“If Anyone Speaks ...”
1 Pet. 4:11

Introduction:
A. God has given us great gift of speech.
   1. It is powerful (Jas. 3:2-5) — Recognized by diplomats and demagogues.
   2. It is flexible — Tool for evil or good, distress or comfort.
   3. It is elevating — Places us above rest of God’s creation.
B. God will strictly hold us accountable for our speech. (Matt. 12:36).
C. If anyone speaks:

Discussion:
I. Let Him Speak Scripturally (1 Pet. 4:11).
   A. By knowing the contents of the scriptures (Acts 17:11).
   B. By respecting the inspiration of the scriptures (2 Tim 3:16,17; 1 Cor. 2:4,5,13).
   C. By respecting the authority of the scriptures (1 Cor. 14:37; 1 Thess 2:13)
   D. By respecting the sanctity of the scriptures (Rev. 22:18,19).
II. Let Him Speak Cleanly (Col. 3:8).
   A. Because filthy speech reveals a corrupt mind. (Matt. 12:34).
   B. Because filthy speech often reveals a lazy mind — too lazy to learn wholesome words.
   C. Because filthy speech often reveals an insensitive mind — Offends many good people.
      1. Would you chew tobacco and spit on another? Yet “spit” out filthy words.
      2. Love demands respect for the feelings of others.
   D. Because filthy speech often reveals insecure mind.
      1. Used to get attention.
      2. Christians do not seek such attention. (Cf. Mt. 6:1-4).
III. Let Him Speak Carefully (Col. 4:6).
   A. As to what he speaks (Eph. 4:25; Rev. 21:8).
   B. As to how he speaks (Prov. 25:11; 15:1; Tit. 1:13).
   C. As to when he speaks (Eccl. 3:7; Acts 8:32; 18:9)
      (“Silence sometimes golden, sometimes just plain yellow”)
   D. As to where he speaks (cf. 1 Cor. 14:34; Acts 13:45,46).
   E. As to why he speaks (Phil. 1:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:5).

Conclusion:
A. Use speech scripturally, cleanly, and carefully.
B. Use speech to confess Christ today. (Rom. 10:10).
C. Use speech to confess sins today. (1 John 1:9).