

Yielded Bodies

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CHAPTER FOUR

THE MOUTH OF THE HUMAN BODY

"Who hath made man's mouth . . . have not I, the Lord . . . I will be with thy mouth"
(Exodus 4:11-12)

"My mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips" (Psalm 63:5)

"A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul" (Proverbs 18:7)

"Be not rash with thy mouth" (Ecclesiastes 5:2)

"With the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10)

**"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips;
but their heart is far from me"** (Matthew 15:8)

"Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (Psalm 141:3)

Think with me a moment of

THE CHRISTIAN'S BODY

1. It is *bought*.

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men" (I Corinthians 7:23).

**"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit,
which are God's"** (I Corinthians 6:20).

2. It is bought with a great *price*.

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and

gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18-19).

3. Being bought with a great price by another, it is *not your own*.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (I Corinthians 6:19).

4. It is the temple of the *HOLY SPIRIT*.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (I Corinthians 3:16-17).

5. It is to *glorify* GOD.

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:20).

6. It is for *the LORD* and the LORD is for *the body*.

"Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body" (I Corinthians 6:13).

7. It is to magnify *CHRIST*.

"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death" (Philippians 1:20).

8. It is to *manifest* the life of CHRIST.

"Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (II Corinthians 4:10).

9. It is to be *controlled*.

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27).

10. It is to be dissolved in *death* - if JESUS come not before death makes dark visitation.

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Corinthians 5:1).

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it

wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19).

11. It is to be *changed* when CHRIST comes.

"Behold I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Corinthians 15:51-52).

Now in speaking of the mouth, I make one omission. I make no mention, or little mention, of the tongue in this message, even though some things said will make you think of the tongue. Today I would be as one who points to the pansy bed without mentioning the viper hidden therein. I would mention a palace of flesh and ivory and bone without asking you to look on the tiger enclosed. Making mention of the mouth and its usage without mention of the tongue is one who speaks of a bunch of ripened bananas without taking note of the tarantula which abides in it, as one who looketh at a case of silver without noticing the sharp razor therein hidden.

In the Bible we find

MANY MENTIONS OF THE WORD MOUTH

The *dove's* mouth. The dove Noah sent out returned - **"and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf"** (Genesis 8:11).

The *well's* mouth. Jacob saw a well in the field - **"and a great stone was upon the well's mouth"** (Genesis 39:2).

The *sack's* mouth. When Joseph's brethren were returning from Egypt, their asses laded with corn, **"as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money . . . in his sack's mouth"** (Genesis 42:27).

The *earth's* mouth. When, under the rebellion started by Korah, Dathan and Abiram, some **"gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron . . . and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up"** (Numbers 16:3, 32).

The *cave's* mouth. When Joshua found the five kings who hid themselves in a cave at Makkadah, he said, **"Roll great stones upon the mouth of the cave"** (Joshua 10:18).

The *lion's* mouth. David prayed: **"Save me from the lion's mouth"** (Psalm 22:21).

The *mule's* mouth. David advised: **"Be ye not as . . . the mule . . . whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle"** (Psalm 32:9).

The *pit's* mouth. David prayed: **"Let not the pit shut her mouth upon me"** (Psalm 69:15).

The *grave's* mouth. David, praying that his suit may be acceptable unto GOD, says: **"Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood"** (Psalm 141:7).

The *furnace's* mouth. After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High GOD, were put in the fiery furnace, "**then Nebuchadnezzar came near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace**" (Daniel 3:26).

The *den's* mouth. When Daniel was cast into the den of lions, "**s stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den**" (Daniel 6:17).

But Daniel's testimony was: "**My God . . . hath shut the lion's mouths**" (Daniel 6:22).

The *bear's* mouth: "**In Daniel's vision of the four beasts, he saw a bear with three ribs in the mouth between the teeth of it**" (Daniel 7:5).

The *serpent's* mouth. We read of the dragon in the Book of Revelation this: "**And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman**" (Revelation 12:15).

But today we speak of the *human* mouth - with truths that pertain thereunto.

Considering the mouth we think of

THE TEETH OF THE MOUTH

The body, an organism composed of thirty billion cells of various kinds, living bits of protoplasm, must convert food and air into energy and tissue.

As the physiologist tells us, the food must be changed in such a way that it can be absorbed and carried to the different tissues. This is nothing more or less than the process of digestion. Speaking of this, Dr. Arthur I. Brown says: "At the same time, air must enter the body, because there can be no combustion without oxygen. This is the process of respiration. After the altered food and air enter the body, they must be dissolved in some liquid medium. This medium is the blood. This liquid blood, filled with its supply of food for hungry cells, must be carried to all parts of the body in a steady and slow-moving stream. Here is where the pump and its thousands of miles of pipes are needed, the heart and the blood vessels having to do with the circulation, and making nutrition or metabolism possible. In the process of fuel combustion and conversion of food and air, there will be certain waste products - the ashes in the furnace."

But if our food is to be worked over by various chemicals in solution, this is done more effectively if the food is separated into the smallest possible portions. Meaning what? Meaning it must have a mill to grind it. This mill GOD has provided in the beautiful set of teeth - twenty in children and thirty-two in adults - ivory miniature mill stones - grinding, tearing, cutting, instruments. Wonderful job these ivory mill stones do - if kept in condition and given time to do their work.

Now, as we have read, the work of teeth on food is wholly mechanical, even though the chemical part of digestion begins also in the mouth through the action of a fluid, saliva, secreted by three sets of glands. How marvelous the mouth with its roof and tongue and teeth!

But some spiritual lessons would we learn from the teeth.

The teeth of the mouth teach us spiritual truths, such as:

(1) *GOD's value of a little thing.*

"And if he smite out his manservant's tooth, or his maidservant's tooth; he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake" (Exodus 21:27).

The loss of one tooth meant:

- that no more should a man be property in human flesh,
- that no more should he have no will but the will of his master,
- that no more should the slave master's whip be upon his back.

The loss of one tooth meant all the years of his life should be years of liberty.

(2) *The reality and might of heredity.* Though GOD reproves the unjust proverb about the fathers eating sour grapes and the children's teeth being set on edge (Ezekiel 18:2); and says that **"every one shall die for his own iniquity"** (Jeremiah 31:30), and there shall be a quickened sense of personal responsibility, still we see enough in these words to give us some thoughts on the truth of heredity - that a man can live so righteously as to bring blessings upon posterity, or he can sow such seed as to bring upon his children successive harvests of evil. Paul speaks of reaping the carnal things of others (I Corinthians 9:11).

(3) *The trouble and bother the lazy man causes.*

"As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him" (Proverbs 10:26).

Josh Billings said: "Laziness is a good deal like money - the more a man has of it, the more he seems to want." How sad when any Christian is likened to a ship in the doldrums, likened unto "Joe the Marine who was so lazy he laid down his gun to sneeze."

(4) *The wounds made by an unfaithful person.*

"Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint" (Proverbs 25:19).

(5) *The terror-producing fact of an awful hell.*

"There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out" (Luke 13:28).

(6) *The rage of hatred.*

"He teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me; he gnashed upon me with his teeth; mine

enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me" (Job 16:9).

"The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnashed upon him with his teeth" (Psalm 37:12).

"All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it" (Lamentations 2:16).

"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth" (Acts 7:54).

And now we consider:

THE LIPS OF THE MOUTH

The lips are called "the upper and nether part of the mouth." The lips are doors of flesh and muscle to keep in that which should not go out. And this the lips will do if they are yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness.

Dirty words will not pass the doors of the lips. Paul says:

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

A mouth yielded to GOD will not be **"full of cursing and bitterness"** (Romans 3:14).

There will be no denial by the mouth of:

"those things which God before had showed by the mouth of all his prophets" (Acts 3:18).

- no mouths opened **"in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, his tabernacle, and them that dwell in Heaven"** (Revelation 13:6);
- no mouths filled with senseless arguments (Job 23:4);
- no arrogancy coming out (I Samuel 2:3).

It is a dread omen of spiritual famine and national degeneration when many let corrupt communications proceed out of their mouths.

Lips yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness will not be lips that shoot out in scorn (Psalm 22:7), nor lying lips which are an abomination to the LORD, nor a fool's lips entering into contention, nor lips that talk of mischief, nor lips that are a snare to one's own soul, nor lips that flatter, nor lips that are perverse. But yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness, the lips will be lips of truth to be established, the lips of the righteous speaking things acceptable unto GOD, the lips of knowledge which are as precious jewels, lips like lilies dropping myrrh, lips that speak no guile, lips in which GOD is glorified, lips that praise GOD.

We need to be wise in the matter of using the lips in kissing, remembering that the kisses of pure

love are like grains of gold or silver found upon the ground, of no value themselves but precious as showing that a mine is near.

Byron said: "Eden revives in the first kiss of pure love." Shakespeare said: "His kiss is as full of sanctity as the touch of holy bread." Tennyson said: "Our souls rushed together at the touching of the lips." Browning wrote:

All the breath and the bloom of the year
in the bag of one bee;
All the wonder and wealth of the mine in
the heart of one gem;
And the core of one pearl all the shade and
shine of the sea;
Breath and bloom, shade and shine, wonder
wealth, and - how far above them --
Truth that's brighter than gem,
Truth that's purer than pearl, --
Brightest truth, purest trust in the universe --
all were for me
In the kiss of one girl!

Let us yield our lips to GOD so that they shall never kiss deceitfully as Jacob kissed Isaac.

Let us never act toward CHRIST as did Judas who planted treacherous kisses upon the cheek of JESUS.

But rather let our lips be "sweet lips whereon perpetually remain the summer calm of golden charity," lips showing forth loyalty as set forth in the words of John Charles McNeil:

They put him in a prison cell
Murky and mean.
She kissed him there a wife's farewell
The bars between.
And when she turned to go, the crowd,
Thinking to see her crushed and bowed,
Saw her pass out as proud
As any queen.

Let us beware that we give not nor receive the kisses of deceit. Solomon warns of the danger of giving welcome or acquiescence to the woman who "lieth in wait at every corner," kissing men with an impudent face. And Maeterlinck says: "Had your eyes been opened, you would have perceived in a kiss what now you behold in catastrophe."

Yield, you young people whom I love and for whom I would die, your lips to GOD as instruments of righteousness.

- Then your love affairs will not be as plentiful as blackberries.
- Then there will not be promiscuous kissing, kissing whereby you play at love-making and

make love lose its sacredness.

Such careless use of the lips makes caresses become cheap and common things, dispensed to almost any passerby.

A girl who so unguardedly yields her lips, to use a figure from James Lane Allen, becomes like a bunch of grapes above a common path where everyone that passes takes a grape. He who takes does so without reverence and to his own impoverishment.

It is impossible to sow your affections broadcast and keep them in wise reserve at the same time. You cannot keep the water cool and use up the ice. You cannot keep the coffee hot and dispense with the fire or throw the thermos bottle away.

Thus it happens that many a young man and many a young woman squander so much in petty flirtations that when they come to the supreme moment of life they have made themselves incapable of a really great love. In the golden coin of real and abiding affection, such spendthrifts soon become utter bankrupts. Sometimes, too, this self-squandering goes further than mere flirtations. It goes even to positive shame.

How young people need to pray: **"Keep the door of my lips."**

But lips yielded to GOD as instruments of righteousness will be doors to keep out what ought not to go in the mouth and into the stomach. Lips that are instruments of righteousness will keep out all forms of strong drink.

The Bible says:

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine, they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder " (Proverbs 23:29-32).

All that people say in favor of intoxicating liquor is as worthless for purchase as counterfeit money, as worthless as painted water for the thirsty. And I can say better things about the rattlesnake and the skunk than I can about liquor - legal or illegal. You can search through all histories, delve into all philosophies, look into all tombs, walk through all mad houses, listen to all testimonies, and you can not find one good thing that can be said about the open traffic in liquor.

"With its breath of poison it has wiped whole nations from the face of the earth.

- It has caused men to discard honor.
- It has caused women to discard virtue.

- It has filled insane asylums and prisons.
- It has stolen sons and daughters from fathers and mothers.

With one touch it has ruined great industries.

- It has burned cities.
- It has sunk navies and destroyed armies.
- It has turned gold into dross, health into misery, beauty into caricature, and pride to shame.
- Of character, it is the coral reef on which the ship goes down.
- Of life, it is the rust that consumes.
- Of the citadel of the soul, it is the traitor that lets the enemy in.

Intoxicating beverages never touched an individual that it did not leave upon him an indelible stain.

- it never touched a family that it did not plant the seeds of misery and dissolution.
- It never touched a community that it did not lower the moral tone, chill religion and undermine law.
- It never touched a state that it does not multiply crime, destroy wealth and increase the burdens of taxation.
- It never touched a nation that it did not clog the machinery of government, blight prosperity, weaken patriotism, and encourage treason.

No one can claim to have lips of righteousness who permits to pass through them alcoholic beverage, which is a narcotic poison, which dulls the nerves and takes the water out of every tissue with which it comes in contact.

- It dries the throat, causing the desire for another drink.
- It irritates the lining of the stomach, finally causing ulcers.
- It lessens the efficiency of every organ of the body and blunts the moral sense.

Strong drink debases.

"But they also have erred through wine, and strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean" (Isaiah 28:7-8).

Strong drink leads to licentiousness.

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder" (Proverbs 23:31-33).

"At the last": there is a day of reckoning, when the will is finally yielded and the individual wholly surrendered to the habit, given over to wounds and woes, to sorrow of soul and body,

seeing no harm in indulgence and no benefit in abstinence.

Strong drink leads men's hearts from GOD.

"And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and the pipe, and wine, are in the feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands. Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it" (Isaiah 5:12-14)

But give thought to the

VOICE OF THE MOUTH

Remarkable and distinguishing are the capacities and functions of the human voice. Some people have spoken disparagingly of the human voice in words like these:

- A voice like a broken phonograph
- Her voice was like a bagpipe suffering from tonsillitis.
- A voice like a concertina that has been left out in the rain.
- A voice like the cry of an expiring mouse, shrill and thin.
- A Gruff voice, like the creaking of the gallows chain.
- A voice like a strained foghorn.
- A voice like a coyote with bronchitis.
- A voice like the voice of a frog with quinsy.
- A voice like dishwater gurgling through a sink.

Some have spoken in praise of the voice:

- Thy voice like an echo from Fairyland seems.
- Her voice is like the harmony of angels.
- It was a voice so mellow, so bright and warm and round.
- As if a beam of sunshine had been melted into sound.
- A voice like the music of rills.
- Her voice is like the evening thrush.
- That sings in Cessnook banks unseen.
- While his mate sits nestling in the bush.
- A voice as sweet as the evening breeze of Boreas in the pleasant month of November.
- Delicate voices like silver bells.
- A voice soft with solitudes.

And the Bible speaks of the voice:

- of blood,
- of weeping,
- of shouting,

- of "**the still small voice after the fire**,"
- of the roaring voice,
- the voice of thunder,
- the voice of thanksgiving,
- and the voice of supplications.

We read in the Bible of:

- the voice of the floods,
- the voice of a psalm,
- the voice of joy,
- the voice of groaning,
- of understanding,
- the voice of the truth,
- the voice of a woman in travail,
- the voice of doves,
- the voice out of the cloud,
- the voice of GOD

and many other voices signifying the use of the mouth.

Remarkable and distinguishing are the marvelous mechanisms of the human body. But no less remarkable and distinguishing are the capacities and functions of the human voice.

Somewhere I read this tribute to the human voice:

"It is as diverse from all other voices as if it had been intended for a different world - as, no doubt, it was. For variety of sounds and power of expression it can be compared with any other only in the way of contrast. In music, it so far surpasses any other voice, or any instrument that none can be named in connection with it. From the lowest guttural bass to the trill of highest pitch it sweeps the whole range of melodies with a sweetness, an expression and a pathos, all its own. It is the most perfect vehicle of emotion. Every different sensibility of the human body has its peculiar tone. Grief and joy, love and hatred, compassion and revenge, humility and pride, may each express itself perfectly by the tone, without a spoken word, and each expresses the degree of its intensity. Its power of varied articulation is inconceivable - for aught I know it may be infinite - so flexible, so perfect is the vocal apparatus.

"Take all possible vowel, and consonant, and guttural sounds, and in all their possible combinations, and all variations of tone, and inflection, and emphasis, in which they may be uttered, with every shade of difference in swell and cadence, in force, in melody, and in every conceivable particular of variety and difference, in every respect, and you shall find that human speech, considered in its merely physical aspects, might furnish matter of study for a lifetime. Hear it in the whisper, the common tone, the call, the outcry, the shout, the shriek. Hear it stating facts, explaining, arguing, insisting, exhorting, beseeching, pleading, wooing, cooing, coaxing, chuckling, exulting, laughing, expostulating, warning, affirming, denying, scolding, reproving, commanding, rebuking, condemning, approving, commending, complimenting, criticizing, carping, cajoling, bantering, complaining, correcting - with an adapted tone for every various

purpose of speech. How every tone affects you - pleases you, vexes you, enraptures you, rouses you, wins you!"

How important that the mouth, because of the voice, be yielded to GOD as an instrument of righteousness.

Now let us think of the enrichment that will come to us and of how GOD will be glorified because of the mouth if we have the:

RIGHTEOUS MOUTH

I mean by this that we yield our mouths to GOD as instruments of righteousness. Then our own mouths will not condemn us. Then we can say what Hannah said:

"And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation" (I Samuel 2:1).

Then, as to those in sorrow, we can say what Job said to his miserable comforters:

"But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the moving of my lips should assuage your grief" (Job 16:5).

Then we will purpose what David purposed:

"Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress" (Psalm 17:3).

Then we will be able to testify what the Psalmist testified:

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1).

"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).

Then, knowing the danger of a runaway mouth, we will make determination to make it honor GOD, saying:

"I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me" (Psalm 39:1).

Then, as we think upon the goodness of GOD, we will say:

"I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; yea, I will praise him among the multitude" (Psalm 109:30).

"My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever

and ever" (Psalm 145:21)

Then, desiring truth in the inward parts, we shall pray:

"And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments" (Psalm 119:43)

Then, in speaking against evils, we will have the experience and testimony set forth by Isaiah:

"And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword" (Isaiah 49:2).

Then, glorifying GOD in our bodies, we shall not **"be rash with our mouths to utter perverse things,"** and no arrogancy shall come out of our mouths, and the law of truth will be in our mouths.

And in yielding our mouths to GOD as instruments of righteousness our inspiration shall be the

MOUTH AND BODY OF JESUS

His human body was a real body.

- Those were real feet drenched by the tears of the penitent woman;
- that was a real head that the devoted Mary anointed aforehand for the burial;
- those were real hands which the nails fastened to the beams of the Cross;
- those were real eyes that suffered with sympathy at the tomb of Lazarus;
- that was no phantom cheek which Judas kissed;
- it was a real side which the spear of the Roman soldier cleft;
- and a real broken heart from whence blood and water flowed.

That was a real dead body, limp and helpless with that strange helplessness and weightiness which death causes, that was taken down from the Cross, wrapped in cerements and laid in Joseph's new tomb. Touch Him anywhere and you elicit the traits and responses of humanity.

Consider, sir!
A human heart beat there! a human brain
Pondered and pitied and was sorrowful,
Behind that sovereign brow. The blood of us --
Of women and of men - coursed crimson, warm,
In those rich veins! Nay, and He ate our meats
And drank our drinks, and wore the dress we wore;
And His hair fluttered in the breeze which stirred
Peter's and John's and mine.

Of his holy mouth the Bible says:

"But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his

lips shall he slay the wicked" (Isaiah 11:4).

"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth" (Song of Solomon 1:2).

"His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem" (Song of Solomon 5:16).

"Neither was any deceit in his mouth" (Isaiah 53:9)

"who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Peter 2:22).

In the synagogue in Nazareth **"there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias."** Then opening the book, He read.

"And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is the scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth" (Luke 4:20-22).

Paul, speaking of his conversion, said:

"And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth" (Acts 22:12-14).

Writing to the Thessalonians, Paul said:

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (II Thessalonians 2:7-8)

And John, with revelation from JESUS Himself as he was in the midst of the golden candlesticks, wrote:

"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:16).

So I beg you by the mouth of JESUS in which there is no deceit, from which gracious words proceeded, let your ears receive the words of His mouth and yield your mouths to GOD as instruments of righteousness.

And despise not the words of His mouth as did those who **"filled a sponge with vinegar and gall and put it to his mouth."** By His mouth into which hunger came and in which thirst dwelt, I pray that you will let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth and no evil thing

enter into your mouth.

And forget not this - as we look at Him upon the Cross:

"And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matthew 27:29).

"Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him" (Mark 15:32).

"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:22-24)

And you who are criticized by friends or by foes, receive unto your hearts these words:

"And he made his grave with wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth" (Isaiah 53:9).

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

~ end of chapter 4 ~
