue [is] a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.” Jas 3:5-6

The tongue can claim great **effectiveness**, **influence** and **power**.

Used in a *good, biblical, positive* and *gospel* purpose the tongue has great **usefulness** in a positive way
But here James is **warning** us here of the **evil** use of the tongue in its *arrogant, rebellious, proud* sense.

Our tongue used in speech can give us a **great sense** of **power** that in turn will feed our **pride** –

The organ of the tongue used **sinfully** in pride wields a **great** influence over people & situations

It can do to a **person** or **local Church**, what **one little spark** can do to a **forest**: **Devastate** it by fire!

The tongue used sinfully sparks off fires of **sinful anger** and **deep hurt** that **scar** people for life

“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger” Proverbs 15:1

Satan knows what a **great fire** can be caused through the **tongue** by:

An *innuendo* – a remark creating *suspicion* – a statement of *gossip* – *misrepresentation* - *unkind* remark

“Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.” Proverbs 26:20-21

The tongue is a *world of iniquity* meaning this little organ **uncontrolled** is an **ally** to all sorts of worldliness. It sets off a **cycle** of evil that runs according to the **course** of the old nature.

Uncontrolled under this **influence** the tongue is the organ that proves the **reality** of total depravity.

Undisciplined ungodly speech has the effect of **defiling** our whole body.

Ruining our peace, **spiritual wellbeing** and **communion** with the Lord

But then James goes **deeper** reminding us of a *solemn, fearful, disturbing*, yet **profound** truth.

Our tongue operating under the influence of the flesh is **set on fire** of hell **meaning** coming from **satan**

James uses very **strong** language here to **serve** as a wake-up call, to the **danger** of satanic use of tongue

Unruly 7-8

“For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: 8 But the tongue can no man tame; [it is] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” Jas 3:7-8

A very strong expression is used here to **confirm** that no man is able to **control** his own **tongue**!!

We cannot tame this tongue of ours by **human endeavour** – for out of the **heart** the mouth **speaks**

An **unregenerate** heart is certainly **unable** to tame the tongue – no man can do this in their **own strength**

So James warns us while it is **possible** to tame animals and birds and snakes and sea creatures

As indeed Adam and Eve were **commanded** by God from Creation to rule over them

Yet since the fall no man by nature can **tame** his own tongue although a small member of his body

It is **incontrollable** – It is an **unruly** evil – It is actually full of **deadly poison**!!

The **deceptive** problem of poison is that it works gradually **secretly** and finally **destroys**

Its poison can **damage** and even can **kill** relationships or fellowship and sense of **unity** in local churches

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue” Proverbs 18:21

It is vitally **important** for our own **spiritual wellbeing** and that of our Churches to **humbly** acknowledge --

We **possess** within our bodies an **unruly** organ the tongue which we **cannot tame** in our own **strength**

By nature the tongue is actually the most **unsettled** unruly organ in our body even more than our emotions

We all need God's gracious **enabling** by the Holy Spirit to **mould** our speech to a Christ Centred manner

One of the **fruits** of the Holy Spirit is **self control**

Divided 9-12

“Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet [water] and bitter? 12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so [can] no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.” Jas 3:9-12

There is no let up in the **depth** to which James will dig to reveal the **accursed** nature of the unruly tongue
I would like to give you a **scenario** which illustrates what James is **teaching** here

Let us think of a **person** going to **worship** on the **Lords Day**

They sing the **praises** of God – **Read** the Word of God – They **listen** to the **Sermon**

They **seek** God’s **blessing** on their lives and **that** of the **Church** and **others** in prayer.

They **pray** to God as Father **thanking** Him for all His **goodness** and **mercy** towards them in Christ

At the **end** of the service they will **perhaps** even **thank** the Lord for the **message** and **genuinely** mean it

However **not long** after having got up from their seat they will **engage** in conversation that is **poisonous**

We bless God **seeking** His help but then **curse** men made in **His image**.

So out of our **mouth** proceeds **good** and **evil**

Maybe we are those who **bless** God in His house and yet back in our own house speak **sinfully**.

Speak **gently** at Church and **angrily** at home

Pilgrims Progress – John Bunyan described Talkative as a saint abroad and a devil at home

Brethren these things **should not be so**

By using two creative illustrations:

James show to us that this **problem** of the tongue is a **problem** of the heart

A fountain either **pours** forth **fresh** or **bitter** water.

It cannot **pour** forth both **salt** water and **fresh** water.

A fruit tree is **known** by its fruit.

You do not expect to reap **olives** from a **fig tree** but **figs**.

Neither would you expect to reap **figs** from a **vine** but **grapes**.

Through these illustrations James show to us that this **problem** of the tongue is a **problem** of the **heart**

The **source** dictates the *type, quality* and the *nature* of the **speech** coming from our tongue

The source **governs** both our words – attitude – actions

CHRIST CENTRED DIRECTION IN USE OF THE TONGUE 13-18

“Who [is] a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but [is] earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife [is], there [is] confusion and every evil work.” James 3:13-16

We live in a day and age where **new** media communication has **driven out** proper conversation in speech
Much of texting or tweeting is done so quickly & abruptly it lacks **thoughtfulness** and is meaningless trivia
But fellowship among the Lord’s people through serious **conversation** must remain the **most effective**
Our conduct & conversation as Christians is to be governed & moulded by that **wisdom** that is from above

This is where we are **brought** to the **Christ centred nature** of the **teaching** of James

Christ is that **Wisdom** which is from **above** in *whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*

It is to Him the Holy Spirit **draws us to**, revealing to us His **example** through the **truth** of His Word

Here we are **given** the **Christ Centred Standard**

The **characteristics** of a tongue under the **direction** and **control** of the new nature

A wise man will **demonstrate** a good conversation both of words and works with **meekness** and **wisdom**

This is James **foundation principle** to **aspire** to with God’s help as a Christian.

He then again contrasts the **wise** mans **walk** and **talk** with that of the **unwise**

Whereas if you have **envying** and **strife** in your hearts you are in a **serious** state **spiritually**

Again James **reminds** us it is **matter** of our heart being **not right** with the Lord

There is **no place** to **glory** in this **attitude**

Because the heart in the **wrong spirit** it will affect your speech in a **wrong way** to lie against God’s truth

Such so called **wisdom** is **not from God** it is from the **devil** from **beneath**!!

Full of *strife, sensual, divisive, confusing* an *earthly wisdom* when the **tongue** is used in an **evil manner**

The Lord said of this **matter** of the heart **affecting** speech:

“For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” Luke 6:43-45

JC Ryle: Our words are the evidence of the state of our hearts as surely as the taste of the water is an evidence of the state of the spring

POSITIVE CHRIST CENTRED DIRECTION FOR SPEECH 17-18

“17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [and] easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” James 3:17-18

James having again **faithfully warned**, now in verses 17-18 brings us to the **positive** answer

He provides the **direction** we need to **look** and the way to **monitor** and continually **improve** our speech

These last two verses are pointing us to Christ who is **undoubtedly** that **wisdom** which is **from on high**

Whatever characteristic of speech that **edifies** is **evidenced** in that of our Master **revealed** in His Word

This Biblically based Christ Centred speech the Holy Spirit will **promote** enabling **improvement** in our life

Vital **characteristics** of Christ Centred speech are **provided** here in *vvs 17-18*

PURE

We are taught in the book of Proverbs that the **wisdom** from above will **guide** our speech in a **pure way**

*“Hear; for I will speak of **excellent things**; and the opening of my lips [shall be] **right things**. 7 For my mouth shall speak **truth**; and wickedness [is] an abomination to my lips. 8 All the words of my mouth [are] in **righteousness**; [there is] **nothing froward** or **perverse** in them. 9 They [are] all **plain** to him that understandeth, and **right** to them that find knowledge. Proverbs 8:6-9*

These verses perfectly **portray pure** speech in **exercise**

Excellent things – Right things – Truth – Wickedness resisted – Humble – Sincere – Plain!

To speak **pure things** requires much **dependence** on the Lord with the **enabling** of the Holy Spirit

It requires a Biblical Truth **mindset** that **purifies** our speech in harmony with **prayer**

It requires a **purging away** of a spirit of **carnality** and the **flesh** in our speech

To be pure in speech means to speak with a **pure agenda** and **motive**

This requires a **mindset** of **humility** to allow our speech to be **governed** by the **integrity** of **truth** in love

PEACEABLE

Here James is exhorting to **action** and **speech** that has a **motive** of **peace** based upon **truth**

This is not meant to mean **peace** at any price that papers over the **cracks** rather than deal with the **cracks**

It means using words of a **righteous** character that will in the end have the fruit of **peace** and **quietness**

Purity and **peace** are the best of **partners** in speech for their fruit will have a blessed long term fruit

The **Psalmist** looking to Christ by faith wrote: **Righteousness** and **Peace** have kissed each other.

So **Christ** centred speech is **characterised** by righteous **purity** and **peace** – **Pure** and **Peaceable**

Our **Lord** is **described** as the God of **Peace** – The Prince of **Peace** – He is Our **Peace**

Therefore **Christ Centred** speech **must** have as one of its **primary purposes** – **peace**.

Peace loving communication **unconnected** with **strife** and that actively **shuns** it

We need to include this **vital ingredient** as part of our every day **communication** as the Lord's people
This will stand as a **guard** against the evil of **gossip** which is *unkind, unprofitable and ungodly*.

GENTLE

This word carries the meaning of **speech** that carries with it the flavour of **sweet reasonableness**
It means **gentleness** without **weakness** a moderate **temper** to our language without **compromise** of truth
Sometimes **described** as having the speech of **velvet steel** in other words speaking the **truth** in **love**
The **gentle** person will never deliberately be **confrontational** in speech
It also means to avoid speech which is **condemnatory** of others.

John Calvin: To avoid severity, which shows your brother no tolerance

It is to avoid being **rude, impolite** and **overbearing** and **severe** with your opinions and admonitions.
It means to avoid being harsh in speech even in matters of **discipline** and dealing with **backsliders**
Speech that is free from **prejudice** and **personal** hypocrisy

EASY TO BE ENTREATED

This means to **act** and **speak** in such a manner to be **approachable**
Harsh words **scatter**, whereas kind words **attract**
It means to be a person who is **persuadable** by another in a **conversation**
A person who is willing to **change** their mind from a **wrong** view and position to what is **right**
It means to converse in a manner free from **stubbornness** and **open** to the **entreaties** of God's Word
It means to be **compliant** to hear all sides in a conversation
Responding in a manner which is affected by **truth** not **prejudice**
It means to be **swift** to hear and **slow** to speak open to what is **best** and **right**
It means to not enter a meeting having **predetermined** the **outcome** of the discussion
Rather it is to **exercise** the Christ centred **wisdom** that is from **on high** that **prays** to God the Father
"Not my will but thine be done"
It means for us to be open to **proper persuasion** in **conversation** that is based upon the Word of God

MERCIFUL AND FRUITFUL

Full of **mercy** means that our walk and our talk are **controlled** by a spirit of **mercy** – **Wisdom** from in **high**
"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue [is] the law of kindness." Prov 31:26
Is like the **flavour** that **seasons** our speech – The way we **communicate**
"Let your speech [be] alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Colossians 4:6
Such speech will bear its **fruit** in providing a **living testimony** of the **Gospel** of **Jesus Christ**

The people God can use the most in the **building** of His **kingdom** are those who are **merciful** in speech
This was perfectly demonstrated in the **manner** of speech **exercised** by our Lord and Master

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Mat 11:28-29

Here Christ uses **approachable** speech which is full of **mercy** and bears the fruit of **encouragement**

If we ourselves have a **merciful** heart it will effect, the whole **tone** of our communication and have a fruit

Note: Ruth was **overwhelmed** with grace when Boaz a type of Christ spoke so **kindly & mercifully** to her

“Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?” Ruth 2:10

WITHOUT PARTIALITY

The Greek word translated here as **partiality** has more than **one meaning**.

Refers **first** to being without **prejudice & even handed** in our dealings with our brothers & sisters in Christ

Secondly it refers to **not being influenced** by **suspicion & gossip** in conversation to make us **partial**

Thirdly the term without **partiality** refers to **stability** in speech

It means speaking the **truth** in a certain manner without **wavering** with God's honour in **view**

Such **stability** manifests itself **fruitfully** in our speech as it is **moulded** according to **God's Word**

When we **lean** on man's wisdom we become **indecisive** and **uncertain** in our speech – we **waver**.

When we **lean** on the wisdom that is from on **high** we will be given **strength** from above to **stand firm**

WITHOUT HYPOCRICY

Speaking words that are **without deceit** in a pagan world where **your image** is god and truth is **covered**

It means to speak **sincerely** without an **ungodly, unworthy** purpose

Without **pretence** and avoiding **politics** in our communication

“Sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.” Titus 2:8

Having **straightforwardness** in our **communication** without guile

1 Peter 2:1 “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking”

Following the **example** of Christ in our **works** and **words**

1 Peter 2:22 “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth”

FRUIT

The **fruit** of walking and talking according to the **wisdom** that is from **above** is **righteousness**.

The blessed **fruit** of that righteousness is **peace**. 18

This grand **purpose** of using speech in the Church that is from on **high** not **beneath** – God given **Peace!**
“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.” Isaiah 32:17

CONCLUSION

James teaches us the **vital importance** of Christ centred speech in the life of the Lords servants
A **careless approach** to this all important matter is quite simply another form of **worldliness** in the Church
The Lord **said**
“But I say unto you, that every idle word that man shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” Matthew 12.35

Here James **teaches** us that there will always be room for **improvement** in our **speech**
If we are truly **serious** about our **conversation** then the Holy Spirit will work in us to **sanctify** our speech
The work of the Holy Spirit is to **mould** us to His Word and to **Christ – like, Character and Speech**
So with the **help** of the Holy Spirit we are called to **exercise** ourselves unto this godliness in speech:-

There are **steps** in this **improvement** that we must take to **advance** in speech
So it can be used to **edification**

Pray about your speech

Note how David **helpfully** teaches us how to pray for a **sanctified speech** to be **active** in our lives
“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14
Quote: “Lord make my words gracious and tender for tomorrow I may have to eat them,”

Immerse your mind in the Truth of the Word of God to mould your Words Road to Emmaus

Keep this principle constantly in your mind to guard your speech

Is it *kind* – is it *necessary* – is it *true*

Never underestimate the power of words to affect people deeply for good or evil

“The mouth of a righteous [man is] a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.” Pr 10:11

Understand the control of the tongue is an exercise for which you are accountable unto God

Our speech is our own **responsibility** we cannot blame others for it.

As a rule in general respecting the effect of our speech we should be:-

“Be swift to hear and slow to speak”

Hold fast in this matter of the tongue as a continual exercise seeing the help of the Holy Spirit.

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwells in us.” 2Tim 1:13-14

Remember conversation is an exercise which should mature in the believers life

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” 1 Corinthians 13:11

Consider often and follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ He is the profound perfect example

How did He **respond** to conversation that attacked and reviled Him?

“When He was reviled He reviled not again but committed it to Him that judges righteously”

“Consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself lest you become weary and faint in your minds” Hebrews 12:3

Our Lord spoke with **understanding** and **concern** for those addressed

Our Lord spoke words of **kindness** and **justice**.

Our Lord spoke words of **hope** and **life** with intent of bringing **joy**!!

He said on one **occasion**

“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” Jn 15:11

However the Lord did use **severe** words of **correction** at times but these were **reserved** for hypocrites.

Or for those who taught *error, ungodliness, unkindness*.

In following our Lord we will be **firm** for truth & understand at times **firmness** of speech is required

Our Lord spoke words of **warning** about sinful lifestyle, hell and the law because He **cared** for sinners

So in following Him in speech we will be **faithful** to the **truth** of the Gospel with compassion in our words

In following the example of our Lord in speech we will be concerned to speak words of **truth** with **integrity**

In following the example of the Lord in our speech we will develop an **approachable** style in our language

We have considered the **teaching** of James in ch 3 for the purpose of **monitoring** & **improving** speech

All this being **dependent** upon God’s work of **grace** in us **through** His Holy Spirit

Inspired by the Holy Spirit James provides **advice** for all time to the Church

In **preparing** this address I was **reminded** of the **experience** of the Lords Servant *Isaiah 6.1-7*

“In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.” ” Isaiah 6:1-6

It is right to that we like Isaiah **constantly realise** the deep need for sanctified **Christ centred speech**