**FOR EVERY IDLE WORD (#5)**

***Trivial Pursuit***

In 1979 Chris Haney and Scott Abbott invented the board game *Trivial Pursuit*. It’s based on the idea that you can advance further the more trivia you know. Trivia is defined as “of little worth or importance.” As long as I could pick from the three categories of Geography, History, and Sports then I might stay competitive. When I had to answer from either Entertainment, Arts & Literature, or Science & Nature then I was stumped. Since 1981 there have been well over 100 new editions of this board game that cover virtually every subject under the sun (Music, Disney, Pop culture, Movies, etc.). Our present generations (young, middle age, and old) love trivia. The addiction to the internet certainly supports my theory that our world has become a non-stop game of Trivial Pursuit. We so seldom ever hear serious conversations about God anymore.

Jesus said, “*for every idle word that men may speak, they will give account in the day of judgment*” (Matt. 12:36).

There’s a story told that would be funny if it were not so serious. In the town of Hatfield, Massachusetts, there is a grave marker that reads:

**“Here lies Arabella Young, who on the 21st of May, 1771, began to hold her tongue.”**

It seems Arabella Young had a wagging tongue (no poetry intended). She must have been quite a talker to get that kind of epitaph on her tombstone. Like the pizza company that advertises their name brand with this advertisement: “What do you want on your Tombstone?” – so what would God write on ours? “Here lies an idle talker.” I hope not.

God created the heavens and the earth, to be sure, but He also created human language. When God said, “*Let there be light*,” He spoke the first words known in history. From that day forward God designed not only the beautiful world in which we live but also the beautiful language(s) in which we communicate. Just as God meant for us to stand in awe of His physical *world* and have dominion over it for His glory (Gen. 1-2), He likewise meant for us to enjoy His beautiful *word* and use it for His glory (Psa. 19).

Before the Tower of Babel episode that resulted in the many different tongues of the world (Gen. 11), man spoke one language. Every man on earth could communicate with each other without translation. Language unified mankind like no other medium. It could have, and should have, been used to worship and glorify God together. Instead, it came to be used to exalt man over God. Read it for yourself:

*​“Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. 3 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens;* ***let us make a name for ourselves****, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth”* (Gen. 11:1-4).

Instead of using their language to glorify God, they used it to “*make a name for ourselves*.” I call that trivial pursuit. When man could have been unified to talk about what they were put on earth to talk about – GOD – they instead only talked about themselves. It’s no wonder God saw their mindset and so confused their language and dispersed them to the four corners of the earth. Noah’s lineage blew their one great opportunity after the flood to change the world for the better. We’ve suffered ever since.

What do I mean when I say that far too much of man’s language has been turned into “Trivial Pursuit?” Just this. God meant for us to talk like this: “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God*” (I Pet. 4:11). That does not mean that we are always quoting scripture and using “holy words.” What it means is we were put on this earth to “*think on things above*” (Col. 3:1-2) and thus use our language to edify others and glorify God. Jesus said, “*out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*” (Matt. 12:34). If we spend our day thinking on things that are “*true… honorable… just… pure… lovely… of good report… virtuous… praiseworthy*” (Phil. 4:8), then we will speak the oracles of God. Our conversations will be elevated to a higher plane.

We understand why the world talks like it does, but Christians should stand head and shoulders above the crowd and constantly use God’s gift of language to speak of Him and His kingdom (Matt. 6:33). Let me ask, do these verses reflect your speech patterns?

*“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Col. 4:5-6).*

*“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers”* (Eph. 4:29).

These words of wisdom remind Christians that WORDS MATTER! Disciples of Christ should be known by their speech. When a pathological liar speaks you know that when his lips are moving he is lying. But I am a Christian and so when my lips are moving I want the world to know I am imparting grace to the hearers. Our words come from a heart filled with God’s words, and God’s grace. By my words I want the world to know who I am, and Who I serve.

The non-stop trivial dribble that spews out of the mouths of the world are worthless idle words that do not benefit man, or glorify God. Dear brother, dear sister, when your family, coworkers, schoolmates, friends and neighbors hear you speak do they hear this in your language: “*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer*” (Psa. 19:14).

Today let us talk to God, from God, about God, for God in our conversations. Be known as a man after God’s own heart. Stop with all the trivial pursuit. Instead pursue this:

*“He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and* ***pursue*** *it.”* (I Pet. 4:10-11)

I pray these words brought grace to the hearer. – Rick