

*A Voice of
Grace*

A Voice of Grace



A Voice of Grace

The following are statistics on how much the average American talks.

The average American has 30 conversations a day
and will spend 1/5 of their life talking.

If all of our words were put into print, the result would be that a single day's words would fill a 70-75 page book, while in a year's time the average person's words would fill 132 books of 200 pages each!

If you're a man, you speak an average of 20,000 words a day.

If you're a woman, you speak 30,000 words a day.

The image shows the title page of a book. The text is printed in a serif font. The words "THE BOOK OF" are in a smaller font size above the word "PSALMS", which is significantly larger and more prominent. The background of the page is a light, aged paper color.

THE BOOK OF
PSALMS

The ungodly say in Psalm 12:4: *“Our lips are our own; who is lord over us?”*

But as believers we should echo the prayer of the Psalmist in Psalm 141:3: *“Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.”*



Paul speaks of the gospel he preached that he received it “by the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Gal. 1:11,12). He speaks elsewhere of “that which I also received,” and “this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord” (I Cor. 15:3; I Thes. 4:15).



Paul's epistles are the "Word of Christ," as is the rest of the Bible, but Paul's writings reveal Christ's will directly for today in the dispensation of grace, including the terms of salvation, and how the Church, the Body of Christ is to live and serve under grace.



When God's Word saturates us and richly dwells in us, it produces not just information, but also emotion, and the desire to sing praises to God for His goodness and grace.



Donald Hustad says, “Singing is for believers. The relevant question is not, ‘Do you have a voice?’ but ‘Do you have a song?’”

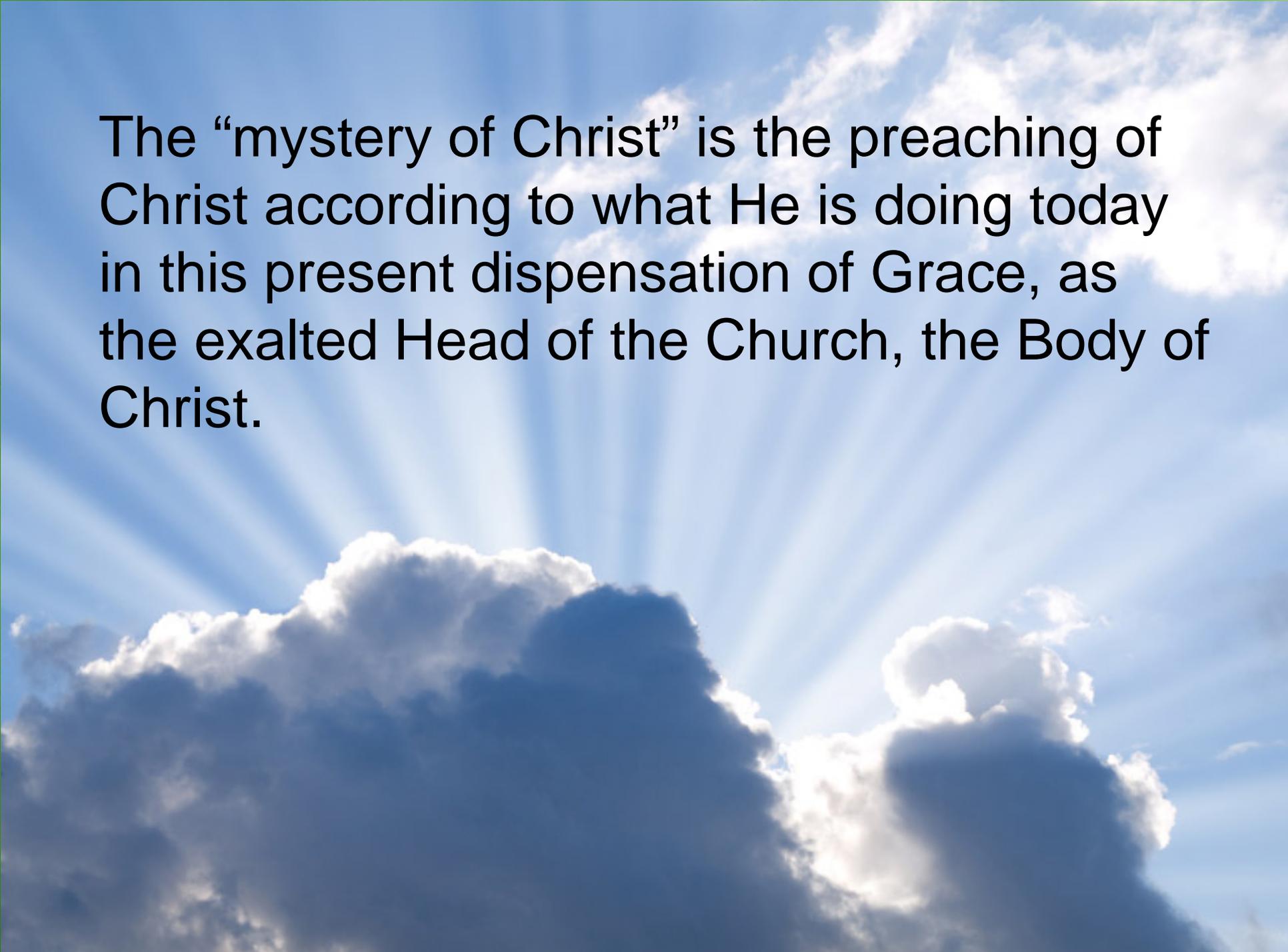


“The Lord” is the audience to whom we sing.

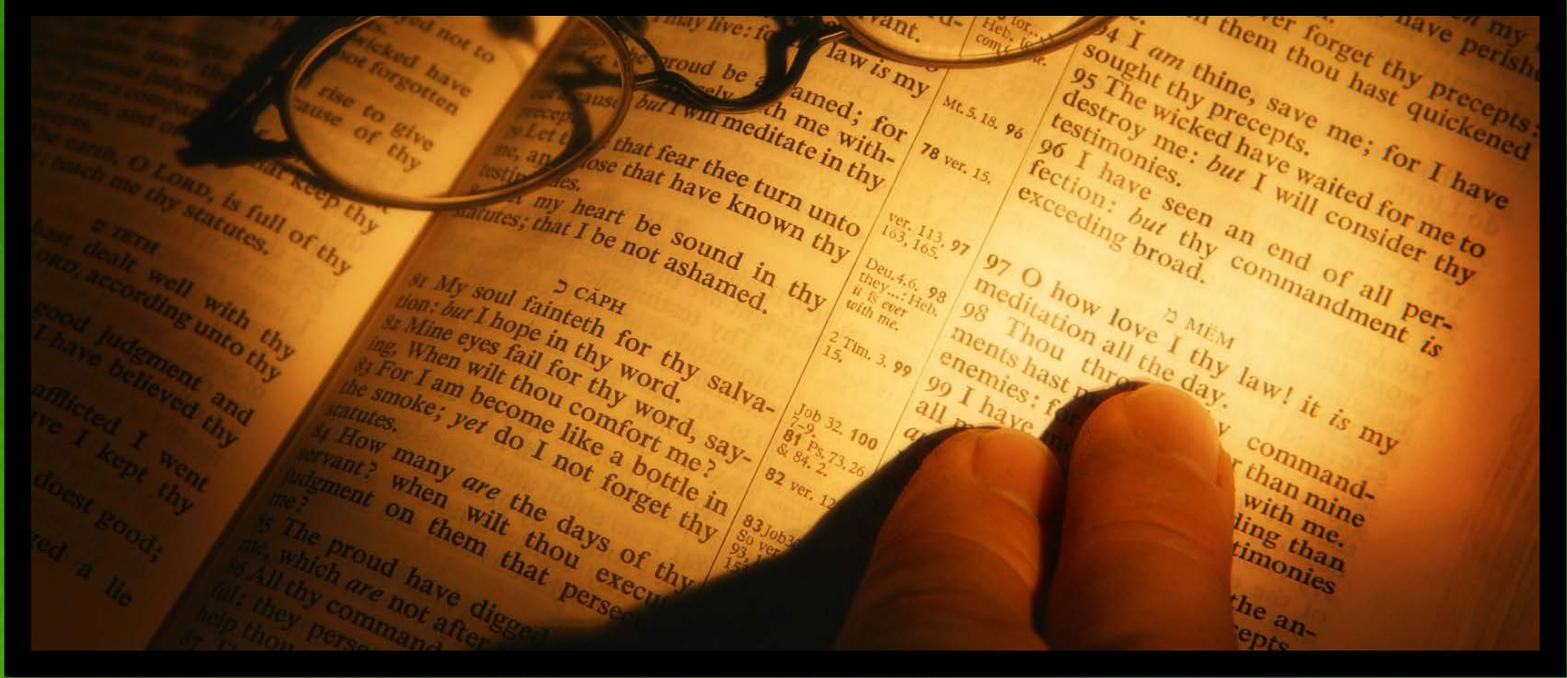


The reason Paul calls it the “mystery” of Christ is because he’s referring to the preaching of Christ as He was never preached before.

The Mystery of Christ is as Paul says in Romans 16:25, “the preaching of Christ according to the revelation of the mystery, *which was kept secret since the world began.*”



The “mystery of Christ” is the preaching of Christ according to what He is doing today in this present dispensation of Grace, as the exalted Head of the Church, the Body of Christ.



In the past, King David under the law, said things like, “Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for **thy law is my delight...O how love I thy law!** It is my meditation all the day” (Psa. 119:77,97).

David had a passion for the program he was under, for the law he was to know and live by, that he might glorify God.

GRACE

We need to have a passion for the program we are under, and for God's grace that we are to know and live by today that we might glorify God.

Under grace, it's not "I delight in your law," not "O how I love your law" today! Instead, it's "Your grace is amazing!" "Thank you for your grace!" "O how I love your grace"!

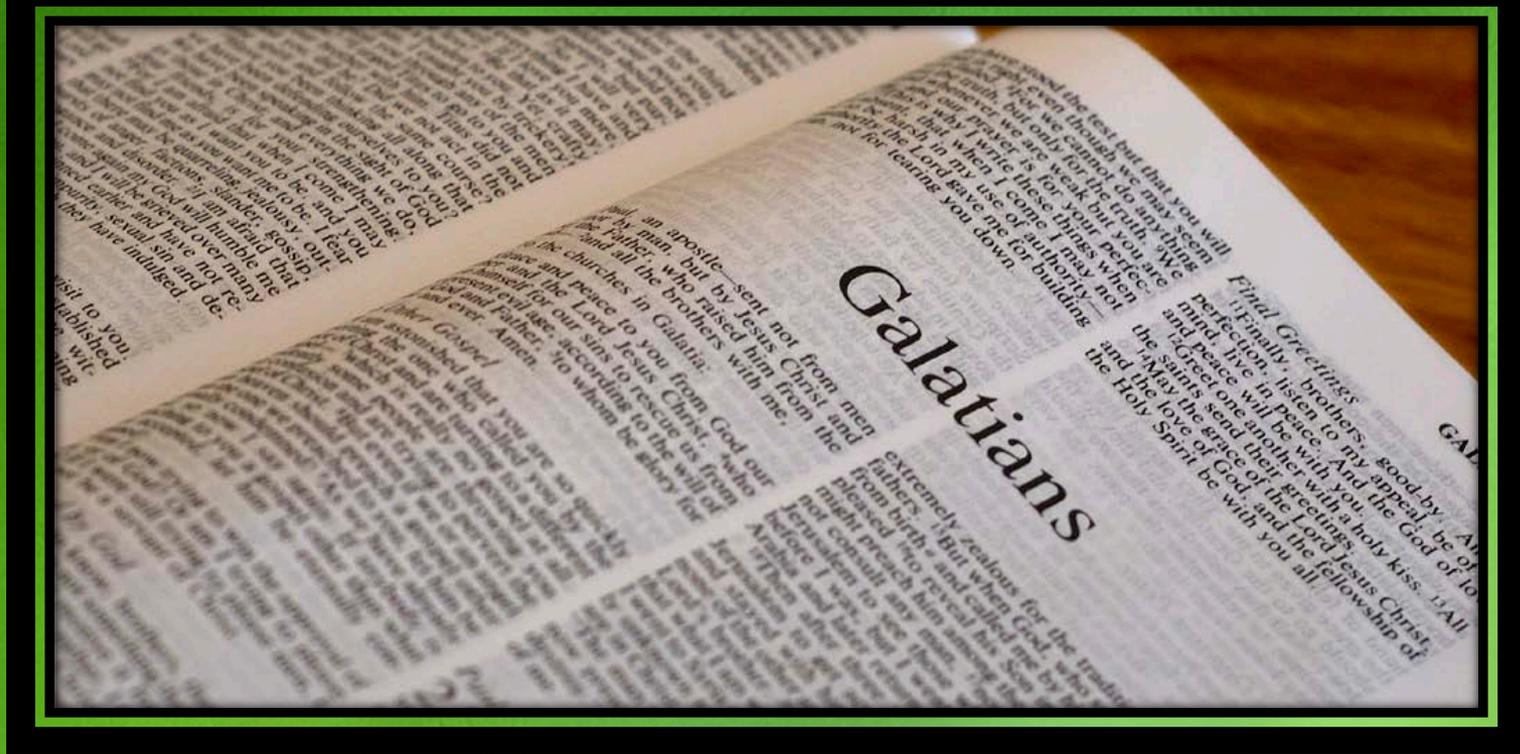
you are

CHRIST'S

ambassador

“Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Col. 1:2).

Today, God the Father and God the Son are declaring grace and peace to the world today, and so should we! As God’s ambassadors, we are His mouthpieces, His instruments, His voice of grace, to go to the world around us and declare His grace.

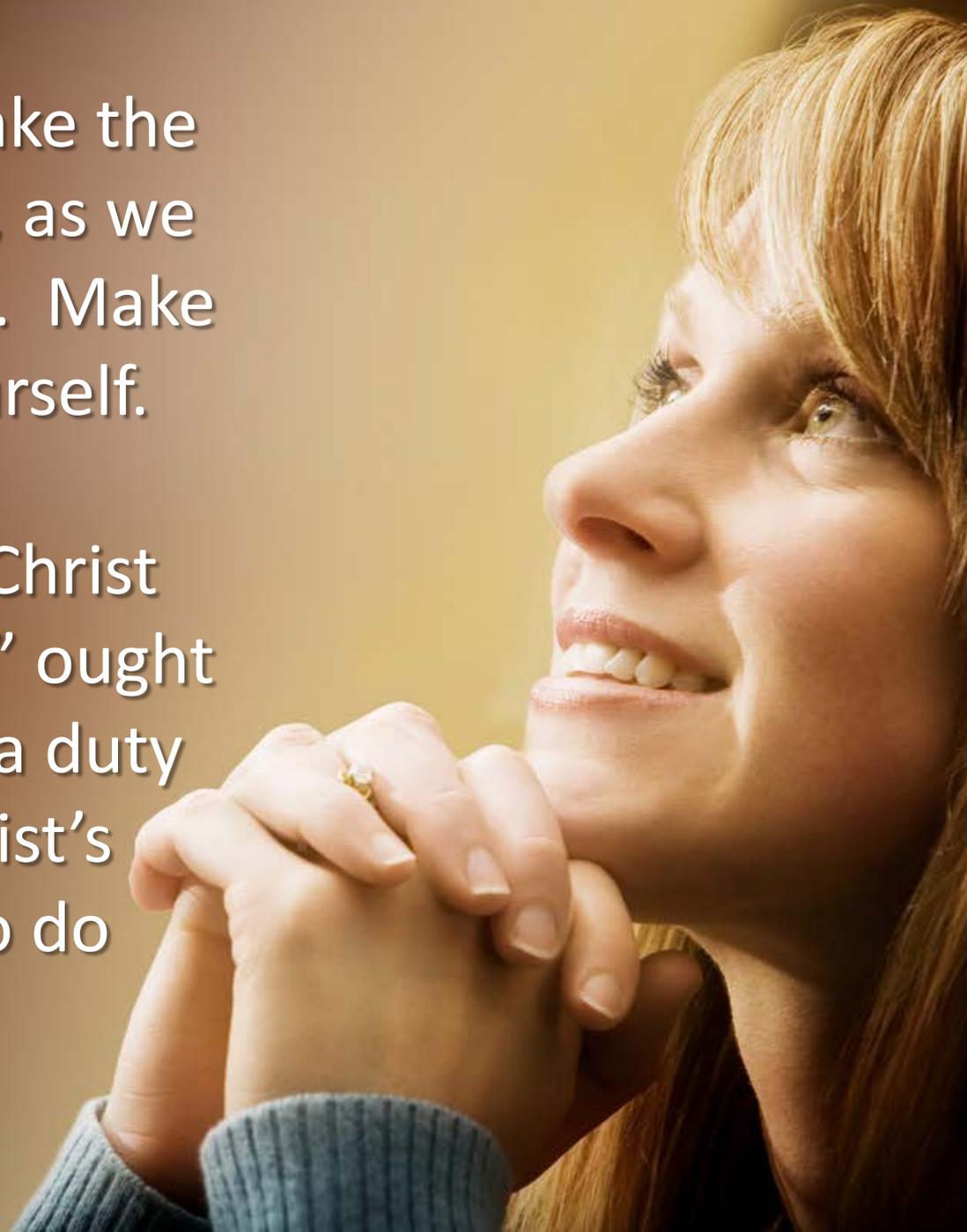


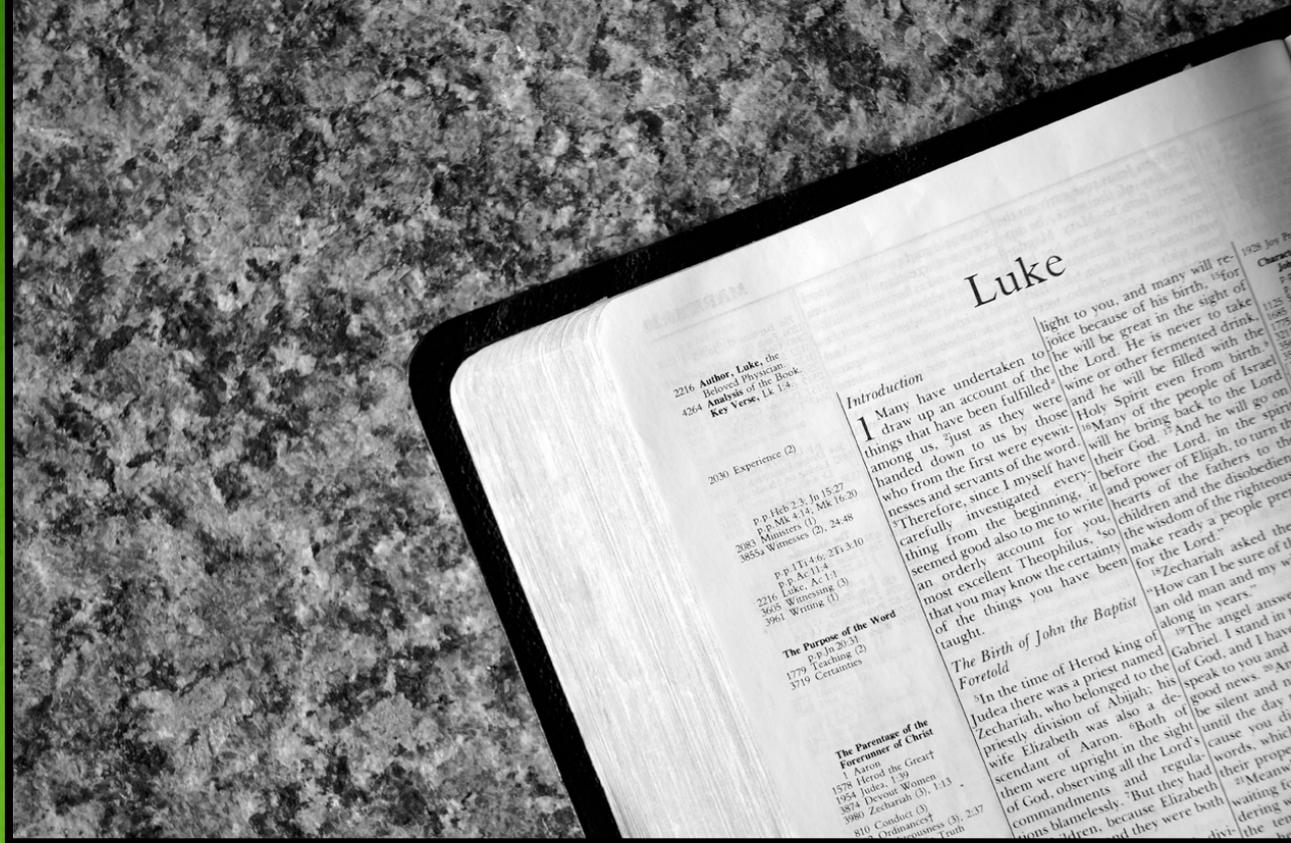
Paul desired to preach Christ according to grace and make known the gospel of grace and to proclaim it clearly.

“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently [vividly, clearly] set forth, crucified among you?” (Gal. 3:1).

It's important to make the Scriptures personal, as we should with verse 4. Make the "I" speak of yourself.

That "I" may make Christ known clearly, as "I" ought to speak. We have a duty to tell others as Christ's ambassadors and to do so with clarity.

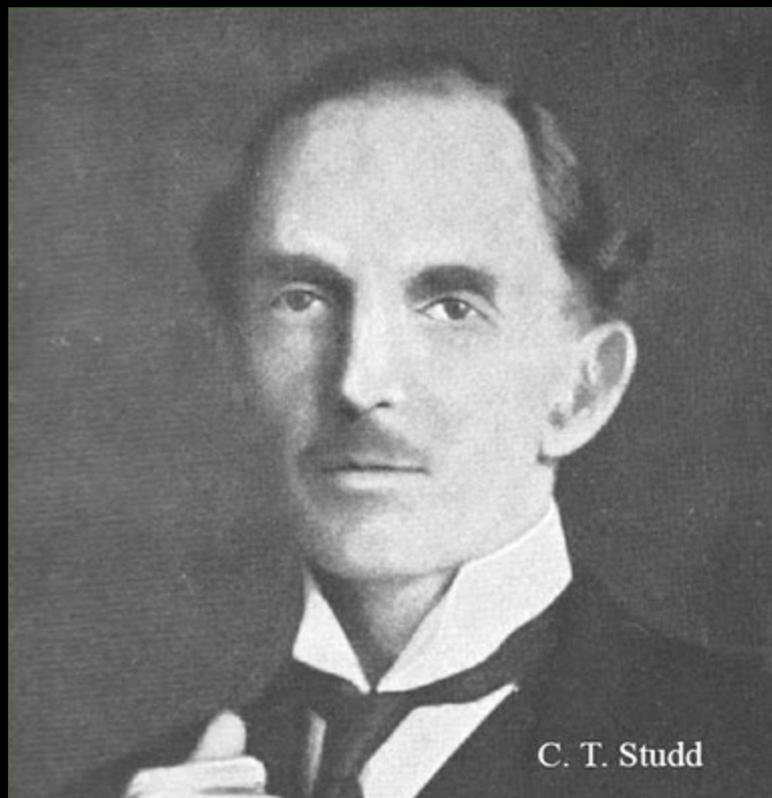




“And all bare Him witness, and wondered at the *gracious words* which proceeded out of His mouth” (Luke 4:22).



Paul had spoken of singing with grace in your hearts *up to the Lord* in Colossians 3:16, now in Colossians 4:6, he speaks of speaking “with grace” *out to others*.



C. T. Studd

"SOME WISH TO LIVE
WITHIN THE SOUND OF A
CHAPEL BELL;
I WISH TO RUN A RESCUE
MISSION WITHIN A
YARD OF HELL."

- C.T. Studd

Preach the
Gospel
.ORG



In the sharing of God's truth, and beyond this, in any and all circumstances of life, in communicating with others, believers are to make gracious speech a habit of life, to let our speech be "always with grace."

A Voice of Grace



Paul also says, our speech should be “seasoned with salt.” “Where’s the salt?” and “Pass the salt” are common things we all say when we sit down to eat. Salt is good; it adds flavor.



“The old nature is a defensive line trying to stop your progress, to kill your drive, to stop you from scoring, and to keep you stuck in the same place on the field all game long...The old man tries to block your spiritual progress.”



By the power of God according to verses 22-24, we are to “put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man.”

“Corrupt communication” is a sin that comes from our “corrupt” old man.

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“Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient, but rather giving of thanks” (Eph. 5:4).



Billy Graham states: “You have a tongue and a voice. These instruments of speech can be used destructively or employed constructively. You can use your tongue to slander, to gripe, to scold, to nag, to curse, and to quarrel, or you can bring it under the control of God’s Spirit and make it an instrument of blessing and praise.”

A Voice of Grace



Larry Crabb





Having a voice of grace we should encourage others, build others up, and minister grace to our hearers in life, with whoever we come in contact with, and especially to those closest to us in life: our spouses, children, family, friends, and our church family.