

# THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE

## THE POWER OF WORDS

Very few people are conscious of the power of words. Words are the tools with which we work and for this reason we should learn to use them well. We should strive to become the master of our words as a carpenter does the rule, the hammer, and the saw. What we build with our words is far more important than what the carpenter may build with tools.

Words are the most powerful weapons and the most effective tools in the world. Every Christian should strive to be an expert in wordmanship. The person that is a master of words may be the master of any situation.

Thoughts are the children of your brain and words are the garments they wear. Do not too many of us dress our thoughts with words that make them look like tramps? Words are all powerful. Words can wreck homes, destroy lives, ruin businesses, and leave a congregation torn asunder. Most of the congregations that have had trouble started it by words that should never have been uttered.

A jury may pronounce the word “guilty” and send an innocent man into eternity. Recently, there was an account of where a man spent two years in jail and was about to die for a crime he did not commit, and all of this was done with words. The mistaken word of a witness in identifying the man led the jury to pronounce the word “guilty.” The words of confession from the lips of the man who committed the crime was all that saved this innocent man. We act as a jury each day on the actions of our fellow man, and because of insufficient evidence or bare suspicion, pronounce them guilty before the world.

You may pass by where a building of steel and concrete is going up. A hundred or more men may be working on it. There will be the mason with his trowel, the carpenter with his saw and hammer, the structural worker with his modern machine, but the directing genius behind them all is the man whose only tools are words.

Words can stir the human emotions and passions. Words can bring heartaches and tears. Some of the deepest wounds ever made in the human heart were slashed with biting and unkind words. Words can bring joy and wreath faces with smiles. Many a soul that had lost the joy of living and sunk in the depths of despair has been saved from ruin and destruction by kind words. I read in the paper of a man who climbed to the top of a bridge and was planning to leap into the river below to end his life. He had given up, thinking there was nothing to live for. The policeman sent for a priest to come and try to talk him out of leaping from the bridge, but the priest’s words were in vain. A man that happened to be passing by saw him and asked to be permitted to talk with him. He climbed up on the bridge and saw down by his side. He told him of his own troubles. He had a child, and for eight years it had seemed a hopeless dream that the child would live, but just that day the child had left for Mayo Clinic for a heart operation, and a ray of hope had been given to the father. As a result of the words of this kind-hearted man, the man gave up his plan to jump off the bridge and they came down together. A life was saved and words were the tools that did it. We admire the doctor that may use a surgeon’s tools to save a life and yet we have within our grasp tools that may not only save a physical life, but a soul from ruin and destruction.

“Proclaim a word until it becomes a byword for human need and you can make that word worth millions. The success of business hinges upon the character of the words that constitute the points of contact between the house and its customers and prospects. About eighty percent of those points of contact are made by letter and everyone of them make some kind of impression. Remember also that every point of contact is an

*“...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel...” (Amos 7:8)*

**THE GREAT PHYSICIAN**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of all \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

II. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of all \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

III. For the \_\_\_\_\_ of all \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

**SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. The Glory of \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

II. The Problem of \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

III. The Danger of \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

opportunity to create goodwill.” If the wrong word if used, it may create ill will instead. Is it any wonder the Psalmist said, “Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips” (Psalm 141:3). We would do well to utter this prayer at the beginning of each day and of each conversation. Our words will justify of condemn us. Our words are the revelation of what is in our hearts. The best way to control our lips is to control our hearts.

*-Franklin Camp*

**A BIG OCEAN TO BE LOST IN**

The story is told of an ocean liner headed to the Middle East. Nine hundred miles out to sea a sail was sighted on the horizon. As the liner drew closer, the passengers saw that the boat—a small sloop flying a Turkish flag—had run up a distress signal and other flags asking for its position at sea. Through a faulty chronometer or immature navigation the small vessel had become lost.

For nearly an hour the liner circled the little boat, giving its crew correct latitude and longitude. Naturally there was a great deal of interest in all the proceedings among the passengers of the liner. A boy of about 12 standing on the deck and watching all that was taking place remarked aloud to himself: “It’s a big ocean to be lost in.”

It is a big universe to be lost in too (Matthew 16:26). And we do get lost—we get mixed up and turned around. We despair, we make mistakes, we do evil to each other. However, the universe is big—but it is not too big for God. Our Father, Creator, and Sustainer of life, loves us and wants us to do what is right no matter the size of the universe. I am only one of over six billion people but God still cares about my soul and about me doing what is right.

This is why we have the Bible as a guide to help us find our way in obeying the Gospel and becoming a Christian. Over 1,900 years ago Jesus said, “Let not your heart be troubled...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:1-6). The writer of Hebrews declared, “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (5:8-9).

Don’t be fooled into thinking that God does not care—He does care! This is why we have the Bible today, this is why Jesus died at Calvary, this is why we have the church today.

God does care! The questions is do you care about God?

*-Wilkin Tom O’Neal*

**HE COULD NO MORE ENTER**

Society has always demanded Jesus to work outside of its boundaries. It is as true now as it has ever been. Heathen and hypocritical legal and social organizations continually push for His ouster. Politicians, to scratch the itching ears of their liberal donors and special interests, condemn speaking in His name and promoting His cause. No public mention or demonstration may be made because as it pertains to society's agenda, Jesus can no more enter. Such, though, is not a new problem. Just after His baptism, Jesus healed many diseased and cast out many with evil spirits in and around Capernaum. Afterward, the scriptures state that with all things considered "Jesus could no more openly enter into the city" (Mark 1:45). How could the officials of that great city, like so many today, possibly ban the entrance of such a great man who was doing so many great things? But you see, it was not that Jesus was unable to enter Capernaum because He was banned, but because His popularity was so great that He literally could not enter the city because of the throng of people who would adoringly flock to Him. Then, He could not enter because of society's love; but today, He is not allowed to enter because of society's spite. Unlike in Capernaum, society today has kicked Jesus out, not allowing Him any more to enter.

How far has a world fallen when its very Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Friend can no longer be openly promoted for who He is and what He represents? How contemptible is a society that can not only refuse Him and discourage His teachings, but even condemn Him and legislate in opposition to His soul redeeming work? But such refusals are not without their consequences. Throughout the history of the world, every time man has forgotten God either by chance or choice, he has seen the fruit of his works. What consequences are suffered by those among whom Jesus can no more enter?

**Man rebuts God's plea.** The ceaseless plea of the centuries has been Jesus' request, "Come unto me" (Matthew 11:28). Every decision God has made and every action in which He has engaged since the beginning of time has been to provide man with the opportunity to do just as He asks. With Jesus is rest, ease, and life. And knowing the only alternative available, it is even easier to recognize the abundance of glory that resides in that plea. But when man opposes Jesus he also opposes the glories of His great plea. Implied in his utter rejection is the thought that God is a liar for His plea can be no great than any other. Paul shared the plea of Jesus with governor Felix, but into his life Felix would not allow Jesus to enter (Acts 24:25). He did not believe Christianity's plea was greater than his own personal agenda at that time, thus in action he rebutted God's great plea. Such is a consequence every time with those among whom Jesus can no more enter.

**Man rebukes God's offer.** The specific offers God has extended to man are manifold, but universally the greatest is redemption through His infinite love. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:6-9). Can a greater offer be conceived in the mind of man? Still, though, as society continues to exile Jesus from its existence, it inherently speaks out against and condemns that very offer. It is equal to, as it were, spitting upon the blood soaked cross of Jesus Christ. Such a rebuke is pictured in Hebrews as the offenders "crucifying to themselves the Son of God afresh" (Hebrews 6:6). Can such blasphemy be imagined? But it is committed every time a person or people say to Jesus He can no more enter.

**Man rebuffs God's blessings.** Hope, assurance, confidence, and prayer are only a small sampling of the abundance of blessings God offers to His obedient children. Additionally are these blessings extended to all mankind with only the stipulation of humble submission. But did you know that as man increasingly shuns and spurs the very mention of Jesus that he is abruptly refusing the glories found in Christ. Instead of blessing His name, they actually curse "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). Surely if we were to randomly ask if the blessings of God were desired in one's life their verbal answer would be yes, but by their fruits we shall know them (Matthew 7:20). And knowingly or not those who tell Jesus He can no more enter are refusing the blessings found therein.

When disaster strikes, as it often does, the first question man will ask is "Where is God?" With mocking tones do they question His love, mercy, and very existence. God, though, is present in the life of every one who allows, but cannot be among those who will let Him no more enter.