

Lesson 10

We have studied the pattern for the believer concerning our words and we now move ahead into the second area of our verse in I Tim. 4:12, our conversation.

You might think that the believer's words and conversation are the same but they are really quite different.

The word conversation is used approximately 20 times in the Bible. It's always best to let the Bible define its own terms so let's take a look at some of these references.

The first is found in Ps. 37:14. In this verse, who are against those of an upright conversation?

In Ps. 50:23 we see the praise of one's mouth being only one part and the ordering of his _____ a right the other.

Gal. 1:13 Paul references his life before being saved "For ye have heard of my _____ in time past in the Jews religion how that beyond measure I _____ the church of God, and _____ it."

Are you beginning to see that conversation has more to do with the activity of our life?

Eph. 2:3 "Among whom also we all had our _____ in times past in the _____ of our _____, fulfilling the _____ of the flesh and of the mind..."

The Bible defines conversation as the characteristic behavior of our life. With that in mind let's see what the Pauline pattern for the believer's behavior is.

First the negative instruction.

Eph. 4:22. What is God's instruction regarding the former conversation the old man? How we lived before we were saved. _____ it _____. All the activity, manner of life, of who we were in Adam is to be put off.

This teaching is contrary to human psychology which teaches self esteem. "Love yourself, feel good about yourself, have a good self image and all the rest. God says our heart is deceitfully _____ in Jer. 17:9 and Paul says in Rom. 7:18 that "in me...dwelleth no _____."

The old nature and all its activity (even the so called good things) are worthless and rejected by God. God's answer to our old man is death. Rom. 6:6 "Knowing this that our old man is _____ with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not _____." vs. 7 "For he that is _____ is freed from _____."

What God has done positionally for us we are to reckon to be true and live accordingly.

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Col. 3:9 explains this liberating and glorious truth for us. "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye _____ the old man with _____ deeds;"

Conquering the sins of your old man has already been done for you by God at Calvary. Our experience should match this reality.

The pattern for the believer's conversation (manner of life) is simply to occupy in experience the position we've already been given by God.

As a believer I am a:

1. Child of God Gal. 3:26, Rom. 8:16
2. Joint heir with Christ Rom. 8:17
3. The righteousness of God II Cor. 5:21
4. God's ambassador II Cor. 5:20
5. Holy and without blame Eph. 1:4
6. I am to the praise of his glory Eph. 1:12
7. I am God's inheritance Eph. 1:18
8. God's workmanship Eph. 2:10
9. Risen with Christ and seated in the heavenly places Col. 3:1, Eph. 2:7
10. Saint of the Most High God Rom. 1:7
11. The temple of the Holy Ghost I Cor. 6:19

Can we say anything but "ACT LIKE IT"?

Let's see what the scriptures say about our conversation (manner of life).

In Phil. 1:27 what is our conversation to become? "the _____ of _____".
The gospel of Christ encompasses all 11 things listed above and a lot more as they are all the results of God's work in us at salvation.

In this verse we see 3 areas that should characterize our conversation. Can you find them?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Standing fast with one mind striving together for the faith. This is the pattern for our conversation.

Phil. 3:20. Where is our conversation? In _____. Our home is heaven. Not this world! Our affections should be on things _____ Col. 3:2. All the details of our life should be lived from this vantage point.

Eph. 4:1 encourages us to walk _____ of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

The vocation includes all those things listed before. God's appeal is for a daily life that corresponds to all the wonderful things He has already done for us.

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God does not instruct us to have a heavenly conversation that He does not more than adequately enable us to live.

Eph. 3:20 "Now unto him that is able to do _____ above all that we ask or think, according to the _____ that worketh in us."

And what power works in us? I Thes. 2:13 tells us. What is it? The _____ of _____.

The word of God is essential in our lives. Love it, eat it, meditate on it, rely on it, believe it, rightly divide it, enjoy it, thirst for it.

I love the picture God paints for us in Ps. 42:1 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

What is your soul panting after?

Your conversation will declare it!

Finally, our conversation should be cause for rejoicing.

II Cor. 1:12 "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in _____ and _____, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our _____ in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward."

When Paul evaluated his life his conscience was clear. His life was not phony. It was not about Paul's glory, praise, admiration, or advancement. Paul's life was about one thing, the Lord Jesus Christ, and everybody knew it!

Lesson 10 Answers and Comments

Wicked	his
Conversation	gospel
Conversation	Christ
Persecuted	stand fast
Wasted	have one mind
Conversation	strive together for the faith
Lust	heaven
Flesh	above
Desires	worthy
Put	exceeding
Off	abundantly
Wicked	power
Good	word
Thing	God
Crucified	simplicity
Serve	godly
Sin	sincerity
Dead	conversation
Sin	
Have	
Put	
Off	

I am always amazed when I read about the conversation of those persecuted Thessalonian believers. In I Thess. 1:7 Paul says of them “So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.” And in verse 8, “For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad;...”

What a glorious privilege and responsibility to let the conversation of our lives do likewise!!