

INTRODUCTION

You who believe in Jesus Christ, His disciples, you are very precious to Him.
The Father has given you to Him to save.
He has lived a perfect life on this earth, on your behalf.
He has suffered greatly, shedding His own blood, willingly dying on the cross, in your place, for your good.
He has sent forth the good news...
He has sent the Holy Spirit to work inside you...

But so precious are you to Him, so much does He love you, and so great is your need of His help, that He is still keeping you between now and the day He comes back to get you. He has saved you from your sins, but still is working on you to sanctify you, to clean you up, to strengthen you, to mature you in the faith.

The Bible teaches us that one of the main ways He does that work is through the preaching and teach of your church's pastors. The pastor devotes himself to studying the scriptures, to understand them, and to reading them aloud and teaching you what they mean. He commands you to obey what they say, exhorts or encourages you in that, corrects you where you are wrong, and rebukes you if you persist in error or disobedience.

The pastor does that work as the duty of his office, but every believer in Jesus Christ shares in that work, because each of us has opportunities to speak to others for their good, speaking of God's law and of His gospel.

But, whether in the case of a pastor speaking to the church, or of any believer speaking to his fellow Christians, there is the possibility the other person will not want to listen to you. In the words of the Bible, people might despise you, either because you are younger than they are, or for some other reason.

So, our Lord Jesus has had His apostle Paul write to us about what to do, so that people cannot continue to despise us, cannot persist in ignoring the truth we have to say. We are to be an example to the believers. When we set a good example of what it is to follow Jesus Christ, we can overcome people's tendency to ignore our words; we can gain a hearing for the truth.

You probably recognize that as a review of what we had last week. But right at that point, we skipped the details given about how to be such a good example. So we're taking up there today.

Our Lord's apostle wrote to us six areas in which we can be such a good example to others that they will be convinced to hear us when we speak the truth of the word of God to them. In this place in the scriptures, each of those areas is designated by a single word. I have read those six words to you already. But my job is not just to read the scriptures, but also to explain what they mean, and apply them to us. So I've been searching the scriptures to see how those words are used, to see what the apostle means by them in this list. It has been good study for me, and I am delighted to be able to teach you what I have been learning.

It seems good to me not to try to rush through the six, but to take one only each week.

Here is the approach I intend to take in looking at these six areas in which we can be an example for others:

-First, for each word in the list, I will take you to a place in the scriptures that gives the concept in terms directly connected to Jesus Christ.

-Second, for each word in the list, I will summarize and paraphrase what the scriptures say about our obedience to God by use of that very word or words derived from it.

So, today, the matter for study is how each pastor, and indeed every Christian, gives credence to what he has to say, by being an example to the believers in word.

TEXT

1 Timothy 4:11-16

BODY

To be an example to the believers in word...

- I. Speak Always in the Name of the Lord Jesus - Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do **in word** or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...
 - A. The concept
 - B. Let this help you keep this concept firmly tied to our Lord Jesus Christ.

To be an example to the believers in word, speak always in the name of the Lord Jesus.

To be an example to the believers in word

- II. Tell the truth consistently, so that people know they can depend on what you say
 - A. Matthew 5:33-37 "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' 34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.
 - B. Putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor (Eph 4:25)

To be an example to the believers in word,

-speak always in the name of the Lord Jesus.

-tell the truth consistently, so that people know they can depend on what you say

III. Let nothing corrupt come out of your mouth (Eph 4:29, Col 4:6)

- A. translated variously
 - 1. corrupt or corrupting, foul
 - 2. rotten, putrid
 - 3. unwholesome
- B. Greek *sapros*, main idea being rotten, putrid
- C. Reasoning behind translations
 - 1. corrupt or foul the reason for being rotten or putrid
 - 2. because corrupt or foul, therefore rotten or putrid
 - 3. because rotten or putrid, therefore unwholesome
- D. So, those three connotations are all present, but the word actually means rotten or putrid
- E. bBecause we have refrigeration, and we know some things about safe handling of meat, and because meat is somewhat expensive, so we don't tend to waste it, you probably don't have lots of experience encountering meat that has become rotten; but if you have seen, for example, ground beef that was forgotten in the refrigerator for a while; or if you can imagine what ground beef would look like and smell like if you accidentally left it out on the counter while you went on vacation for a week . . .
- F. You probably have more experience with what fruit and vegetables get like if they are left too long, and get rotten; or with milk; or with bread
- G. The bible's doctrine here is that our speech is not to be like that: rotten, putrid, especially rotten like meat

- H. We understand what kind of corruptions get in food, that start the rotting process: bacteria, bugs, mold; But what would speech have in it that would be corruptions?
1. pride
 2. worldliness (a showing that you have concern only for the things of this world, not for the spiritual things of the kingdom of heaven)
 3. contention
 4. dishonor toward authority
 5. hatred
 6. covetousness, envy, greed
 7. bitterness
 8. dishonesty, deceit
 9. false doctrine
 10. profanity
 11. these things, present in your speech, are like bacteria, mold, and bugs in food---they cause decay, making food rotten
- I. Rottenness of speech does not set a good example in word
- J. Therefore any speech like this, we do not let go forth out of the mouth
1. you cannot, in the moment, do anything about the fact that the rotten speech came to mind
 2. but when it has come to mind, you are not to let it come forth from the mouth
- K. To make those rotten words not come to mind is a long-term work, and you need to be about that part of the process, also
1. Matthew 12:33-35 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad [G4550 *sapros*] and its fruit bad [G4550 *sapros*]; for a tree is known by its fruit. (34) Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (35) A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.
 2. Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

To be an example to the believers in word,
 -speak always in the name of the Lord Jesus.
 -tell the truth consistently, so that people know they can depend on what you say
 -let nothing corrupt come out of your mouth

- IV. Have all your speech be seasoned with salt (Col 4:6)
- A. Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.
 - B. Used here by Paul
 - 1. one of the main functions of salt is to prevent decay, as in meat
 - 2. here you see that having your speech seasoned with salt means to have nothing corrupt in it
 - C. What is the salt, really? it is love, especially of your fellow man
 - 1. the golden rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you
 - 2. the second great commandment
 - 3. the second table of the law
 - a) my speech is honoring to those in authority
 - b) my speech has concern for the life and well-being of people
 - c) my speech has concern for people's purity
 - d) my speech has concern for people's property
 - e) my speech has truth for its matter
 - f) my speech has contentment in it
 - 4. the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 - a) the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve
 - b) as I have washed your feet, so you wash one another's feet
 - c) while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly
 - D. assembled from the verses
 - 1. Let no corrupt speech come out of your mouths; let your speech always be seasoned with salt
 - 2. Do not let any putrid talk come out of your mouths; let your talk always be seasoned with salt
 - 3. Let no rotten word proceed from your mouth; let your word always be seasoned with salt

To be an example to the believers in word,
-speak always in the name of the Lord Jesus.
-tell the truth consistently, so that people know they can depend on what you say
-let nothing corrupt come out of your mouth
-have all your speech seasoned with salt

- V. Have your speech be full of grace (Luke 4:22, Eph 4:29, Col 4:6)
 - A. The two verses
 1. Col 4:6 let your speech always be with grace
 2. Eph 4:29 that it may give grace to the hearers
 - B. What is meant by this
 1. Grace is favor
 2. God has favored us when we only deserved His wrath, so grace is undeserved favor, unmerited favor
 3. because He is God, that favor is accompanied by many gifts of His to us, especially knowledge of Him through the bible, and especially important in that body of knowledge is the good news about Jesus Christ
 4. in all our conversation, we consider how we can tell some of what we know from God's word so that the listener will receive some of the grace we have received
 5. this is to impart grace to the hearers, strengthening them
 - C. Always
 - D. Given to the hearers
 1. it is the nature of our flesh to be takers when we speak, rather than givers
 2. the new man in Christ gives in his speech, rather than taking

To be an example to the believers in word,
 -speak always in the name of the Lord Jesus.
 -tell the truth consistently, so that people know they can depend on what you say
 -let nothing corrupt come out of your mouth
 -have all your speech seasoned with salt
 -have your speech be full of grace

- VI. Speak what is wholesome, what is sound (1 Tim 6:3; 2 Tim 1:13, Titus 2:8)
 - A. 1 Timothy 6:3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,
 - B. 2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
 - C. Titus 2:7-8 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

CONCLUSION

To be an example to the believers in word,

-speak always in the name of the Lord Jesus.

-tell the truth consistently, so that people know they can depend on what you say

-let nothing corrupt come out of your mouth

-have all your speech seasoned with salt

-have your speech be full of grace

-speak what is wholesome and sound

The Lord Jesus Christ loves His church, and cares for every member of it.

He is exercising that care by the pastors He provides, by the influence of what they say to the church. Also, He is caring for His own by the influence of what every Christian has to say. That the words of the pastor be listened to, and that the words of every Christian be listened to, let each one of us be an example to the believers in word.

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 33:1-4

Dillon - Scripture Reading - Psalm 32

Jeremiah - Congregational Prayer

Jeff - Benediction - Psalm 33:20-22

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 676 "More About Jesus" (Andrew lead)

Rita - Trinity 462 "How Blest Is He"

Journey - Trinity 188 - "There Is a Fountain"

- VII. In Conduct/Conversation - Eph 4:22 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former **conduct**, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- A. Not the filthy conduct of the wicked (2 Pe 2:7)
 - B. Not the useless things you learned from the world (1 Pe 1:18)
 - C. Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honest/honorable not only in the church, but before unbelievers, also (1 Pe 2:11-12)
 - D. Remembering that the present world will be burned up on the day of God, looking forward to His promise of a new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells, be diligent to have your conduct be holy, without spot and blameless (2 Peter 3:11-14)
- VIII. In Love/Charity - Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us...
- A. Loving as Christ has loved, laying down your life for others (John 15:13, Eph 5:2)
 - B. Not losing your first love, nor letting your love wax cold, but having fervent, earnest love (Mt 24:12, Rev 2, 1 Peter 4:8)
 - C. Not pretending to love, but having unfeigned love, love without dissimulation or hypocrisy
- IX. In Spirit - Titus 2:13b-14 ...our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
- A. ...fervent in spirit, serving the Lord (Rom 12:11)
 - 1. [G2204 *zeo* lit. to be hot; to boil, to glow]
 - 2. derivatives
 - a) G2205 *zelos* lit heat; zeal

- (1) John 2:17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE HAS EATEN ME UP."
- (2) 2 Corinthians 7:7 and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was comforted in you, when he told us of your earnest desire, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more.
- (3) 2 Corinthians 9:2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.
- (4) 2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
- (5) Colossians 4:12-13 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. (13) For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

b) G2206 *zeloo* to have warmth of feeling for or against

- (1) Revelation 3:15, 19b "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot...Therefore be zealous and repent.
- (2) 1 Corinthians 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.
- (3)

c) G2207 *zelotes* a zealot; *zealous*

B. A spirit of meekness

- 1. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness [KJV meekness G4236 *praotes*], considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (Gal 6:1)
- 2. Exhibiting not an outward show of things that are of no value in God's sight, but a gentle [KJV meek G4239 *praus*] and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. (1 Peter 3:3-4)

X. In Faith

A.

XI. In Purity/Pureness G47 *hagneia*

- A. As directly related to Jesus Christ - 1 John 3:1-3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (2) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (3) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
1. Jesus Christ is Himself pure
 2. Jesus Christ is coming again; when He does, we shall be like Him; that is our hope
 3. that hope in us leads us to purify ourselves, just as He is pure
- B.
- C. 1 Timothy 5:1-2 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, (2) older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity [GEN pureness].
- D. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; (2) for you know what commandments we gave you ~~through~~ [KJV by] the Lord Jesus. (3) For this is the will of God, your **sanctification [G38 hagiastos]**: that you should abstain from ~~sexual immorality~~ [fornication]; (4) that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in **sanctification [G38 hagiastos]** and honor, (5) not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; (6) that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. (7) For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in **holiness [G38 hagiastos]**.
- E.
- F.
- G. derivatives
1. G37 *hagiazō* to make holy
 2. G38 *hagiasmos* purification, purity
 3. G39 *hagion* a sacred thing; holy place
 4. G40 *hagios* sacred, saint, consecrated
 5. G41 *hagiotēs* sanctity, holiness
 6. G42 *hagiosune* sacredness, holiness
 7. G47 *hagneia* 1 Timothy 5:2
 8. G48 *hagnizo* to make clean; to sanctify
 9. G49 *hagnismos* cleansing, purification
 10. G53 *hagnos* clean, innocent, chaste, pure 2 Cor 11:2 ...as a chaste virgin

11. G54 *hagnotes* cleanness, blamelessness, pureness

All of us who are the disciples of Jesus Christ look to Him as our example.
But it is His will that we look also to the example set by other believers.
And it is His will for each of us to be a good example to the believers, of how to live as one following the ultimate example of Jesus Christ.